

RESOLUTION #21-17

ALPENA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

RESOLUTION TO OPPOSE GEARING TOWARD INTEGRATION

- WHEREAS, Northeast Michigan Community Mental Health Authority has served for more than 50 years as the public mental health and developmental disabilities services provider for this community, serving over 2,000 residents of Alcona, Alpena, Montmorency, and Presque Isle Counties each year; and
- WHEREAS, Northeast Michigan Community Mental Health Authority was created by the Alcona, Alpena, Montmorency and Presque Isle County Boards of Commissioners as duly authorized under Section 330.1205 of the Michigan Mental Health Code; and
- WHEREAS, Northeast Michigan Community Mental Health Authority and four other community mental health service programs representing 21 counties created a regional entity to manage Medicaid specialty services as duly authorized under Section 330.1204b of the Michigan Mental Health Code; and
- WHEREAS, Northeast Michigan Community Mental Health Authority includes persons and family members of persons receiving mental health and disability services on the Board of Directors as required under Section 330.1222 of the Michigan Mental Health Code; and
- WHEREAS, Northeast Michigan Community Mental Health Authority and four other community mental health service programs representing 21 counties have required representation from local communities and persons and/or family members of persons receiving mental health and disability services be included on the regional entity Board of Directors managing Medicaid specialty services; and
- WHEREAS, the Section 298 proposal of 2017 effectively nullified the duly authorized actions taken by Northeast Michigan Community Mental Health Authority and the four other community mental health service programs to create a regional entity under Section 330.1204b of the Michigan Mental Health Code. The proposed SIP in this proposal is not a public-private joint venture, but a wholly private managed care organization leaving no role for the public management/oversight, which is currently provided by our regional entity; and
- WHEREAS, Gearing Toward Integration recommendation transfers all Medicaid and Healthy Michigan funding for specialty services to private entities with no accountability to the Alcona, Alpena, Montmorency and Presque Isle County Boards of Commissioners; and
- WHEREAS, Gearing Toward Integration recommendation transfers all Medicaid and Healthy Michigan funding for specialty services to private entities with no accountability to persons and/or family members of persons receiving mental health and disability services from Northeast Michigan Community Mental Health Authority; and
- WHEREAS, Gearing Toward Integration recommendation will result in the elimination of specialty mental health services that are accountable to the communities of persons residing in Alcona, Alpena, Montmorency and Presque Isle Counties; and
- WHEREAS, Gearing Toward Integration's requirements for creating a new entity [Specialty Integrated Plan (SIP)] only outlines requirements to become a Medicaid Health Plan and does not address roles currently provided by the local community mental health service programs such as recipient rights, housing and employment supports, community collaboration, etc., which are core to the social determinants, safety net role and community collaborative work of the public system; and

WHEREAS, a requirement to bid to become a SIP includes insolvency coverage (reserves) which the current regional entities, by contract, are not allowed to maintain, thus disqualifying the regional entities from submitting a bid; and

WHEREAS, This proposal does not eliminate any layers – Medicaid Health Plans (MHPs) would pick up the managed care function from the current regional entities at a much higher cost 15% vs. 6% removing this money from the care our people are receiving today,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Alpena County Board of Commissioners opposes moving our community mental health system from publicly run to privately run, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this resolution be sent to Governor Gretchen Whitmer, Senate Majority Leaders Mike Shirkey, Speaker of the House Jason Wentwork, Senator Jim Stamas, and Representative Sue Allor to prevent it from becoming law.