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Panel meets to discuss health care changes

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LA CROSSE, WI (WXOW) - Local experts meet to discuss treatment for those with mental health and addiction problems.

The Making Parity Real symposium addresses needed addiction and mental health policy changes. Co-host of the symposium, Rep. Sandy Pasch (D-Whitefish Bay), is a co-sponsor of the *Wisconsin Parity Act*, a bill which will require commercial group health plans in Wisconsin to provide mental health and substance use disorder coverage at levels equal to those provided for physical medical care. The *Wisconsin Parity Act* passed the Senate on Jan. 28 and the Assembly on April 15.

The panel will include Jerry Huber, Director of La Crosse County Human Services, Tim Fuhrmann, a Gundersen Lutheran Health Systems therapist and drug counselor, and Bill Zollweg, a Professor of Sociology at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse and an addiction researcher. Rep. Jennifer Shilling (D-La Crosse) will also host the symposium. David Riemer, Director of the Community Advocates Public Policy Institute, will moderate discussion.

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After this symposium, The Public Policy Institute plans to present recommendations to state lawmakers and policymakers.

This Making Parity Real symposium will be held from 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Friday, April 30 at the La Crosse Center, Ballroom C (300 Harborview Plaza, La Crosse). Attendance is free but registration is required by Wednesday, April 28. For more information and to register visit www.MakingParityReal.org.

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