

RESOLUTION

To: The Honorable Board of Commissioners
Huron County
Michigan

WE, the SAFETY COMMITTEE, respectfully beg leave to submit the following resolution for your consideration:

WHEREAS, the State of Michigan is required by MCL 330.1116 "...to promote and maintain an adequate and appropriate system of community mental health services programs (CMHSPs) and "shift primary responsibility for the direct delivery of public mental health services from the state to a community mental health services program..."; and

WHEREAS, the State of Michigan is required by MCL 330.1202 to "financially support, in accordance with chapter 3, community mental health services programs that have been established and that are administered according to the provisions of this chapter."; and

WHEREAS, Huron Behavioral Health is required by MCL 330.1206 and 1208 to "provide a comprehensive array of services and supports to residents of Huron County with the most severe forms of mental illness, intellectual/developmental disabilities, and serious emotional disturbances"; and

WHEREAS, over 1,000 Huron County residents and their families with serious mental illness, intellectual/developmental disabilities, co-occurring substance use disorders and serious emotional disturbances depend on the public mental health system and its community partners for both acute and long term supports and services; and

WHEREAS, Huron County supports a CMHSP safety net that carries out its obligations to every citizen by prioritizing and serving persons with the most severe and persistent forms of mental illness, intellectual/developmental disabilities, and co-occurring addictive disorders in the context of broader public health and safety instead of short-term considerations of private gain and profit; and

WHEREAS, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) is applying Medicaid requirements for Conflict Free Access & Planning for the purpose of re-interpreting this established legislative policy to erroneously imply that in some instances county CMHSPs have a pecuniary conflict of interest for some of the services included in this delivery system; and

WHEREAS, CMHSPs are instruments of county government with statutorily defined obligations that mitigate against the likelihood of a pecuniary conflict of interest. These include direct accountability to the community through a public board, open meetings, a guaranteed recipient rights appeal & grievance system, established independent person-centered planning facilitation requirements, and expanding availability of consumer self-determination/self-directed options; and

WHEREAS, MDHHS has insisted on this position despite the fact that valid concerns have been raised in multiple venues during the last two years including stakeholder meetings, state-wide planning discussions, and the formal Medicaid policy promulgation process; and

WHEREAS, the MDHHS position also ignores the comprehensive CMHSP service requirements under state law, disregards the importance of consumer/family choice of providers, adds unnecessary administrative duplication and expense to the Medicaid program, and will fail to improve care for the residents of Huron County; now

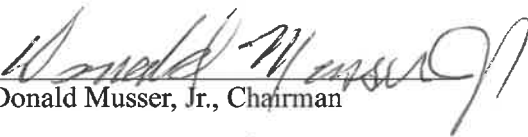
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Huron County strongly opposes the current MDHHS proposals for Conflict Free Access & Planning and the October 1, 2024 implementation date as it significantly mischaracterizes the mission and public obligations of CMHSPs, creates unnecessary havoc throughout state-wide provider systems, and will have absolutely no benefit to the consumers and families receiving care; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Huron County respectfully asks the Governor to urge MDHHS to rethink their proposal for the Conflict Free Access & Planning requirements within the context of the 61-year state and county statutory relationship for public mental health services and collaborate with the Michigan Community Mental Health Association to identify pathways for compliance that build on the strengths of the existing CMHSP system; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be provided to Governor Gretchen Whitmer, Senator Dan Lauwers, Representative Gregory Alexander, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Director Elizabeth Hertel, the Michigan Association of Counties, and all Michigan counties.

Respectfully submitted,

SAFETY COMMITTEE


Donald Musser, Jr., Chairman


Michael H. Meissner, Vice Chairman


Mary E. Babcock, Member

Dated: June 25, 2024

VOICE / ROLL-CALL VOTE:

COMMISSIONER	YES	NO	ABSENT	COMMISSIONER	YES	NO	ABSENT
SAMI KHOURY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	DONALD MUSSER, JR.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
MICHAEL H. MEISSNER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	JOE MURPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
TODD TALASKI	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	MARY E. BABCOCK	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
STEVE VAUGHAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				

RESOLUTION: ADOPTED DEFEATED TABLED