



HealthWest



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Community Mental Health Association, CMHs Support Governor Whitmer's Veto Of Behavioral Health Pilot Program *Organizations Still Committed To Holistic Approach To Health That Supports Public Mental Health System, Puts People First*

The Community Mental Health Association and three CMHSPs committed to participating in a state behavioral health pilot project are pleased with Governor Whitmer's decision to veto key legislative provisions in the Department of Health and Human Services budget that would have significantly favored for-profit health plans in our state.

We remain committed – alongside MDHHS officials and the state Legislature – to develop a holistic health care approach to service that would pioneer an alignment of mental, physical, and social outcomes in our state's Medicaid system.

We still believe that the public mental health system and innovative and forward-looking private sector partners can design a groundbreaking behavioral health initiative that could fundamentally redefine the way local providers coordinate physical and mental healthcare and achieve sound health outcomes for our state's most vulnerable and resilient citizens – and we want to ensure the project is implemented correctly.

Michigan's CMH system serves as the primary safety net for 300,000 of our state's most vulnerable and resilient residents – people with mental illness, emotional disturbance, intellectual and developmental disabilities, and substance use disorders.

Keeping the integrity of the state's nationally recognized and locally governed public mental health system intact and strong is critical to maintaining the health outcomes of hundreds of thousands of Michigan citizens. Efforts to circumvent the state's existing CMHs are not in the best interest of those individuals, something Governor Whitmer clearly recognizes.

The three CMHs involved in this pilot proposed a partnership with the private health plans involved in the pilot that would have implemented up to three pilot projects to achieve a fully integrated Medicaid behavioral health and physical health benefit while ensuring a strong and robust public mental health system. This partnership included the development

of a risk-bearing partnership, formed by the CMHs in the pilot regions, in order to better streamline and coordinate necessary functions within the pilot and allow for risk-bearing by these CMHs.

The three CMHs remain committed to developing public-private partnerships that bring the best of Michigan's innovative, locally governed, community-based, public mental health system together with those private sector partners committed to building a strong partnership that works to integrate healthcare where it matters – in the lives of the clients/patients served by such a partnership.

It is our hope that members of the Legislature and MDHHS, in concert with both the CMHSPs and health plans, work together to design a system that puts client/patient care and quality of life first while ensuring the financial and clinical integrity and locally governed nature of Michigan's existing public mental health system.



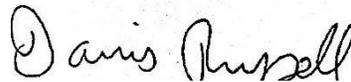
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