

EATON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

November 20, 2019

**RESOLUTION TO ENCOURAGE CHANGES TO THE APPLICATION OF
A FEE-FOR-SERVICE MODEL FOR LOCAL SUBSTANCE ABUSE
SERVICE DELIVERY**

Introduced by Commissioner Joe Brehler

Commissioner Brehler moved to approve for the following resolution. Seconded by Commissioner Lautzenheiser.

WHEREAS, The Eaton County Board of Commissioners was made aware of the unfortunate decision the Barry-Eaton District Board of Health was recently forced to make to cease the services provided by Eaton Behavioral Health; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Health made this difficult decision due to continued funding uncertainty which led to a staffing crisis; and

WHEREAS, the continued uncertainty made it an impossibility to recruit and maintain clinical staff to provide services; and

WHEREAS, Eaton Behavioral Health provided substance abuse services to the citizens of Eaton County for over 20 years; and

WHEREAS, during this time Eaton Behavioral Health was the sole provider of substance abuse services within Eaton County; and

WHEREAS, the services provided were designed to meet the local needs of rural Eaton County; and

WHEREAS, the cost structure to continue to provide these vital services in a rural setting was inconsistent with the one size fits all fee for service model sought by the 21 county “mega”-regional PIHP; and

WHEREAS, the closure of EBH and the loss of these crucial services to the community likely could have been avoided if the regional PIHP model had been implemented in more effective manner; and

WHEREAS, the continued regionalization cost Eaton County the experienced, locally-designed delivery system for the services it needed in the community; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, The Eaton County Board of Commissioners urges the fee-for-service reimbursement model to be evaluated to assure that services remain accessible and responsive to community needs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, more importantly the Eaton County Board of Commissioners emphasizes that this evaluation must be done immediately so that other similar rural programs do not suffer the same unfortunate fate as Eaton Behavioral Health. Carried.