

February 1, 2018

RE: Saginaw System of Care – Letter of Support for MDHHS for CMHSP 298 Pilot.

Ms. Sandra Lindsey, CEO
Saginaw County Community Mental Health Authority (SCCMHA)
500 Hancock St.
Saginaw, MI 48602

Dear Sandra:

I am writing on behalf of the Empowered to Reach and Teach Families Team, Saginaw Max System of Care Expansion Grant in support of the MDHHS for CMHSP 298 Pilot RFI submission being made by the Saginaw System of Care community partners for children's mental health. The local system of care work to date, includes the public partners of SCCMHA, the Saginaw Department of Health and Human Services, the Saginaw Family Division of Circuit Court, Saginaw Intermediate School District and law enforcement representatives, and supports the effort to improve the lives of children with serious emotional disturbance (SED) and their families in Saginaw County. The priority children for system of care efforts are those ages – birth to 26 – who are involved in multiple public service systems – such as children involved with mental health, juvenile justice, foster care, protective services or special education systems.

The ERTFT provides input to the MAX System of Care (MAX) Expansion effort, ensuring the effort remains aware of families' experiences and identifying strategies for promoting family engagement. While our effort in providing leadership development training to families can be essential to successful outcomes, personal experience has laid the foundation for the connection and understanding that make System of Care work effective.

Saginaw County Mental Health, MAX System of Care Expansion has implemented the following foundational polices to assist families in their commitment to quality services and outcomes through specialized leadership and workforce development trainings such as:

- Trauma Informed Practice
- Family Driven and Youth Guided
- Self Determination
- Evidence Based Practice
- Parent Support Partners at SCCMHA Central Access and Intake
- Cultural and Linguistic Competency of the services network and workforce

This collaborative work provides information, support and skill building for the families that they partner with. Therefore, I look forward to hearing of the successful outcome of this application.

Sincerely,



Andrea Wagner, Parent Lead
Empowered to Reach and Teach Families Team (ERTFT)