

RESOLUTION NO. R17-329

*Official Resolution of the Board of Commissioners
Macomb County, Michigan Resolution*

RESOLUTION URGING THE FUNDING AND PRESERVATION OF PUBLIC OVERSIGHT AND DELIVERY OF COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

**Chair Smith on Behalf of the Board of Commissioners,
Offers the Following Resolution:**

WHEREAS, currently, Medicaid health services are delivered through private health plans while mental health services are delivered through the community mental health boards.

WHEREAS, public behavioral health services are delivered through Community Mental Health Services Programs (CMHSP), public entities that are created by county governments to provide a comprehensive array of mental health services to meet local needs regardless of an individual's ability to pay.

WHEREAS, CMHSP's provide Medicaid, state, block grant, and locally funded services to children with serious emotional disturbances, adults with serious mental illness and children and adults with intellectual/developmental disabilities, either directly or through contracts with providers in the community.

WHEREAS, behavioral health specialty services and supports are primarily funded through Michigan's ten Prepaid Inpatient Health Plans (PIHP).

WHEREAS, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) contracts with PIHP's to operate and manage Medicaid-funded behavioral health specialty services and supports on a regional basis and PIHP's are also the responsible entities for directly managing Substance Abuse Block Grant funding and local substance abuse funding and each PIHP contracts with CMHSPs and other providers within its region to deliver publicly-funded services and supports.

WHEREAS, PIHP's provide services to enrollees under contract with the state Medicaid agency on the basis of the prepaid Medicaid payments and Macomb County Community Mental Health (MCCMH) is one of Michigan's ten Prepaid Inpatient Health Plans (PIHP).

WHEREAS, the MCCMH addresses a vital need for the county, has institutional and historical knowledge of consumers and successfully provides service with low administration fees.

WHEREAS, MDHHS launched the Section 298 Initiative, based upon Section 298 of Public Act 268 of 2016, a statewide effort to improve the coordination of physical health services and behavioral health services in Michigan.

WHEREAS, the MDHHS developed the Behavioral Health Section 298 workgroup to develop Michigan Legislature's request for recommendations "regarding the most effective financing model and policies for behavioral health services in order to improve the coordination of behavioral and physical health services for individuals with mental illnesses, intellectual and developmental disabilities, and substance use disorders."

WHEREAS, more than 120 stakeholders representing individuals in service and their advocates, as well as various organizations, including Community Mental Health Service Providers (CMHSPs), Prepaid Inpatient Health Plans (PIHPs), Medicaid Health Plans (MHPs), behavioral health providers, statewide advocacy organizations, and tribal nations participated in the workgroup.

WHEREAS, the final report, delivered to Michigan Legislature on March 15, 2017, recommended that the state should retain system structures for Medicaid funding with separate funding for and management of physical health flowing through the MHP system and separate funding for and management of specialty behavioral health and intellectual/developmental disabilities flowing through the public PIHP/CMHSP

system and a public separately funded and managed system for non-Medicaid specialty behavioral health and intellectual/developmental disability services with CMHSPs continuing to play the central role in the delivery of Medicaid and non-Medicaid specialty behavioral health and intellectual/developmental disabilities services.

WHEREAS, the Michigan Legislature's 2018 budget recommendation would begin the process of ending MCCMH's status as one of Michigan's 10 PIHP's and Section 234 in Senate Bill 135 would have Medicaid HMO's in control of all publicly-funded mental health-related services and supports by 2020.

WHEREAS, for 20 years, Medicaid Health Plans (MHP) have inadequately administered benefits for persons with mild-to-moderate mental health conditions.

WHEREAS, according to MDHHS, the average number of mental health visits authorized for qualifying MHP enrollees in 2014 was four; in 2015, only 10 percent of all contacts for Medicaid recipients seeking behavioral health services were with a behavioral health professional.

WHEREAS, Section 234 ignores the recommendation of the Section 298 workgroup and does not lower costs, does not provide better care nor improve health outcomes for vulnerable populations; it does not provide details regarding purpose of integration.

WHEREAS, Section 234 would take away MCCMH's roles of contracting with local mental health and substance abuse providers on the basis of Medicaid funds and would leave MCCMH as a designated provider with general funds for the priority populations, without administrative oversight of the Medicaid funds; MCCMH's role would be lessened, and its ability to be more cost effective and with greater quality outcomes than HMOs would be lost;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Macomb County Board of Commissioners is opposed to the privatization of public dollars and supports maintaining public oversight of mental health services and does not support abandoning its constitutional obligation or relinquishing its moral charge to assist in supporting the dreams and aspirations of the most vulnerable persons to the private/for-profit health plans.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Macomb County Board of Commissioners urges the Michigan House and Senate to appropriate funding which includes a policy that preserves the public oversight and public delivery of Community Mental Health services that currently exists.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that hard copies of this resolution, digital copies, if possible, be provided to Michigan federal legislation delegation, Michigan's Governor and Lieutenant Governor, Michigan State legislative delegation, Director of Michigan Department of Public Health, Macomb County Executive and Macomb County Community Mental Health Board and Director.



BOB SMITH
Chair, Macomb County Board of Commissioners

KAREN A. SPRANGER
Macomb County Clerk/Register of Deeds

Adopted: May 18, 2017