



Department of Employee Relations

**Tom Barrett**  
Mayor

**Maria Monteagudo**  
Director

**Renee Joos**  
Employee Benefits Director

**Nicole Fleck**  
Labor Negotiator

February 15, 2019

Alderwoman Milele Coggs, Chairwoman  
City of Milwaukee Common Council Finance and Personnel Committee  
200 East Wells Street, Room 205  
Milwaukee, WI 53202

**File No: 181466 City's Health Insurance Benefits and Treatment of Mental Health and Addiction**

Dear Alderwoman Coggs and Finance Committee Members:

The City of Milwaukee is committed to the health and wellbeing of its employees and their families and provides a comprehensive health benefits plan that addresses both physical and emotional health issues. In addition, the City offers an industry leading wellness program which includes components like financial and mental health to support the overall health and wellbeing of employees and spouses. The City's health benefits plan, administered by UnitedHealthcare (UHC), includes an extensive network of providers and is designed to give employees choices as well as tools and resources to help them make informed healthcare decisions that best fit their circumstances.

The City's health plan includes mental health and substance use disorder benefits that are in compliance with the Federal Mental Health Parity law. Mental health and substance use disorder treatments fall under the same benefit design as those provided for any other health condition. No special limitations apply to mental health and substance abuse treatments.

UHC is a valuable partner in the City's efforts to provide comprehensive health and wellness services to City employees with a number of programs that help employees navigate the healthcare landscape such as the City's Onsite Nurse Liaison, Nurseline, Care 24, Telemental Health, personal health support through disease management, referral and resource services for complex medical conditions and decision assistance for medical treatment.

UHC and OptumRx are committed to providing comprehensive benefits for mental health services and addiction and ensuring the City's employees and family members receive the care needed to help with these complex health conditions.

Please contact me if you have any questions or comments regarding this file.

Sincerely,  
Renee Joos  
Employee Benefits

