



Mental Health Association in Michigan

LETTER FROM LANSING

A monthly newsletter from the
Mental Health Association in Michigan (MHAM)

MHAM's Statement on Racism & Equality

The Mental Health Association in Michigan considers racism to be detrimental to the individual, collective mental health and well-being of persons of color. MHAM understands that racism undermines mental health. MHAM is committed to anti-racism in all that we do. The time is now for those systems that are inhabited by racism and discrimination to be reformed and MHAM is committed to working toward that end.

Welcome to the February 2021 edition of MHAM's monthly newsletter that provides you with public policy updates and other information that impacts the behavioral health care of you and those you love.

This edition of MHAM's Letter from Lansing has a list of updates about important legislation that has been introduced this year by the legislature. Additionally, on February 11, 2021, Governor Whitmer introduced the Executive Budget for fiscal year 2022. MHAM will provide you with an outline of the budget recommendations.

From MHAM President & CEO - Marianne Huff, LMSW February 2021

MENTAL HEALTH MATTERS



The Mental Health Association in Michigan (MHAM) has been in existence since 1936 and has distinguished itself as being one of the leaders in mental health public policy in our state for many years. MHAM continues to advocate for individuals with mental health conditions at the state and local level.

The Association's mission is to improve care and treatment of mental illness; promote positive mental health; and prevent the onset of mental disorders. We do this through policy analysis and advocacy with government, primarily at the state government level in Lansing. MHAM seeks regulatory action from government that our Board and membership deem to be in the best interests of adults and youth experiencing or at risk of mental illness. Through this approach, we believe we are doing the greatest good for the greatest number, as a single law or policy change from Lansing can affect tens of

thousands (if not hundreds of thousands) of state residents.

MHAM is also working to provide more public education about matters related to behavioral health care. Look for our virtual town hall conversations about a variety of topics including suicide; how improvisation comedy can help with anxiety and depression and how yoga can be used to alleviate symptoms of anxiety and stress. Please watch your email for announcements about our virtual events.

MHAM is interested in the numbers of individuals with significant mental health conditions who find themselves in Michigan jails and prisons. Through the work of the Partners in Crisis Advisory Board (PIC), comprised of a group of leaders in the criminal justice and mental health field, MHAM and PIC are advocating for appropriate responses to the growing problem of the mentally ill landing in jails and prisons, when treatment is what is needed. Stay tuned for more information!

This is What Integrated Care Looks Like

Marianne Huff, MHAM President and CEO, spoke about case management as being true integrated care in an OP ED that was published in the February 21, 2021 edition of Crain's Detroit Business. The entire article can be found [HERE](#).

In the editorial, Huff talks about the way moving individuals with serious mental illness to the community influenced the development of a community-based model of care that resulted in the current community mental health system. Sometimes it is forgotten community mental health was born so individuals with more severe mental illnesses could be moved from large state hospitals and into their communities. Below is an excerpt from Huff's OP ED:

"In the early 1960s, there were almost 500,000 individuals with severe mental illness warehoused in state psychiatric hospitals across the United States. With the invention of chlorpromazine in 1952 — the first anti-psychotic — it was believed that persons with mental illness might be able to leave the hospital and live successfully in the community. To achieve this ideal, outpatient services offered through community mental health centers were needed.

Community Mental Health was born Oct. 31, 1963, when President John F. Kennedy signed into law the Community Mental Health Centers Act of 1963.

One of the services that developed through the community mental health centers is case-management services. Case management is designed to help individuals with more severe mental illnesses navigate the community by linking them to services such as housing and health care and by helping with the application for governmental programs such as food stamps, Social Security Disability and/or SSI and Medicaid.

Case managers are responsible for helping their clients solve problems and deal with crises that arise. Case managers are confidants, and good ones provide the ultimate in concierge services."

Survey on Integrated Care

Do you know what is meant by "integrated care?" Do you want your healthcare to be "integrated?" If you want to answer these two questions and participate in a statewide research survey, please click on Take Survey button below.

[Take Survey](#)

Public Policy Update



SB 813: Death reporting bill from Sen. Jim Ananich (SB 813) signed into law by Governor Whitmer on 1-19-21. In 2020, two bills, SB 813, and HB 5615, were proposed by two different legislators that were concerned with ensuring that investigations occur when a recipient of inpatient mental health services dies from suicide or the death is unknown. SB 813 was ultimately signed into law. HB 5615 was sponsored by Rep. Phil Green and it was substituted by SB 813. SB 813 requires the hospital to report the cause of death, if known, if a recipient dies within 48 hours of discharge. This is an amendment to the Mental Health Code. SB 813 will take effect on March 24, 2021.

HB 4044: Requires state-operated registries related to mental health to report data to the Michigan crisis and access line. Sponsor: Mary Whiteford.

4. **HB 4045:** Corrections: Provides for mental health discharge planning for parolees. Requires the Department of Corrections to provide mental health discharge planning and service coordination to individuals exiting prison who are receiving mental health services including therapy and medication. This bill is formerly known as HB 4700 from 2020.
Sponsor: Mary Whiteford

HB 4057: Mental Health. Expands the definition of restraint to be much more specific and inclusive. It defines “chemical restraint” along with defining “prone immobilization.”
Sponsors: Sarah Anthony and Julie Calley.

SB 0101: Mental Health. Create standards and licensing requirements for health transport for involuntary psychiatric hospitalization. This bill allows a “security transport officer” to take an individual requiring treatment or evaluation as opposed to being taken by a peace officer/law enforcement. It also proposes the creation of a county mental health transportation panel.
Sponsor: Ed McBroom.

Governor Whitmer’s Executive Budget

Of note, there was no increase in the amount of General Fund allocated to the community mental health system. \$125,578,200 has been the amount since 2020. Medicaid Mental Health Services dollars were increased to 3,011,535,500 for FY’22 and for FY’21 is at \$2,653,305,500. Medicaid Substance Abuse Services for FY ’22 is reduced from \$87,663,200 for FY ’21 to \$80,988,900. Community substance abuse prevention, education and treatment programs are reduced in FY’22 from \$108,333, 400 in FY’21 to \$78,005,200. Also, the Executive Recommendation provides \$110 million dollars in FY ’21 and \$360 million in FY ’22 to permanently continue the \$2 per hour wage increase for direct care workers. The FY 22 Executive Budget includes \$90 million to fund costs related to the implementation of policy/programmatic changes that resulted from the KB v. Lyon lawsuit.



MiCal-Michigan Crisis & Access Line

Michigan Crisis and Access Line is to “go live” in parts of the Upper Peninsula and Oakland County in April of this year. The anticipated date for full implementation is fall of 2022. MiCAL is described [HERE](#).

Michigan Crisis and Access Line (MiCAL) staff will provide Michiganders with crisis and warm line services, informational resources, and facilitated coordination with local systems of care (Community Mental Health Services Programs [CMHSPs], Prepaid Inpatient Health Plans [PIHPs], and other applicable entities). MiCAL will be staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and will offer support through phone, text, and chat. The Department is looking forward to partnering with Common Ground as the staffing vendor selected for MiCAL.

In addition, MiCAL will integrate with treatment registries (e.g., psychiatric beds, substance use disorder services, crisis residential services) as required by Public Act 658 of 2018. To support the work, MiCAL will utilize a customer relationship management (CRM) database infrastructure to track, monitor, assign, follow up, and report on access line operations. The CRM will also be leveraged to bolster internal BHDDA operations. MDHHS will maintain operational oversight of MiCAL and work with PIHPs, CMHSPs, and other entities to ensure it is optimally executed.

Please feel free to reach out to the MiCAL team at MDHHS-BHDDA-MiCAL@michigan.gov if you have any questions or suggestions about MiCAL or the development of MiCAL. If you need behavioral health help, please [CLICK HERE](#).

Having access to mental health care is critical right now. It is important you continue to pay attention to your mental health during the coronavirus crisis. It is normal to feel afraid and anxious, especially when faced with a situation that has many “unknowns”. If you find yourself feeling overwhelmed by symptoms of anxiety, depression, or hopelessness, please reach out for help. If you are experiencing emotional distress in the context of the COVID-19 crisis, get help from:

Michigan Stay Well Counseling via the COVID-19 Hotline

Call 1-888-535-6136

Press "8" to talk to a Michigan Stay Well counselor.

Counselors available 24/7 - confidential and free

OR

National Disaster Distress Helpline

Call: 1-800-985-5950

Text the keyword TALKWITHUS to 66746

Available 24/7

One more thought...

CHARITABLE BEQUESTS

A bequest to the Mental Health Association in Michigan through your will is a powerful expression of your commitment to improving the care and treatment of mental illness, promoting positive mental health, and preventing the onset of mental disorders. A bequest can be unrestricted or restricted, and the full amount of your gift is tax deductible. If you would like more information about making a gift through your will, please contact MHAM President & CEO, Marianne Huff at mhuffmham@gmail.com or call 517.898.3907

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