



February 2, 2018

Ms. Sandra M. Lindsay, CEO
Saginaw Community Mental Health Authority
500 Hancock St
Saginaw, MI 48602-4292

Dear Ms. Lindsey,

We support Saginaw County Community Mental Health Authority's request to be chosen for the CMHSP 298 Pilot program. The Great Lakes Bay Region Families Against Narcotics (FAN) is a volunteer organization that serves Saginaw, Midland and Bay Counties. FAN's mission is to provide information and education on substance use disorder, reduce the stigma associated with it, and to assist individuals seeking recovery to find treatment. Our Executive Board includes local law enforcement from all three counties, a person in long-term recovery, a mother of a person in recovery, a mother of an overdose fatality, representatives from several community organizations and a drug court judge.

Our monthly FAN Forums are open to the public and feature speakers who address the complexities of Substance Use Disorder, how to navigate treatment, and new law enforcement models like the Hope Not Handcuffs program <http://www.familiesagainstnarcotics.org/hopenothandcuffs>. FAN exists to advocate for individuals and family members caught in the grip of Substance Use Disorder, which is often co-occurring with other mental health diagnosis. The CMHSP 298 Pilot program aligns with FAN's mission, especially in the areas of:

- Recovery Focused practice
- Trauma Informed practice
- Community Inclusion
- Evidence Based Practice
- Integration of Behavioral Health and Physical Health
- Access Assurance to the Public Community Mental Health Services Benefit, especial in the areas including treatment and prevention services for Substance Use Disorder.

We believe approving Saginaw Community Mental Health Authority's request to participate in the CMHSP 298 Pilot would allow them to not only continue to provide access and quality services under the current specialty benefit, but would also create new efficiencies that would allow them to expand services in the are of treatment and prevention. If you have any questions, please contact me at (989) 297-2763 or glbrfan@familiesagainstnarcotics.org.

Sincerely,

Lori Ziolkowski, MBA

Vice President, GLBR Families Against Narcotics