



State of Wisconsin

Wisconsin Council on Mental Health

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Wisconsin Council on Mental Health Applauds Governor's Medicaid Rate Increase

MADISON - The Wisconsin Council on Mental Health (WCMH) applauds Governor Walker and the Department of Health Services (DHS) for the recently announced increase in Medicaid reimbursement rates for outpatient behavioral health services.

"With this rate increase Governor Walker continues his commitment to behavioral health that he has demonstrated since the 2013-2014 budget," said Mishelle O'Shasky, chair of the WCMH. "This Medicaid rate increase was one of the WCMH's priorities for the 2017-2019 budget. We appreciate the Governor and DHS taking this step to support the behavioral health workforce and consumers of these services. I know how critical access to these services can be for those on Medicaid."

The WCMH also wants to express appreciation for the recent decision to remove prior authorization requirements for these services. Together, these actions remove two major barriers to the provision of Medicaid outpatient behavioral health services.

"The WCMH looks forward to continuing to advocate for better access and quality of mental health services, consistent with its charge," O'Shasky said.

The WCMH is the statutorily authorized mental health planning council for the state. It was created to advise the Governor, the Legislature, and state agencies on mental policy and funding.