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News

Macomb County Executive
Mark A. Hackel



Community Mental Health Services

For Immediate Release

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Community leaders, professionals, discuss future of mental health services

Macomb County Community Mental Health (MCCMH) hosted a Legislator's Educational Forum and Discussion on February 17 at the Community Care Center in Sterling Heights to discuss current issues in mental health, including the implications of current budget cut proposals and the future of mental health services in Macomb County.

Macomb County is currently the only Prepaid Inpatient Health Plan (PIHP) among Michigan's nine other PIHPs facing serious reduction through rebasing, the establishment of new funding levels.

MCCMH is facing a total cut of \$30 million from April 2016 through Sept. 2017.

"We cannot handle the financial constraints that have happened and will continue to happen," said MCCMH Executive Director John Kinch, in his opening remarks. "Hundreds and hundreds of consumers will be effected."

The gathering, included state representatives from Macomb County, as well as representatives of U.S. Sens. Debby Stabenow and Gary Peters, and U.S. Rep. Sander Levin, among more than 110 attendees.

At the top of the agenda was Kinch's request of legislators "to form immediate and unified collation in support of adequate Medicaid funding in Macomb County."

Currently, approximately 181,000 Macomb County residents are enrolled in Medicaid – over 20 percent of all residents. MCCMH serves approximately 15,000 people annually.

Forum participants heard testimony from several family members of Macomb County residents who benefit from "community living supports" – services (often in home) that support adults with serious mental illness, children with severe emotional disturbance, children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities and substance abuse disorders.

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Many of them provided passionate testimony on the importance of having supports in place that allow their family members to live independent, dignified, fulfilled and safe lives.

Among professionals and community supporters of MCCMH were state reps John Chirkun, Steve Marino, Henry Yanez, Patrick Green, Diana Farrington, William Sowerby, Pamela Hornberger, Jeff Yaroach, Pete Lucido, Steve Bieda, and Tory Rocca.

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