



110 W. Michigan Ave., Suite 200
Lansing, MI 48933
517-372-5374 Fax 517-482-4599
www.micounties.org
Stephan W. Currie, Executive Director

March 17, 2022

Rep. Bronna Kahle, chair, and Members
House Health Policy Committee
Anderson House Office Building, Room 519
Lansing, MI 48933

Chair Kahle and Committee Members,

First, the Michigan Association of Counties, on behalf of our 622 county commissioners, greatly appreciates the efforts of Rep. Mary Whiteford on leading the legislative package to improve our state's behavioral health system. Rep. Whiteford has toured the state, talking with groups and hearing from county and local leaders who are invested in providing quality and accessible behavioral health services for all residents.

MAC does not have a formal position today, as the latest versions are under review by our Health and Human Services Committee. In general, MAC supports maintaining a public mental health system, and expanding new, innovate funding models through Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics and Behavioral Health Homes, which seem to align with the intent behind the bills.

There are questions, though, relating to funding streams in which county governments receive or provide and are currently passed-through the pre-paid inpatient health plans (PHIPs). These would be eliminated under the proposed reform. A portion of the state's liquor tax revenue goes to the Conventional Facilities Development Fund, which is then allocated to counties through a statutorily set formula. In FY22, counties received \$52,888,822. Counties must allocate 50 percent of this revenue for costs associated with substance abuse programs (SUD), and those funds are managed by the PIHPs. It is unclear what options counties have for alternative pass-through entities that administer SUD programs locally.

Lastly, over the past three years, the Legislature has begun to phase out county general funds passed through the local CMH to the state to help draw down funds for Medicaid Restricted Mental Health Services. MAC requests an assurance of the full phase-out, as those county dollars would be overseen by a state organization and with virtually no ability for counties to participate in decision-making over the funds.

MAC is encouraged by the progress made since the bills' introduction. We look forward to working with bill sponsors and key stakeholders to ensure our public behavioral health system meets all needs for the individuals and families served.

Respectfully,

Meghann Keit-Corrion
Governmental Affairs Associate