

Iosco County Board of Commissioners

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COURT HOUSE
Tawas City, Michigan 48763

RESOLUTION

DATE: April 6, 2022

THE HONORABLE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:

WHEREAS, AuSable Valley Community Mental Health has served for more than 40 years as the public mental health and developmental disabilities service provider for this community, serving over 2,000 residents of Ogemaw, Iosco, and Oscoda Counties each year; and,

WHEREAS, AuSable Valley Community Mental Health was created by Ogemaw, Iosco, and Oscoda Counties Board of Commissioners as duly authorized under the Community Mental Health Act of 1963; and,

WHEREAS, every year, thousands of individuals and their families in this community depend on the public behavioral health system for daily and life-long supports and services; and'

WHEREAS, Iosco County opposes any behavioral health redesign that harms the state and county partnership for community mental health and related Medicaid safety net services, or seeks to privatize Medicaid behavioral health services; and,

WHEREAS, recent proposals in the Michigan House and Senate fundamentally change the public behavioral health system and will harm those served by the system. The Iosco County Board opposes these proposals because:

Local public oversight, local governance, local operations, and local accountability would be ended;

Beneficiaries would stand to lose access to services, supports, and input into the design and operation of their services and support system. Many of our residents would be left out of the redesign proposals completely;

The Senate proposal specifically incentivizes and prioritizes profits to private companies at the expense of the public and the people served by our public behavioral health system; and,

WHEREAS, instead of damaging our public behavioral health system through pursuit of these proposals, recent innovations by the Public Health system should be supported. The Iosco County Board supports, and asks our Legislative and Executive Branch leaders to support:

Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs)
Behavioral Health Homes
Opioid Health Homes, and

WHEREAS, the public behavioral health system is the safety net system for our state's most vulnerable and needy people. We believe strongly that the public safety net behavioral health system must remain public in governance, public in accountability, funding, and operation. We believe strongly that Iosco County must have direct in-person access to their board member representatives in the community and to the whole board of directors through participation in local public board meetings under the Open Meetings Act. Recent state legislation by the Senate and House eliminates these key features of the behavioral health system. We stand united in opposing these proposals; and'

WHEREAS, having come through a recent pandemic, and currently dealing with further results of the pandemic, this is no time for a major upheaval of the public behavioral health system that so many thousands of persons, their families, and our entire community relies on for support. The public behavioral health safety net has ensured continued services and supports for all these people in our community throughout the pandemic period.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Commissioners of the County of Iosco, that we request that our policy making representatives supports, improve, and strengthen the public behavioral health safety net system, and that you support improvements in the delivery of publicly governed, publicly accountable, publicly operated regional, and community-based systems, invest in and expand initiatives that are proven to improve citizen access, beneficiary engagement, individual and population health, behavioral wellbeing, quality of life, and community betterment, such as those mentioned above. These are among the accomplishments of the public system that would be destroyed by pursuing these new legislative proposals.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be transmitted to Governor Gretchen Whitmer, State Senator Jim Stamas, State Representative Sue Allor, the Michigan Association of Counties (MAC), and the other 82 Michigan counties.

Move:



Support:



Roll Call:

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Absent: 0