

Advocates for Mental Health of MI Youth  
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## **Proposed Solutions to Help Resolve the Youth Mental Health Crisis**

1. Provide a full spectrum of care. Fund specialized psychiatric residential programs so children in crisis can get help before they find themselves in juvenile detention centers that do not offer medically necessary mental health services and before parents are advised to terminate parental rights in order to get help.
2. Provide crisis response as federally required so families do not have to call the police to assist with mental health crisis situations.
3. Provide specialized outpatient care so children with complex needs have treatment plans and safety plans based on best practices for their diagnosis. We need Wraparound provided in fidelity to the model, and we need access to programs like Multi Systemic Therapy, DBT programs, ABA, and programs specifically for other complex needs like RAD or FASD. Parents also need therapeutic quality deescalation training and 1:1 support implementing and customizing deescalation tools and strategies to meet the individual needs of families.
4. Create a Mental Health Navigator program to help families advocate for services and to ensure system problems and policy violations are addressed and corrected. The Mental Health Navigator program would also help ensure that services are being provided in fidelity to the model.
5. Offer competitive pay for direct care workers. When staff are not provided to fill CLS or Respite hours, pay parents for providing these services.
6. When a family receiving Community Mental Health services has a case open with Juvenile Detention or Child Protective Services, determine if all authorized services were being provided and if the treatment plan and safety plan accurately captured the needs and responded to the known risks.