



Michigan Association of
COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH
Boards

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MACMHB Reacts to Supreme Court Decision on the Affordable Care Act: “Let’s Move Forward”

LANSING, Mich – With yesterday’s ruling by the United States Supreme court on the constitutionality of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, the Michigan Association of Community Mental Health Boards (MACMHB) is hoping state officials will move forward with providing a framework for the evolution of a cost effective healthcare system in Michigan, available to all its residents.

“We’re in the business of healthcare, and it’s time to move forward,” said Mike Vizena, director of MACMHB. “Our legislature had put our state’s planning on hold pending this decision. Now that the Supreme Court has upheld the law, we strongly encourage the legislature and state leaders to move forward and ensure that the law is well implemented here in Michigan, especially for people with mental health and substance use disorder needs.

The federal government has given Michigan \$915 million to implement the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. With the Medicaid expansion available under the new law, Michigan will be able to offer healthcare coverage to an estimated 500,000 Michigan citizens currently without healthcare coverage.

“Our members stand ready to work and support the state’s pursuit of Medicaid expansion, which will increase access to healthcare for hundreds of thousands of people in Michigan,” Vizena said. “This effort will lead to better overall health outcomes while bending the rising cost curve for some of our most vulnerable citizens by significantly reducing uncompensated and emergent care.”

Vizena pointed out that essential health benefits in a state’s exchange plan must include access to mental health and substance abuse service, which helps with the mental health parity battle the association has long advocated for. Michigan is one of only seven states without mental health parity.

Michigan Association of Community Mental Health Boards was created in 1967 to support county mental health services programs (CMHSPs) in promoting, maintaining and improving a comprehensive range of community-based mental health services, which enhance the quality of life, promote the emotional well-being, and contribute to healthy and secure communities which benefit all of Michigan’s residents. Services managed and delivered by CMHSPs are designed to assist individuals in achieving, maintaining and maximizing their potential and are provided in accordance with the principles of person centered planning. For more information, please visit www.macmhb.org.

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