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Administrator
Ryan L. Wood
Clerk of the Board
Diane Zuker

RESOLUTION 2019 - 12

RESOLUTION TO EXPRESS OPPOSITION TO TERMINATION OF STATE CONTRACT WITH THE LAKESHORE REGIONAL ENTITY

WHEREAS, on June 28th the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) notified the Lakeshore Regional Entity (LRE), its member Community Mental Health organizations, and the general public regarding its intent to terminate the specialty Prepaid Inpatient Health Plan contract with the LRE effective September 30, 2019; and

WHEREAS, this proposal, by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), causes a great deal of unnecessary chaos and conflict for the over 250,000 Medicaid recipients within the seven counties in Lakeshore Regional Entity; and

WHEREAS, this proposal eliminates local public governance of the public behavioral health system – one of the foundations of Michigan’s nationally recognized behavioral health system for the past 50 years – and replaces it with a state-appointed advisory group; and

WHEREAS, this proposal does not get to the root cause of the fiscal distress of Lakeshore Regional Entity nor of the other Prepaid Inpatient Health Plans (PIHPs) facing such distress – inadequate funding over a sustained period. Without adequate funding, as required by the Michigan Mental Health Code and Michigan’s Medicaid Plan, the Lakeshore system and others who have been underfunded – regardless of the greater involvement of the state in the operation of the local public system – will be unable to pay providers and provide behavioral healthcare services to persons entitled to such services; and

WHEREAS, a better plan could be achieved sooner, simpler, and more directly without eliminating the local public control of the public behavioral healthcare system in this region. This plan would include, MDHHS joining Lakeshore and Beacon in a three-way contract co-managing the benefit in the region; and

WHEREAS, a three-way contract maintains the momentum already achieved by the Lakeshore/Beacon partnership; maintains the local public governance of the public behavioral health system; and prevents the unnecessary chaos that the MDHHS proposal would create; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the County of Clinton requests that the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) do not terminate its contract with the Lakeshore Regional Entity, thereby ensuring respect for the law and the rich history of Michigan's mental health system, which is clear in its intent to maintain a publicly governed mental health system.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be provided to Governor Gretchen Whitmer, Senator Thomas Barrett, Representative Graham Filler, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Director Robert Gordon, Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Administration Deputy Director Dr. George Mellos, and the Michigan Association of Counties.

STATE OF MICHIGAN
COUNTY OF CLINTON

I, DIANE ZUKER, Clerk of the County of Clinton do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted by the Clinton County Board of Commissioners at the regular meeting held July 30, 2019 and is on file in the records of this office.

Diane Zuker, Clinton County Clerk