

## Michigan Association of Community Health Boards

Name: Mike Bouchard

Political Affiliation: Republican

Office Seeking: Governor

Address: P.O. Box 1433 Royal Oak, MI 48068

Phone: 248-647-2010

Contact Person: Kathryn Martin

Website: [www.BouchardforGovernor.com](http://www.BouchardforGovernor.com)

Email: [Contact@BouchardforGovernor.com](mailto:Contact@BouchardforGovernor.com)

### **Please describe your experiences with the behavioral health system?**

I am currently a member of the Advisory Board to Angels Place – Homes and Hopes for the Developmentally Disabled. I also have a mental health diversion plan for my sheriff's department in Oakland County.

- **Oakland County Sheriff's Office Post Book Jail Diversion Program**

- Jail Alliance with Supports (JAWS) targets inmates with co-occurring disorders. This program utilizes jail resources for early identification of inmates with mental health or developmental disabilities, offers stabilization and treatment readiness services and develops a reintegration plan that is presented to the Judge to expedite release into community treatment and support services.

- In July 2009 the Sheriff's Office received a 3-year grant totaling \$681,648 to expand the JAWS program to include female inmates and males other than those with co-occurring disorders.

- In 2009, 165 inmates were placed into the program;  
136 completed the in-jail portion of the program;

- 3,997 jail bed days were saved by release into a community plan.

- **Oakland County Sheriff's Office Mental Health Training**

- In 2008, Sheriff's Office in collaboration with CMHA and Easter Seals developed a curriculum entitled "Tools for Appropriate Response to

Individuals with Mental Illness and Developmental Disabilities”. The training provides officers with decision-making tools in field encounters, risk assessment information for appropriate interventions, recognition of common characteristics of a variety of disorders and an understanding of the Civil rights and Mental Health Code laws.

- Oakland County Sheriff's Office has trained all road and corrections deputies in this curriculum (approximately 850 officers).
- Oakland County Sheriff's Office has offered the training to all local law enforcement agencies in Oakland County.
- Oakland County Sheriff's Office has hosted trainings for 25 Michigan counties at the request of MCOLES and other counties.

- **Easter Seals Pre-Book Jail Diversion Program**

- Individuals with mental illness and/or developmental disabilities may be identified for diversion by police, before formal charges are brought. Pre-booking diversion occurs at the point of contact with law enforcement officers and relies on effective interaction between police, community mental health and prosecutorial cooperation.
- 325 formal pre-booking jail diversions have taken place since 2004. Another 1,200 “jail diversion interventions” in which law enforcement linked an individual to treatment but did not identify a formal criminal charge.
- Forty-one (41) of 42 Oakland County police agencies have been trained in the pre-book jail diversion process. Troy PD is the only police agency that has not participated in the training.

**What role do you think community mental health (mental illness and developmental disabilities), and substance use disorder services fit into overall mental health care?**

Undoubtedly, community mental health and substance abuse services provide a critical service to our communities. With their proximity to the patients, these

service providers act as the foot soldiers in combating substance abuse and providing quality care for the mental and developmental disabled population.

**What do you believe the state of Michigan can do to expand access to CMH (mental illness and developmental disabilities) and substance use disorder services for Michigan's citizens?**

Michigan must determine our "wants" from our "needs." In doing so, we can properly fund those areas of government service which are critical to providing a safe and quality life for those who are incapable of providing for themselves.

**How would you balance the state budget?**

I advocate moving to a two-year state budget with a three-year forecast. By doing this in my current budget at the Oakland County Sheriff's Office, I have been able to mitigate the negative impact of an ever shrinking budget. The current state budget process only considers the upcoming fiscal year, ignoring the long-term effects their decisions have on the fiscal health of the state. To ensure the budget is completed timely and accurately, I will seek a constitutional amendment to require a two-year budget be in place by May 15. This will allow schools and local units of government to have ample planning time for their budgets. The constitutional amendment will also call for an independent financial audit to be conducted of the state's finances and spending, the governor must propose a balanced budget and each chamber can only pass a balanced budget. Importantly, there will be a penalty for government's inability to get their job done. For each day the budget is delayed past May 15, the Legislature and governor would lose a day's pay.

**Please list your top three priorities you hope to accomplish in office?**

Michigan is in crisis. Jobs are fleeing our state every minute and the next governor must have a laser focus on keeping the jobs we have, and bringing new jobs here. On day one, I will freeze all nonessential spending to assess our "needs" from our "wants." Simultaneously, we must make our state's tax structure more competitive and reduce regulation to help create an environment, which fosters job growth. Thus far, I am the only candidate with a short-term and long-term economic plan which accomplishes this goal.

Education is the cornerstone to bringing jobs back to our state. Michigan is home to some of the greatest educational institutions in the nation. As the former Chairman of the Senate Education Committee, I have a long track record of championing improvements to Michigan's education system. Most importantly, I'm a father with school-age sons and a daughter at Michigan State University. I understand the importance of a quality education to the future success of a child and our state. Providing a topnotch education to Michigan's young people will be one of my highest priorities.

I believe one of government's core responsibilities is the safety of its citizens. I have spent my career as a law-enforcement professional for 24 years serving and protecting the people of Michigan. I have the privilege of leading one of the nation's largest sheriff's offices and have served as the president of the Major County Sheriffs' of America. With a career in law-enforcement, I am committed to ensuring the safety of our citizens.