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Michigan House of Representatives
Vanessa M. Guerra
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Committees
MINORITY VICE CHAIR – ELECTIONS AND ETHICS
LAW AND JUSTICE
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January 25, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing you to express my full support of the Saginaw County Community Mental Health Authority's (SCCMHA's) Request for Information, and subsequent Request for Proposal if needed, to serve as a 298 pilot site to test changes in the organization and architecture of the public mental health system in our state.

SCCMHA has a long history of providing quality mental healthcare assistance to residents of my district and the entire county. They have worked tirelessly in the past to expand their funding through government and private grants as well as working with area partners numerous times to close the coverage gaps and meet all of the behavioral health needs of the community. It is my firm belief that participation in the 298 Pilot program will further this mission and assist both Saginaw County and the State of Michigan as a whole in creating better mental health outcomes for its citizens. Adding coordination with the Medicaid Health Plans (MHPs) in Saginaw County to their repertoire of available tools can help support their work with Primary Care Practices, embedded mental health therapists in area schools, and recoup costs related to complex care coordination and patient education activity.

In addition to SCCMHA's existing expertise in working with area partners, they are also one of the few Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics in Michigan. They plan to use the 298 pilot program, if selected, to build upon the national demonstration model to include persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities while enveloping the entire SCCMHA contracted network, as opposed to just the public mental health center, within their new model. The ideas and forethought that the SCCMHA administration have put into their proposal are innovative and can provide serious change to the way we treat mental health here in Michigan.

Lastly, SCCMHA's administration under their Board of Directors and CEO, Sandra Lindsey, is incredibly knowledgeable of the mental healthcare landscape and related fields. They have been extremely useful sources of information for me while I served on the CARES task force to address mental health shortfalls in Michigan and during my time as State Representative as a whole. They have the will and expertise to implement the 298 pilot program to its fullest potential, and to provide actionable feedback to make the potential statewide rollout as effective as possible.

Please accept this letter as a strong endorsement of my support for the Saginaw County Community Mental Health Authority's proposal. If you need any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me personally at (517) 373-0152. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vanessa Guerra".

Vanessa M. Guerra
State Representative
95th District