

RE: Support for Saginaw County Community Mental Health as a Section 298 Pilot Site

To whom it may concern:

This letter is intended to demonstrate support for Saginaw County Community Mental Health (SCCMH) as a Section 298 pilot site. As you know, Section 298 of Public Act 107 of 2017 instructs the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) to implement up to three pilot projects to demonstrate the potential of fully financially integrated Medicaid behavioral health and physical health services.

Central Michigan University Medical Education Partners (“CMU Partners”) and the CMU College of Medicine have provided medical education at both the undergraduate and graduate level, along with direct healthcare services, for over seventy years in Saginaw County and the broader Great Lakes Bay Region. CMU Partners maintains accredited residency programs in Psychiatry, Internal Medicine, Family Medicine, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Emergency Medicine, Surgery and Podiatry, supporting over 100 medical residents at any given time while the College of Medicine graduates over 100 medical students a year with a mission to serve rural and underserved communities. In Saginaw County, we employ over 65 full-time faculty members, physicians and advanced practice providers, as well as manage several clinics in primary and specialty medicine.

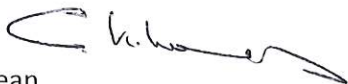
Our extensive involvement in the healthcare community has allowed us to work closely with SCCMH over the years. We stand behind their mission to “develop a system of care and a community that values and embraces the potential and contributions of all individuals with disabilities.” CMU Partners and the College of Medicine have worked closely with SCCMH to support this mission. For instance, a grant-funded behavioral health consultant employed by SCCMH has been located within the CMU Partner’s pediatrics clinic to screen patients for behavioral health concerns and provide follow-up guidance as needed.

CMU Partners, CMU College of Medicine, and SCCMH have a shared commitment to address access to and quality of inpatient psychiatric services in our catchment area. We recognize SCCMHA’s longstanding presence in the Emergency Department of Covenant HealthCare to provide mental health crisis stabilization services and their support in providing practicum placements for our psychiatric and medical residency programs.

SCCMH has a strong reputation with community collaboration to improve population health priorities for Saginaw County residents. It is our belief that SCCMH, should they be selected as a pilot site for Section 298, would work hard to serve the residents of this County, benefiting both their behavioral and physical health.

Thank you for your consideration.

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