



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Forum Brings Behavioral Health Experts Together

Milwaukee, March 2, 2020 – On March 5, 2020 from 8:30 – 11:30 a.m., leading experts will offer their perspectives on imminent changes to the Behavioral Health and Substance Abuse Disorder landscape in Milwaukee County and across Wisconsin.

Media are invited to interview participants and take photos or video at:

Milwaukee County Zoo Grounds, Peck Welcome Center

10001 West Bluemound Road

Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53226

Please RSVP to Kirk Heminger at kheminger@icarehealthplan.org

Speakers will include:

Holly O. Audley

Assistant Administrator
Division of Care and Treatment Services
Wisconsin Department of Health Services

Mike Lappen

Administrator
Milwaukee County Behavioral Health Division

Shelah Adams

National Director of Behavioral Health Integration
Universal Health Services

Joy R. Tapper

Executive Director
Milwaukee Health Care Partnership

Barbara Beckert

Director of the Milwaukee office of Disability Rights Wisconsin and Director of
External Advocacy for Southeastern Wisconsin

Troney Small

Family Navigator
Next Step Clinic

For more details about the Forum, visit <https://www.icarehealthplan.org/forum>

Additionally at the Forum, iCare will present an award to **Dr. Mark La Fave**. The iCare Provider Service Excellence Award recognizes iCare contracted providers who have offered superior service that exemplifies iCare's mission: to secure the wellness of persons with complex medical and behavioral conditions, respecting their dignity and the values of caring stakeholders.

Dr. Mark La Fave is a psychotherapist at Shorehaven Behavioral Health. He was nominated by *iCare* RN Care Manager, Heather Block. One of Heather's members had spent most of his life in and out of jail. Heather connected him with multiple providers, including Dr. La Fave. During a care conference, Heather shared that *iCare* was helping, including medical, behavioral health, housing, clothing, appointment coordination and reminders.

Dr. La Fave requested jail records to learn how the member's behavioral health was being managed and treated while incarcerated. He regularly contacted the member's primary care doctor to provide updates and discuss methods to treat the member as a whole person, not just his behavioral health. He coordinated care with the member's family. He assisted the member with strategies to remember to take his medications and attend appointments. Dr. La Fave would call Heather after each session with updates and upcoming appointments. Dr. La Fave even provided his personal number to Heather in case she had urgent updates on a day he was not in the office. The member went from having weekly sessions, to biweekly, and ultimately completed therapy — with an open invitation to restart sessions if the member feels the need. Said Heather: "I would highly recommend Dr. La Fave to anyone that is looking for a Behavioral Health Therapist. He goes above and beyond to individually treat and stabilize his patients to live their lives with managed behavioral health conditions."

About Independent Care Health Plan (*iCare*)

iCare provides managed care coverage for approximately 40,000 people throughout Wisconsin and Illinois, many of whom have low incomes or are disabled. *iCare* has been securing the wellness of people with complex conditions for over two decades. For more information about *iCare*, visit www.iCareHealthPlan.org, visit *iCare* on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#) or [YouTube](#) or call 800-777-4376 (TTY 1-800-947-3529).

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