



Detroit Wayne Integrated Health Network

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STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING HEALTH POLICY

DATE: Tuesday, March 5, 2024
TIME: 2:00 PM
PLACE: Room 519, House Office Building,
Lansing, MI

RE: HB 5114 (Rep. Rheingans) Mental health; code; definition of mental health professional; expand to include physician assistants, certified nurse practitioners, and clinical nurse specialists-certified, and allow them to perform certain examinations.

Dear Representative Rogers and Honorable Committee Members:

After careful review of House Bill 5114 (HB 5114), a few glaring elements need further clarification before they can be deemed to be in the best interest of the vulnerable population that is served in the behavioral health community.

HB 5114 asks for expansion of the role of Physician Assistant, Certified Nurse Practitioner and Clinical Nurse Specialist to do restraint evaluation, evaluation after petition, ability to do first and second certificate for involuntary psychiatric admission and testify in court. I support the motivation for this bill where they are trying to address shortage of physicians and more specifically psychiatrists who are needed for these crucial assessments. However, the education and training provided to several of these Advance Practice Providers is insufficient to prepare them for this critical role that involves member rights and can affect the core ethical principle of autonomy.

If someone is witnessing an agitated patient for the first time at their work, their tolerance, or skills to handle it would be low and this could easily resort to overuse of restraint and/or involuntary orders/certificates. Additional guidelines, policies, and procedures would be needed, and HB 5114 does not clearly identify any safeguards for these added responsibilities.

However, I support the addition of Physician Assistant (PA), Certified Nurse Practitioner (NP), and Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) to the definition of Mental Health Professional. Currently, in addition to psychiatrist, we have RNs, LMSW, LPC and LMFTs included in it, and it is fair to have the other 3 categories added. MHP designation is a requirement for several assessments such as intake, follow-up after hospitalization and it is fair to have the other three (3) added because they are doing some key assessments and follow-up in those situations anyway.

For the above stated reasons, I do not support the full bill as it is written; but do believe that modifications could be made that could address workforce shortages while still protecting patient rights.

Sincerely,

Shama Faheem

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