



Michigan Association of **COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH** Boards

MACMHB Legislative Breakfast Wednesday, February 24, 2010

➤ **Community Mental Health Organizations are required to serve individuals with a severe mental illness or 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. Article 8 – Section 8 of the Michigan Constitution reads: Institutions, programs, and services for the care, treatment, education, or rehabilitation of those inhabitants who are physically, mentally, or otherwise seriously disabled shall always be fostered and supported.**

- The state of Michigan has a moral and ethical responsibility to provide a safety net for its vulnerable populations, which certainly includes behavioral health services.

➤ **Last year's \$40 Million GF cut to CMHs had a serious negative impact on our communities.**

- Struggling economy and high unemployment have increased demand for services with more people struggling with mental illnesses.
- Increased wait lists and likelihood that most individuals on list will never see services. Some individuals may drastically deteriorate requiring more intensive services or even die waiting for services.

➤ **Budget Cuts WILL Increase Costs for Care.**

- Cutting funding for behavioral health services does not mean that the persons in need will just go away. Jails and hospitals see additional cases of those with mental illness and substance abuse, and are less prepared to adequately handle them. This ends up being more costly for the state.

➤ **FY' 11 Executive Budget**

- Strongly support the anticipated \$514 million in enhanced federal Medicaid rates (FMAP) for two additional quarters from the federal government.
- Support the Governor's efforts in the revamped Quality Assurance Assessment Program (QAAP) to doctors as a way to draw down \$400 to \$500 million in federal Medicaid money, improve access to care, and reimburse physicians more for seeing persons with Medicaid (see attachment).
- Oppose \$3.8 million reduction in CMH non-Medicaid (GF) services.
- Oppose \$1.4 million (20%) reduction to Multicultural Services.
- Oppose \$1.6 million (12%) reduction in Substance Abuse Services GF support.
- Oppose elimination of the State Disability Assistance Program for Substance Abuse Services – \$2.2 million, which will decrease residential services.

➤ **Support Mental Health Parity**

- Mental Health Parity legislation would help offset state budget GF reductions because due to the inequities and limitations on health insurance many individuals with insurance end up using precious GF dollars for treatment because their insurance is limited and they do not qualify for Medicaid.
- The proposed law is NOT a mandate – mental health coverage is not required. If it is offered then coverage must be the same for mental and physical ailments.
- Michigan is one of only eight states without some manner of mental health insurance parity laws.

