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Group discusses ways to make mental health and addiction treatment more accessible

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Making mental health and addiction treatment more accessible. That's the goal of a group of experts that met in La Crosse Friday.

They're looking at the impact of the new mental health parity act which Wisconsin Governor Jim Doyle signed into law earlier this week.

The act will require coverage for mental illness and substance abuse to not be more expensive or restrictive than a plans medical and surgical coverage. La Crosse Co. Human Services Director Jerry Huber says, "one of the things were looking at is really beyond parity, what are some of the issues that are still within the context of the mental health system in Wisconsin specifically here also in La Crosse, what are some of the things, policy issues that should be worked on over the next few years."

Employers that provide health coverage for workers can still choose not to follow the parity standards if their costs exceed certain levels.

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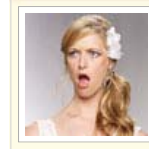
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