

January 13, 2022

THE HONORABLE BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS APPROVES THE FOLLOWING:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Berrien County Mental Health Authority was created by the Berrien County Board of Commissioners (“BOC”) as duly authorized under the Community Mental Health Act of 1963; and

WHEREAS, every year, thousands of individuals and their families in this community, depend on the public behavioral health system for daily (and in some cases, life-long) supports and services; and

WHEREAS, the BOC opposes any behavioral health redesign that harms the state and county partnership for community mental health and related Medicaid safety net services and/or seeks to privatize Medicaid behavioral health services; and

WHEREAS, any behavioral health redesign must maintain the efficacy, responsiveness and integrity of the community-based behavioral health system; and

WHEREAS, recent proposals in the House and Senate fundamentally change the public behavioral health system and will harm those served by the system and thus the BOC opposes these proposals that would cause beneficiaries to lose access to services, supports and input into the design and operation of their services and supports system; would leave many recipients out of the redesign proposals completely; would end public oversight, governance, operations and accountability; and would incentivize and prioritize profits to private companies at the expense of the public and the beneficiaries served by the public behavioral health system; and

WHEREAS, instead of damaging the public behavioral health system through pursuit of these proposals, recent innovations by the public behavioral health system should be supported and thus the BOC supports, and asks our Legislative and Executive Branch leaders to support Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHC’s); Behavioral Health Homes; Opioid Health Homes; State Innovation Models; and local primary and behavioral health integration infrastructure and care coordination at the point of service delivery; and

WHEREAS, the public behavioral health system carries out its responsibilities to every citizen in this state by seeking and serving persons with the greatest, most severe, most persistent needs and vulnerabilities without regard to whether there is risk of loss, low or no return on investment, or other non-person-centered motivations and the public system appropriately shares these risks with the State and is demonstrably more efficient at moving more taxpayer money into services and not into administration, infrastructure or profits; and

WHEREAS, the House and Senate proposals as they currently stand both eliminate Michigan’s PIHPs, eliminate or threaten the CMHSPs ability to deliver services and supports to the most vulnerable and needy in our State and shift responsibility for managing public services and supports to private health plans (Senate), and Administrative Services Organization (House), and to the State.

WHEREAS, the premise of these proposals seems to be that privatization (Senate) and state-centralization (House) are better than local access, local control, local accountability, collaborative regional/local management, and local oversight which are just a few of the beneficial features of the current public behavioral health system that the House and Senate proposals ignore, and for these reasons we stand united in opposition to them; and

WHEREAS, this is no time for major upheaval on the public behavioral health system that so many thousands of persons, their families and communities rely on for support, especially during this pandemic period, but not at any time; and

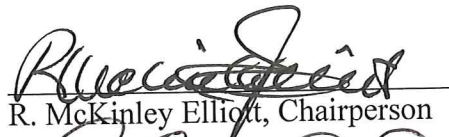
WHEREAS, the public behavioral health safety net has ensured continued services and supports to individuals, families, communities, workforce members and provider organizations in every possible way before and throughout the pandemic period including tens of millions of dollars in provider stabilization and direct care worker support in this region alone.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Berrien County Board of Commissioners strongly urges its Senate and House Representatives to oppose any legislation that would make substantial changes to the Michigan Mental Health Code and Social Welfare Act, including privatizing the public mental health system and essentially eliminating the public safety net and directs the Clerk to distribute the resolution to Governor Gretchen Whitmer, State Representatives Brad Paquette and Pauline Wendzel, and State Senator Kim LaSata.

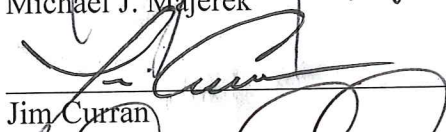
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Berrien County Board of Commissioners requests that our policy making representatives support, improve and strengthen the public behavioral health safety net system, and that they support improvements in the delivery of publicly governed, accountable, and publicly operated regional and community-based systems, invest in and expand initiatives that are proven to improve citizen access, beneficiary engagement, individual and population health, behavioral well-being, resiliency, quality of life, and community betterment such as those mentioned above.

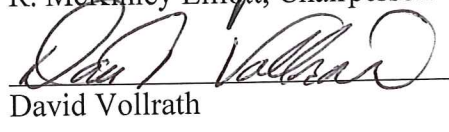
BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

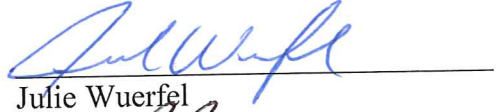

Michael J. Majerek

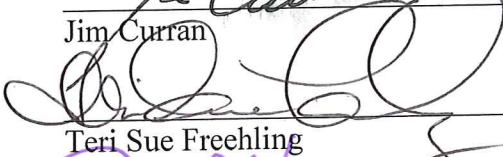

R. McKinley Elliott, Chairperson

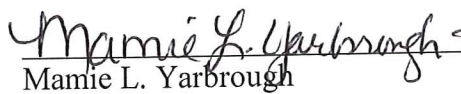
Don Meeks

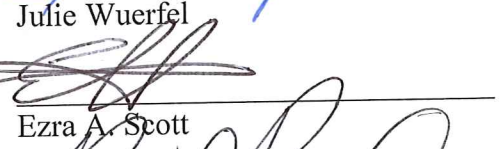

Jim Curran

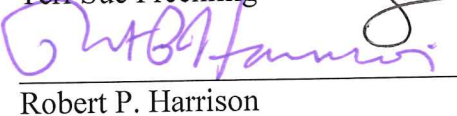

David Vollrath


Julie Wuerfel

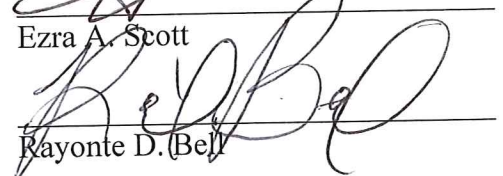

Teri Sue Freehling


Mamie L. Yarbrough


Ezra A. Scott


Robert P. Harrison

Jon Hinkelman


Rayonte D. Bell

RESOLUTION APPROVED AS TO FORM

Administrator 	Date	1-5-22
Comments Attached _____		
Corporate Counsel 	Date	1/5/22
Comments Attached _____		