

ABOUT WPA

The Wisconsin Psychiatric Association (WPA), a district branch of the American Psychiatric Association, is a statewide medical specialty organization whose 450+ physician members specialize in the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of mental illnesses, including substance use disorders.



WPA works to protect the psychiatric profession and mental health patients in Wisconsin through advocacy, physician engagement, education and career development.

WHAT IS A PSYCHIATRIST?

- » **A psychiatrist is a medical doctor who specializes in mental health**, including substance use disorders.
- » Psychiatrists have up to 12 years of medical training, having attended medical school and completed residency training in a hospital or clinic setting.

CARING FOR MENTAL HEALTH

- » **Mental illness is a medical condition**, just like heart disease or diabetes.
- » **Mental illness is common.** One in five adults in the U.S. experience mental illness each year. One in 25 Americans experience a serious mental illness such as depression, schizophrenia or bipolar disorder.
- » **Mental health conditions are treatable.** Psychiatrists are continually expanding their understanding of how the human brain works, and treatments are available to help people successfully manage mental health conditions.

WPA ADVOCACY EFFORTS AT THE STATE CAPITOL

- » Wisconsin, like many other states, is facing a shortage of practicing psychiatrists.
 - WPA is **appreciative of additional state funding for Graduate Medical Education (GME) grants**, which will allow hospitals to establish/expand training programs to help alleviate access issues in underserved areas.
 - WPA supports Assembly Bill 32, legislation that would provide a **tax deduction for new psychiatrists** who establish a practice in Wisconsin.
- » The Collaborative Care Model (CoCM) is when a primary care provider identifies a need for mental health services in a patient and collaborates with mental health providers and a care management specialist to deliver comprehensive treatment.
 - WPA supports a continued dialogue between providers, DHS, and the legislature to identify ways in which the state can **support providers interested in launching this innovative care delivery model**.
- » Representatives from WPA have participated in a series of roundtables aimed at **reforming Wisconsin's emergency detention statutes** (commonly referred to as "Chapter 51").
 - Our antiquated state laws do not reflect the realities of what individuals undergoing a mental health crisis need in terms of care. In collaboration with law enforcement, government, and health care stakeholders, WPA is fully committed to exploring changes to Chapter 51 so that resources can be coordinated more efficiently and lead to better outcomes.

CONTACT WPA

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