

Michigan Partners in Crisis (PIC): The Justice & Mental Health Coalition 2016 Initiatives

1. Educate the public and policy-makers on mental health issues and justice systems.
2. Promote and procure legislative and executive branch attention to problems identified in PIC-stimulated studies of correctional mental health and juvenile justice released by the University of Michigan and the Mental Health Association in Michigan in 2010 and 2015.
3. Analyze and react as appropriate to the work and reports of the state's Mental Health & Wellness Commission and the Governor's Diversion Council. Stimulate broader stakeholder participation opportunities regarding the latter entity.
4. Conduct follow-up monitoring and analysis to assure appropriate implementation of Public Act 452 of 2014, requiring state policy for suspension (rather than termination) of Medicaid for those incarcerated or detained.
5. Seek state funding for expansion and periodic independent evaluation of Michigan's mental health courts.
6. Establish corrections anti-segregation language in both state budget and statute regarding adults and children with mental illness/emotional disorder, with an oversight board, including citizens from outside the Department of Corrections, on segregation and security issues.
7. Ensure continued state budget funding level for Legislative Corrections Ombudsman Office.
8. Seek new state statute re-defining "drugged driving" so that persons driving with medications of prescribed amounts and frequencies in their systems are not at risk of impaired driving charges.
9. Ensure existence of an adequate safety net of state-operated secure residential facilities for juvenile corrections cases, including continued operation of Shawono & Bay Pines Centers.
10. Analyze and react as appropriate to expected study report from DHS and U-M on prevalence of substance use and emotional disorders among juvenile justice detainees in Michigan.
11. Seek legislative language improving discharge planning and implementation, including linkages to community services and medication, for state corrections inmates slated for release.