



**MACMHB members Talking Points
FY '09-'10 proposed DCH budget
June 4, 2009**

Below are messages to use when meeting with lawmakers to discuss the affects of the proposed cut to the mental health and substance use disorder service delivery system in FY '10. Remember when talking with lawmakers, time is of the essence and we must work together. It is important to not get sidetracked into a conversation about administrative changes or solving the budget crisis. Protecting the consumers we serve is the message here- solving other issues is not your responsibility. Please pick no more than three of the following points, resist the urge to talk about other issues and stay on message! Thank you!

➤ **Per the Michigan Mental Health Code Act 258 of 1974: Community Mental Health Organizations are required to serve individuals with a severe mental illness of disability regardless of their ability to pay. An individual can not be denied a service that is medically necessary because of inability to pay or lack of insurance.**

➤ **The proposal for FY '10 is at least a \$40 million GF cut to CMH's. These cuts will have a *profound negative impact* on our community:**

To display this:

- Find a local example of someone who is/would be served by GF dollars who you will no longer be able to serve;
- Talk about community benefit programs you will cut;
- We will do LESS with LESS and the impact will be felt in other systems (jails, child protection, emergency rooms, etc.) and by families
- STRESS increased demand for services
 - Result of economy
 - Returning veterans
- Talk about the increased wait lists and the likelihood most will never see services, some may drastically deteriorate requiring more intensive services or even die waiting for services.

➤ **The proposal for FY '10 is at least \$2 million GF cut to the substance abuse block grant. These cuts will have a *profound negative impact* on our community:**

To display this:

- Find a local example of someone who is/would be served by the block grant dollars who you will no longer be able to serve;

- We will do LESS with LESS and the impact will be felt in other systems (jails, child protection, emergency rooms, etc.) and by families
- STRESS increased demand for services
 - Result of economy
 - Returning veterans
- Talk about the increased wait lists and the likelihood most will never see services, some may drastically deteriorate requiring more intensive services or even die waiting for services.
- ✓ **STRESS that in addition all of the points above, the block grant has not been increased in almost 20 YEARS**

➤ **Medicaid cuts to mental health and substance abuse may be proposed as part of the FY '10 budget solution: Any cuts to Medicaid place our ability to serve people in jeopardy.**

To display this:

- Use local examples of increased caseload, extreme vulnerability of many individuals on Medicaid, rates are required to be actuarially sound.

➤ **The proposal is to repeal the statute which exempts mental health drugs from the Medicaid preferred drug list: The proposed change will remove important protections for a very vulnerable population.**

Requiring individuals to fail first on this class of medications can result in irreparable harm and will not save the result in the proposed savings.

To display this:

- Find a local example of someone who has had medication switched and suffered consequences.
- Talk about the unique nature of mental illnesses and the medications used to treat them.

➤ **The proposed disinvestment in services will have a profound impact on other systems. The proposed cuts will limit any ability to coordinate care and enhance support for individuals in contract with human services or leaving jail or prison.**

To display this:

- Talk about the impact the proposed cuts will have on your ability to participate in supporting populations funded by other state departments (DHS, Corrections, counties).
- If all parts of the safety net are cut, how are people protected?