

RESOLUTION

No. 2021-437

By Commissioner Killeen and Co-sponsored by Commissioners Anderson, Basham, Baydoun, Bell, Clark-Coleman, Daub, Haidous, Kinloch, Marecki, Baker McCormick, Palamara, Scott and Varga

WHEREAS, the Wayne County Commission is committed to ensuring Wayne County's most vulnerable residents, including Medicaid recipients, are offered high quality, comprehensive services to address serious mental illness, intellectual and developmental disabilities and substance use disorders in the behavioral healthcare community; and

WHEREAS, community-based behavioral healthcare continues to be the most effective and inclusive way for persons to receive person-centered care in the setting of their choosing; and

WHEREAS, the community-based behavioral health system established by the Community Mental Health Act of 1963 may be dismantled due to proposed legislation; and

WHEREAS, this proposed legislation could disrupt and destroy the community-based behavioral health system and would reshape the state's mental health system by shifting the management of care from a publicly run program to private insurance companies thereby risking the vitality of public health providers such as Detroit Wayne Integrated Health Network ("DWIHN"); and

WHEREAS, DWIHN provides access to a full array of integrated services that facilitate individuals to maximize their level of function and create opportunities for quality of life. DWIHN's mission is to influence and set policy for the provision of community-based behavioral health services to Medicaid recipients in Wayne County to ensure the delivery of quality services which are effective, efficient, culturally relevant, and responsive to the needs and desires of the persons it serves with dignity and respect; and

WHEREAS, DWIHN deploys data-driven, evidence-based practices to provide a comprehensive, integrated, trauma-informed, gender-specific, and culturally sensitive service array for persons ranging from children to the geriatric population; and

WHEREAS, DWIHN implements a Holistic Care approach through partnerships and collaborative relationships for the delivery of physical health services

to its members, based on the recognition that care coordination can better integrate behavioral and physical health services to optimize an individual's overall health; and

WHEREAS, DWIHN has earned a three-year reaccreditation from the National Committee on Quality Assurance (NCQA), the undisputed, gold standard of excellence with the healthcare industry, and is just one example of a successful, efficient NCQA accredited prepaid inpatient health plans ("PIHP") operating within the community-based behavioral health system; and

WHEREAS, a key, yet false, assumption underlying the current proposed legislation is that private Medical Health Plans (MHPs) will operate at a more efficient level than DWIHN when, in fact, many of the MHPs operating in Wayne County have contracted with DWIHN to provide behavioral health services to their respective members diagnosed with "mild to moderate" behavioral health conditions and rely on the operations of DWIHN to support their respective NCQA submissions for accreditation, including eligibility to receive "auto-credit" due to DWIHN's NCQA accreditation; and

WHEREAS, the community-based behavioral health services provided by DWIHN such as community Crisis Centers, Mobile Crisis Teams, and partnerships with local departments to implement Mental Health First Aid and Crisis Intervention Training further increase access to behavioral healthcare for Wayne County residents; and

WHEREAS, the Wayne County Commission is committed to the consistent and uninterrupted provision of community-based behavioral health services by DWIHN to all Wayne County residents and aims to ensure that the social determinants of health are met for all persons served by DWIHN.

Now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Wayne County Commission on this 1st day of July, 2021, vehemently opposes any legislation or other change to the behavioral health system that would compromise the efficacy, responsiveness and integrity of the current community-based behavioral health system or that would transfer control and allocation of the financial resources from public service providers to private entities; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Wayne County Commission supports the continued funding of the DWHIN and other providers of PIHP to provide holistic healthcare to Wayne County residents with serious mental illness, intellectual and developmental disabilities and substance use disorders in behavioral healthcare community; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Wayne County Commission does hereby request Governor Gretchen Whitmer and the Michigan Legislature undertake any and all actions necessary to ensure the Wayne County residents continue to have access to

comprehensive community-based behavioral health services through DWIHN; and be it further

RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Governor Gretchen Whitmer, the Wayne County delegation in the Michigan Legislature, MDHHS Director Elizabeth Hertel, Wayne County Executive Warren Evans, and City of Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan.

(2021-66-036)