

ALGER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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

RESOLUTION #2021-17

WHEREAS Pathways Multi- County Mental Health Authority has served for more than 23 years as the public mental health and intellectual / developmental disabilities services provider for Alger, Luce, Delta and Marquette counties serving approximately 1,800 residents among these counties each year; and

WHEREAS, Pathways Mental Health Authority was created by each respective County Board of Commissioners as duly authorized under the Community Mental Health Act of 1963; and

WHEREAS, every year thousands of individuals and their families in these communities, depend on the public behavioral health system for daily (and in some cases, life-long) supports and services.

WHEREAS, the Alger County Board of Commissioners opposes any behavioral health redesign that harms the state and county partnership for community mental health and related Medicaid safety net services and/or seeks to privatize Medicaid behavioral health services. Additionally, we believe that any behavioral health redesign must maintain the efficacy, responsiveness and integrity of the community-based behavioral health system.

WHEREAS, recent proposals in the House and Senate fundamentally change the public behavioral health system and will harm those served by the system. The Alger County Board of Commissioners opposes these proposals because:

- Beneficiaries would stand to lose access to services, supports and input into the design and operation of their services and supports system. Many Michiganders would be left out of the redesign proposals completely;
- Public oversight, governance, operations, and accountability would be ended;
- Current proposals for redesign are not based on performance metrics related to positive outcomes, effectiveness, and efficiency measures associated with the current public system. Also, there is no clear statement about the problems that the Senate or House are attempting to address or solve;
- The Senate proposal specifically incentivizes and prioritizes profits to private companies at the expense of the public and the beneficiaries served by the public behavioral health system;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that we request that the Michigan Legislature support improvements in the delivery of publicly governed, publicly accountable, publicly operated regional and community-based systems, invest in and expand initiatives that are proven to improve citizen access, beneficiary policy making representatives support, improve and strengthen the public behavioral health safety net system, and that engagement, individual and population health, behavioral wellbeing, resiliency, quality of life, and community betterment such as those mentioned above. These are among the daily, weekly, and yearly accomplishments of the public system that would be destroyed by pursuing these new legislative proposals.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alger County Board of Commissioners directs staff to forward this resolution to the Michigan Legislature and the Michigan Association of Counties.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the above is a true copy of a Resolution adopted by the Alger County Board of Commissioners at the time, date, and place specified above pursuant to the required statutory procedures.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Ann Froberg, Alger County Clerk

Dated: August 16, 2021