



(MHAM) 2019-20 Policy Initiatives

- A. Monitor, analyze and attempt to influence as necessary the state's Fiscal Year-20-and-21 budgets. Included will be effort to increase wages for mental health direct care support staff.
- B. Maintain a broad, multi-interest coalition (*Michigan Partners in Crisis*) to collectively address and advocate about problems of adults and minors with mental illness inappropriately entering the justice system – prison, jail, juvenile.
- C. Work with other interested organizations to seek recipient rights legislation that accomplishes the following:
- Make the State Office of Recipient Rights a Type I (semi-autonomous) agency within the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), and require that local recipient rights offices report to the State Office of Recipient Rights. (Lt. Gov Calley's Mental Health & Wellness Commission recommended in 2014 that local Recipient Rights Offices report to an independent third party.)
 - Unless completed in '18, create a viable early option for mediation in resolution of rights complaints.
 - Advance the dispute resolution recommendations of the MDHHS Section 298 Facilitation Workgroup.
- D. Regarding eligibility and priority status for publicly funded mental health service:
- Stimulate a standard statewide definition of severity-of-condition;
 - Facilitate transfer of "mild-to-moderate" mental illness benefit and funding from Medicaid Health Plans to CMHSPs.
- E. Revise PA 248 of 2004 to protect mental health medications prescribed within Medicaid from prior authorization under both managed care and fee-for-service arrangements. This has been recommended by the Calley Commission, the MDHHS Section 298 Facilitation Workgroup, and the department's recent psychotropic task force under budget section 1867.
- F. Monitor and provide leadership as appropriate to statewide developments in the integration of behavioral health and physical health care based on the work of the Legislature's Section 298 project.
- G. Seek, and act upon if presented, opportunities to legislatively advance recommendations of the Governor's Mental Health Diversion Council and its committees.
- H. Consider and, if warranted, draft legislation on enforcement of federal parity law in Michigan. (Enforcement of that law is left up to the states.)
- I. Advocate for legislative changes to Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) provisions, and other related Chapter 4 issues, in the Mental Health Code. Continue statewide AOT trainings.
- J. Oppose any bills proposed to give law enforcement confidential information identifying names and other personal circumstances of individuals legally prescribed controlled substances for medical conditions.