

November 5, 2019

Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services

R.E: Public Testimony on Behavioral Health

Dear Chairwoman Whiteford and distinguished members of this committee:

I would like to introduce myself as an active member in the community, a person with a developmental disability, and a long-time advocate on disability related issues. Even though I am not a recipient of Michigan's public behavioral or physical health services, people who are very close to me, both professionally and personally, do receive those services.

As I have followed the discussions regarding the integration of physical and behavioral health services and the possible realignment of financing structures, there is one area of focus that I feel has not been fully considered; what is best for the person? What is meant by this is regardless of the differing ideologies, whatever system is developed it must be person first. The whole idea of systems integration is / was to save money and provide a higher level of care. This approach addresses systemic issues from a top down approach, what I am suggesting is looking at this issue from the beneficiary side up.

In order to construct the most cost effective and efficient systems of support, the core must be based on the social determinants of health; what does the individual need to be healthy, productive, and included within the community? This is accomplished by:

- Focusing on the individual to determine what exactly is needed to ensure that person has access to required supports and services to achieve desired results
- Person Centered Planning (PCP) must be a priority and accurately reflect the individual's goals, objectives, and needs
- Continuity of care should be the focal point, not an afterthought.
- Establish healthcare homes, statewide, that incorporates both behavioral and physical health services
- Home and Community Based Services must be robust and comprehensive
- Care coordination must be delivered at the service end, not through financial alignments
- Community integration must include supported decision making, and self-determination by the end consumer
- Regular evaluations must be in place that measure outcomes for all items in a person's PCP, Individual Plan of Service (IPOS) as well as all desired healthcare goals

I agree that changes need to occur to better serve people receiving behavioral and physical health services, however, in order to make productive and meaningful changes

we must examine what is needed by the recipients, then start to design that system that fulfills those needs effectively and efficiently as possible.

Thank you for your time and attention. I look forward to being part of on-going conversations and further advocacy efforts on this important issue. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

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PS. The staff of the Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council have my express permission to distribute this letter (in my absence) including contact information for the direct purpose of advocacy to my legislators, committee members of the public hearing, and other interested policy makers.