

6/17/21
HB'S 4925-4929

Submitted by Linda Matson

Some Michigan legislators have proposed plans to swiftly legislate big changes to the Public Behavioral Health System, completely ignoring past outcry and recommendations for maintaining and improving the public system. I implore all legislators and Governor Whitmer to pause and take time to hear from those who stand to be most impacted by this proposed legislation.

My name is Linda Matson I have been involved in the Community Mental Health System with myself and my son for the past 30 years. I don't believe that efforts to drastically change or privatize the mental health system will help or improve the services that people need.

Going through COVID-19 was a challenge for everyone but especially for people with mental health challenges. This is certainly not the time to make these large changes to the system. Our public mental health system stepped up to help everyone during COVID-19, either by telehealth, sending out mobile units to help people. Crisis services and access to psychiatric hospitalizations continued.

When a crisis hits a person with a mental health issue our team of CMH experts wrap around us to make sure we get the services that we need.

These types of big changes and other efforts on privatizing the mental health system would not help people get the services they need as they don't have the experience the current system has in helping all of us who use their services. For years, I have seen public mental health constantly trying to improve their services for all of us. No system is perfect, please focus on supporting and improving and not drastically changing the current system.

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