

EATON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

July 21, 2021

**RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE USE OF LOCAL COUNTY FUNDS FOR
LOCAL COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES**

Introduced by the Health & Human Services Committee

Commissioner Ridge moved the approval of the following resolution. Seconded by Commissioner Rogers.

WHEREAS, Community Mental Health Authority of Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham Counties is a multi-county Community Mental Health Services Program (CMHSP) serving residents of Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham Counties. CMHA-CEI provides specialty mental health services and supports to a yearly average of 12,000 persons with serious mental health, youth with serious emotional disturbance, individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities and individuals with substance use disorders; and

WHEREAS, the public mental health system in Michigan is based on the Federal Community Mental Health Centers Act of 1963 and grounded in the Michigan Mental Health Code, Public Act 258 of 1974. This created a state and county partnership for community mental health and related safety net services; and

WHEREAS, this arrangement ensures that shared state and county mental health policy objectives are accountable to local communities and their elected representatives. This arrangement also ensures that resource and care decisions are ultimately accountable through board governance to the persons and families that need public mental health services, including allocated PA2 funding; and

WHEREAS, The Michigan legislature is considering health care integration proposals that would dramatically reduce the role of CMHSPs and county governments by severing them from shared governance responsibility, input or financial oversight of public mental health and substance use disorder services, including allocated PA2 funding; and

WHEREAS, The Michigan Legislature is considering proposals to create new centralized management systems overseen by partisan or private interests and removed from local accountability, service delivery and recipient rights protections; and

WHEREAS, The Michigan legislature is considering proposals that will permit the fragmentation of specialty mental health and substance use disorder services and administrative usurpation of core CMHSP responsibilities that have otherwise been duly authorized by county action; and

WHEREAS, Eaton County strongly opposes any legislative changes that fails to honor the existing state and county partnership for community mental health and substance use disorder services and accountability to the communities, persons, and families receiving these services.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Eaton County Board of Commissioners strongly opposes any legislative changes that reduces the role of CMHSPs and county governments in the shared governance responsibility, input or financial oversight of public mental health and substance use disorders services, including PA2 resources; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Eaton County strongly opposes the creation of new management systems that will be empowered to pursue policy decisions that cause fragmentation of services and usurp the administrative roles and responsibilities of CMHSPs including inherent service delivery and recipient rights protections; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Eaton County encourages the legislature to support the incremental system changes led by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services that are consistent with emerging practices such as the Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic and Behavioral Health Homes that improve healthcare integration directly at the point of consumer contact, enhance state and county partnerships for mental health services and produce more sustainable outcomes for our communities; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be provided to Governor Gretchen Whitmer, Senator Thomas Barrett, Representative Angela Whitwer, Representative Sarah Lightner, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Director Elizabeth Hertel, Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Administration Director Allen Jansen, and the Michigan Association of Counties.

THIS RESOLUTION was adopted by the Eaton County Board of Commissioners at its regularly scheduled meeting on July 21, 2021. .

Chairman, Eaton County
Board of Commissioners

Clerk