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Please describe your experiences with the behavioral health system?

As a state legislator, practicing physician, and family member of someone afflicted with mental illness, I have intimate, first-hand knowledge of our behavioral health system.

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

The treatment of mental illness and developmental disabilities in Michigan has suffered for its segregation from overall health services. Despite spending billions of dollars on health care, Michigan is no healthier. Intersection of physical and mental health care are needed in order to improve access to services and the public's health.

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?

The required federal expansion of Medicaid to 400,000 new recipients may provide a mechanism to integrate and expand access to mental health services.

How would you balance the state budget?

1. Savings via reform of state health programs (Medicaid and health programs for public employees)
2. Reform in the structure of Michigan's government
3. Modernizing the benefits and pay of public employees.

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

1. Constrain the growth of spending on state health programs (both Medicaid and public employee health care)—These programs need to be redesigned so that recipients are required to participate in their health care. Controlling these programs is key to freeing up the resources needed to address many of the other problems facing Michigan.
2. Structural reform of state government—Some reforms could be done by executive order but others will require either legislative action or a change to the constitution. Reforming the way state government operates and ensuring that services are being provided in an efficient manner will allow scarce resources to be redirected to vital programming that has seen significant cuts in recent years.
3. Repair Michigan's image—While not accurate, many outside our state see Michigan as a broken, urban center filled with decay and burned out buildings. In order to lure job providers to Michigan, a repair of the image others have as this being a less than desirable location needs to be undertaken.