

02-28-2024

Re: HB5114

Dear Rep. Brabec and the Health Policy Subcommittee on Behavioral Health

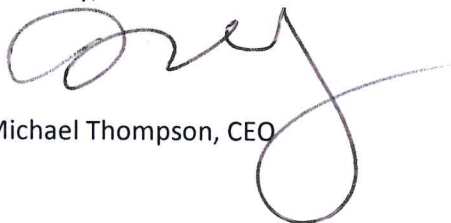
I am the CEO of a private nonprofit agency working in a CMHSP Provider Network. We employ a psychiatrist and nurse practitioner. I applaud HB5114 and broadening the scope of Physician Assistants and Nurse Practitioners in providing Clinical Certificates and obtaining Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) Orders. I see this as beneficial for many CMHSP's and private providers in their networks. This change supports all of our efforts to keep beneficiaries of service and the community safe within our resources.

I would like to propose three additional areas of the mental health code where broadening the scope of the work that of Physician Assistants and Nurse Practitioners are authorized to do would be of value to the ongoing treatment of beneficiaries and to agencies that employ them. As Physician Assistants and Nurse Practitioners often provide the front line care to beneficiaries it would be helpful to have them involved in the ongoing implementation and monitoring of an AOT. Currently these three areas are limited to psychiatrists.

- Section 468 (3). This section requires that a psychiatrist supervise the preparation and implementation of an AOT treatment plan. Physician Assistants and Nurse Practitioners often provide the care outlined in the AOT treatment plan. It would support ongoing continuity of the plan to have them supervise the preparation and implementation of an AOT treatment plan.
- Section 473. This section addresses petitioning for a second or continuing order. It requires that a petition be accompanied by a clinical certificate executed by a psychiatrist. Again as Physician Assistants and Nurse Practitioners often provide the care allowing them to execute the clinical certificate would support ongoing continuity of care.
- Section 475 (2) (b). This section addresses a beneficiary's noncompliance with an AOT and allows a peace officer to place an individual in protective custody to return to the hospital if the refuse a psychiatrists order to return to the hospital. Allowing Physician Assistants and Nurse Practitioners to provide the order to return to the hospital supports the ongoing continuity of care.

Thank you for taking the time to review this information and for your ongoing support of behavioral health services in Michigan

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Thompson', with a large, stylized flourish extending from the end of the signature.

Michael Thompson, CEO