



CITY OF SAGINAW



Chief Robert Ruth, Chief of Police • 612 Federal Avenue • Saginaw, MI 48607 • (989) 759-1229
rruth@saginaw-mi.com

January 29, 2018

Sandra M. Lindsey, CEO
Saginaw County Community Mental Health Authority
500 Hancock St.
Saginaw, MI 48607

Ms. Lindsey,

On behalf of the Saginaw Police Department, I fully support the Saginaw County Community Mental Health Authority's (SCCMHA) Request for Information application to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services for Section 298 Pilot Status.

The Saginaw Police Department provides public safety services to a very diverse community that struggles with poverty, drug abuse, gang violence, and intimate partner violence. Those community issues are all too often associated with individuals and families that are directly affected by mental illness or induce crisis into family dynamics. The Saginaw Police Department is unable to effectively deal with those complicated issues without the partnership and support of the SCCMHA.

The leadership provided by the SCCMHA has been pivotal to the transformation and dedication of our agency oriented toward a more compassionate, knowledgeable and early intervention model that has strengthened our relationship with our community. This would not have been possible without SCCMHA's commitment to provide on-going training in Mental Health First Aid, Cultural Competency and Behavioral Health consultations with our staff. In addition, SCCMHA has further enhanced our service model and community relationship building through production of a Saginaw Law Enforcement/Youth Relations video, inclusion in myriad community events, leadership on the regional Hope Not Handcuffs initiative and a willingness to respond in the field to help de-escalate persons in crisis.

Without doubt, there is no stronger, more dedicated, or partner oriented organization, than SCCMHA, that is able to serve our community through Section 298 Pilot Status.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert M. Ruth".

Robert M. Ruth
Chief of Police