



Message to our Community Mental Health Ambassadors

Mental illnesses can take many forms, just as physical illnesses do. Mental illnesses are still feared and misunderstood by many people, but the fear will disappear as people learn more about them. You, our staff can be a powerful tool for education, reduction of stigma and proclamation of the good news: mental illnesses can be treated. Michigan Association of Community Mental Health Boards thanks you, our Ambassadors, for partnering with us in this community education project.

What is Community Mental Health?

(Your Agency) is an organization that manages the behavioral health treatment and services for (Your Service Area) County residents who meet requirements for eligibility. (Describe if you provide direct treatment or contract for services).

(Your Agency) manages allocated state and county resources to ensure quality behavioral health care. We rely on our partnership with the community for input and direction and value open communication with all of our stakeholders. Our staff includes ___ clinical and administrative professionals dedicate to helping improve the behavioral health status of the community.

At (Your Agency) Community Mental Health we:

- Assess community needs for behavioral health services;
- Authorize and process payments for medically necessary services and supports;
- Collaborate with other agencies to develop programs and services to meet identified needs;
- Establish and monitor research-based best practices and treatment guidelines;
- Offer prevention/early intervention initiatives, such as:
(List Here)

Who is Eligible for Services with Community Mental Health?

In general, we manage (provide) services for Medicaid recipients or uninsured individuals with:

- Serious mental illness (adults);
- Serious emotional disturbance (children);
- Developmental disability (adults/children); and
- Substance abuse – Medicaid only (adults/children).

Person-Centered Planning

Person-Centered Planning (PCP) is a way of helping consumers choose the services and supports they need to achieve the goals they set for their future. Network providers work passionately to empower consumers to take initiative and control of their own goals and treatment.

Community Benefit

(Your Agency) Community Mental Health believes that the best way we can help people grow is through community collaboration. In fiscal year (Fill In Relevant Info Here) (Your Agency) Community Mental Health successfully coordinated with other agencies on a number of innovative community initiatives, including:

- (List)

The Problem with Funding

Michigan Mental Health Commission	President's New Freedom Commission on Mental Health	Mental Health: A Report of the Surgeon General	Crossing the Quality Chasm: Adaptations to MH and AD
The disparity between physical and mental illness in private health insurance coverage should be eliminated by early enactment of parity pending state legislation.	Address mental health with the same urgency as physical health. Screen for mental disorders in primary healthcare, across the lifespan, and connect to treatment and supports.	Facilitate entry through the multiple "portals of entry" that exist: primary care, education, and child welfare.	Collaboratively seek legislative support for parity. Encourage federal level parity for Medicare beneficiaries.
<i>Michigan's mental health system is structured and funded so that high quality care is delivered effectively and efficiently by accountable providers.</i>	<i>Disparities in mental health services are eliminated.</i>	<i>Reduce financial barriers to treatment.</i>	<i>Align fiscal incentives.</i>

For More Information or Help

If you would like to learn more about Community Mental Health, please refer to your Michigan Community Mental Health Ambassador Handbook or (Name of Person in Your Agency).

