



STATE OF MICHIGAN

RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
SAGINAW COUNTY

NICK LYON  
DIRECTOR

January 22, 2018

Ms. Sandra M. Lindsey  
CEO  
Saginaw County Community Mental Health Authority  
500 Hancock Street  
Saginaw, MI 48605

Dear Ms. Lindsey,

Please accept this letter of support for the Saginaw County Community Mental Health Authority (SCCMHA) in the pursuit of the 298 Pilot status. Saginaw County Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS) is honored to have such strong collaboration and partnership with your organization. This relationship has greatly enhanced and benefited those that we jointly serve allowing for superior services to Saginaw citizens.

Some of the contributions to our families that SCCMHA has made in partnership with SCDHHS include:

- Initial and ongoing entitlement enrollment and disposition for all benefits, but especially for Medicaid and Healthy Michigan. A SCDHHS worker is housed at the SCCMHA to be onsite for clients to enroll and to determine eligibility for benefits. The worker is also available to SCCMHA employees to assist with any questions or break down barriers for a client to enroll.
- Mental Health Consultation to SCDHHS staff supervising children in foster care and to assist in child protection cases.
- SCCMHA provides leadership to our local children's system of care efforts as the fiduciary for ten (10) years of SAMHSA funding of the national model of System of Care. All of Saginaw's child serving systems work together to develop effective services and work to remove barriers to quality treatment and care.
- Through Saginaw MAX System of Care, SCCMHA developed a Transition Age Youth program to support youth with serious emotional disorders to transition to adulthood. This program partners with SCDHHS programs that support transitioning youth, including Michigan Youth Opportunities Initiative (MYOI) and Young Adult Voluntary Foster Care (YAVFC).
- Behavioral Health therapists placed at the schools partner with the SCDHHS Pathways to Potential workers to address absenteeism and break any barriers to youth receiving a quality education.

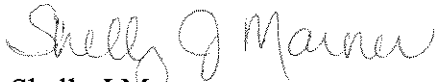
Additionally, SCCMHA has been a leader in creating a trauma informed community. SCCMHA has directly provided training to many community partners including SCDHHS, schools and law

enforcement. SCCMHA has provided trauma informed training to SCDHSS foster parents, thereby providing them tools to recognize trauma and meet the needs of the child abuse and neglect victims entrusted to their care. The SCCMHA and SCDHHS is currently rolling out a trauma informed collaborative practice entitled "Handle with Care." This partnership includes local law enforcement and Saginaw City Public schools. The goal of this initiative is to prevent children's exposure to trauma and violence, mitigate negative affects experienced by children's exposure to trauma, and to increase knowledge and awareness of this issue. Local law enforcement provides notice to the schools advising them to handle a student with care following an incident in which law enforcement interacted with a child and their family. This notice allows teachers to monitor a youth for signs of trauma and to notify the school's mental health behavioral specialists if necessary.

SCCMHA has been a driving force in Saginaw County and SCDHHS is privileged and proud to work with them to better serve our community as a whole, but specifically those individuals with mental illness, intellectual and developmental disabilities, youth with severe emotional disorders and those with substance use disorders. SCCMHA consistently strives to enhance and improve their services. They would be an asset and an excellent choice to receive 298 pilot status.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me by email at [marners@michigan.gov](mailto:marners@michigan.gov) or by telephone at 989-758-1224.

Respectfully,



Shelly J Marner  
Director  
Saginaw County DHHS

cc: file