

Behavioral Health Policy Committee Testimony

June 13, 2024

Thank you, Chair Braebec, Majority Vice Chair Arbit and Minority Vice Chair Schmaltz, for allowing me to give testimony here today regarding House Bills 5371 and 5372.

My name is Laura Huot and I am the COO and incoming CEO of The Guidance Center, a large multi-service non-profit organization that serves more than 16,000 people in Wayne County each year. Our largest service area is behavioral health. We were the first service provider in Wayne County to receive a Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) SAMHSA grant in 2018 and the first to join the State of Michigan CCBHC demonstration in October of 2021.

The CCBHC Model:

1. **Increases access** to mental health and substance use disorder services
 - a. CCBHCs are required to serve people of all ages regardless of their insurance status. This includes not only Medicaid recipients, but people with private insurance as well as those who are uninsured.
 - b. They must serve everyone regardless of the severity of their condition, whereas traditional community mental health requires people to have very severe, chronic conditions before they can be served.
2. Sets national **quality of care standards** for mental health and substance use disorder services, something that has never been done before.
3. Has a **sustainable funding model** that allows clinics to cover the cost of the services provided. This results in more consistent, higher quality care to people served.

The Guidance Center CCBHC successes:

- In FY22 (the first year of the State demonstration pilot), we served 4,680 people; by FY23, we served 5,333; we expect to serve more than 6,000 people this fiscal year.
- In FY21, we served only 82 people with mild to moderate conditions; in FY23 we served 634.
- Before our first SAMHSA grant in 2018, our substance use disorder program had only 2 part-time staff and served fewer than 100 people. By FY23, we served 509, and we are on track to serve more than 700 this fiscal year.
 - In addition to serving more people, we now also provide medication assisted treatment for people with Opioid Use Disorders
- Increased staff pay by more than 15% and added approximately 30 new clinical positions.
- Partnerships with law enforcement and the courts:
 - Since Oct 2018 when we received our first SAMHSA grant, more than 1,100 people have been referred to us through law enforcement and the courts
 - We worked with Judge Elizabeth DiSanto to form the 27th District Regional Wellness and Recovery Court, which takes referrals from 7 district courts throughout southern Wayne County.

- We are now partnering with 6 local drug courts and 2 veterans treatment courts
- We can now serve all youth referred to us from the Wayne County Juvenile Mental Health Court, even those with mild to moderate conditions.
- We started a program called Mental Health Rapid Response that provides tablets to officers in 4 cities in southern Wayne County (Riverview, Allen Park, Brownstown and Southgate). Police on mental health calls connect with our on-call therapists 24/7/365. A brief screening is done over the tablet and a disposition is reached within 20 minutes.
 - In FY23, 94% of participants were diverted from inpatient hospitalization and 100% avoided involvement with the justice system
- By January, 2025 we will be opening a behavioral health urgent care center.

None of these successes would be possible without CCBHC funding. We urge you to continue to support this transformative service delivery model. Thank you for your time and consideration.