

# ALGER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Mary Ann Froberg, Clerk  
101 COURT STREET, MUNISING, MI 49862

## RESOLUTION #2013-07

### A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE EXCELLENCE IN MENTAL HEALTH ACT

**WHEREAS**, The State of Michigan and the 83 County Governments have a statutory partnership to provide mental health services and improve the performance of local delivery systems of care for the mentally ill and the most disabled citizens of the State; and the County Governments may fulfill this obligation through the creation of a community mental health authority under state law; and

**WHEREAS**, the Pathways Community Mental Health Authority was created pursuant to MCL 330.1204b of the Michigan Mental Health Code, 1974 PA 258, MCL 330.1001 *et seq* (the "Mental Health Code") by the Alger, Delta, Luce, and Marquette Board of Commission to fulfill this obligation for the citizens of Alger, Delta, Luce, and Marquette County; and

**WHEREAS**, one in five Americans have some form of mental illness and one in eighty eight children born are being diagnosed with autism; and

**WHEREAS**, research has consistently found that people with severe mental illnesses are two and a half times more likely to be attacked or victims of crime than people in the general population; and

**WHEREAS**, fear of stigma, being bullied, social isolation and being labeled as weak or unfit prevents individuals from seeking effective mental health treatment; and

**WHEREAS**, many United States Soldiers that returned from the Vietnam War suffered in silence, and more have since died by suicide than died on the battlefield, and more United States Soldiers who fought in Afghanistan have died in the past year from suicide than died in the war; and

**WHEREAS**, the rate of teen suicide continues to climb; one in six high school teens have considered suicide and one in twelve teens who have suffered in silence due to stigma associated with mental illness have attempted suicide, at least once; and

**WHEREAS**, the current methodology used by the Michigan Department of Community Health to allocate funds to the Community Mental Health Boards uses "geographic factors" and other historical factors that results in inequitable distribution of the limited financial resources available; and

**WHEREAS**, the Michigan Department of Community Health is forming new Prepaid Inpatient Health regions bringing together affiliations of Community Mental Health Boards and have committed to addressing this inequity by “bringing the bottom up” or raising the funding levels of counties that are funded at lower rates than other counties;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that Alger County supports the Governor’s two year proposal to expand Medicaid to over 470,000 Michigan citizens without coverage or access to appropriate mental health services; and

That Alger County supports expanding equitable access to care for all citizens of our state by establishing equitable funding for all counties; and

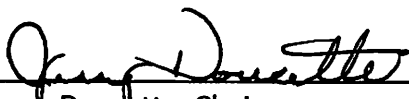
That Alger County affirms that the Michigan county based public mental health system has the capacity to address the needs of the citizens of the state by providing high quality effective evidenced based treatments if new resources are used;

- (1) To “bring the bottom up” in counties that are poorly funded;
- (2) To appropriately fund the treatment needs of the new expansion population in all counties; and
- (3) Are governed by the citizens involved locally on public mental health Boards; and

That Alger County supports Senator Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) and Senator Roy Blunt (R-MO) in their introduction of Senate Bill 264, the Excellence in Mental Health Act that would support the nation’s community mental health and addictions system by establishing national standard and oversight for Federally Qualified Behavioral Health Centers; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that copies of this resolution be provided to Governor Rick Snyder, U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow, Senator Tom Casperson, Representative John Kivela, MDCH Director Jim Haveman, MDCH Deputy Director Lynda Zeller, Michigan Association of Community Mental Health Boards, and all Michigan CMH Boards.

Dated: May 20, 2013

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jerry Doucette, Chairman  
Alger County Board of Commissioners

STATE OF MICHIGAN)  
County of Alger )

I, Mary Ann Froberg, Clerk of the County of Alger and of the County Board of Commissioners, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of the resolution adopted by the Board at a regular meeting on May 20, 2013.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the County of Alger, this May 31, 2013 at Munising, Michigan.



*Mary Ann Froberg*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mary Ann Froberg, Clerk