

House

C.A.R.E.S.*Mental Health* Task Force

PROGRESS REPORT JULY 2018

Speaker Tom Leonard and House Republicans created the House C.A.R.E.S. Task Force a year ago to help Michigan residents facing mental health challenges live happier, healthier and more independent lives.

Last summer and fall, the bipartisan task force participated in over a dozen meetings and tours, gathering information from patients, families, doctors, clinics, and organizations across the state on how to improve and provide better access to mental health services in Michigan.

The task force released its findings and recommendations only seven months ago. The following progress report details some of the action taken so far to find solutions to help people.

RECOMMENDATION: Provide mental health training to teachers and counselors

ACTION: The House approved a plan requiring the state to create a professional development course on mental health first aid to better equip teachers when students are struggling with a variety of mental health issues. (*House Bill 5524*)

RECOMMENDATION: Increase support for veterans and encourage opportunities to connect veterans to providers

ACTION: We took steps to connect veterans with services by increasing funding to veterans service offices and enhancing the quality of mental health treatment at our veterans homes. In addition, the House voted to appropriate \$2.1 million for veterans through the creation of the County Veterans Service Fund. (*FY 2018/19 budget; Public Act 210 of 2018*)

RECOMMENDATION: Improve services for victims and support canine advocates for victims

ACTION: The House approved plans to ensure continued funding for victims and encourage the use of canine advocates in our courts. (*PA 221 and 282 of 2018*)

RECOMMENDATION: Expand the use of Crime Victim Advocates

ACTION: A total of \$2 million was allocated to expand Crime Victim Advocates in Michigan. (*FY 2018/19 budget*)

RECOMMENDATION: Expand the use of telehealth

ACTION: We continue to find ways to utilize and expand the use of telemedicine and telepsychiatry in underserved areas. (*FY 2018/19 budget*)

RECOMMENDATION: Capture more funds for substance use disorder (SUD) services and programs, and encourage EMT training to identify and respond to signs and symptoms of mental illness

ACTION: We introduced and approved plans to capture additional funding for SUD services as well as train emergency responders to identify signs of an overdose. (*HBs 5085 and 5460-61*)

RECOMMENDATION: Simplify dispute resolutions for consumers and families by adding mediation

ACTION: A plan is introduced to simplify dispute resolutions on mental health cases for consumers and families through the use of mediation. (*HB 5625*)

RECOMMENDATION: Continue to fund 911 registration programs

ACTION: The House voted to approve continued funding to assist local public safety offices with implementing the 911 software. *(FY 2018/19 budget)*

RECOMMENDATION: Create a database for available psych beds and create the Michigan C.A.R.E.S. hotline

ACTION: The House approved a plan to require the state to create a psychiatric bed registry to help providers connect patients to care and treatment. Additionally, we are pursuing legislation to create a mental health crisis hotline so callers can be referred to available beds and providers. *(HBs 5439 and 6202; FY 2018/19 budget)*

RECOMMENDATION: Implement universal credentialing

ACTION: The House approved a plan to streamline Medicaid credentialing for providers so they may start accepting patients quicker and more efficiently. *(HB 5487)*

RECOMMENDATION: Provide incentives for mental health professionals to work in Michigan

ACTION: We increased salaries for state psychiatrists, added \$10 million in support for student loan repayment programs, encouraged reimbursement to counties for court-appointed guardians taking Community Mental Health (CMH) cases, and continued a workgroup that identifies ways to recruit and retain state psychiatric hospital staff. *(HB 5743; FY 2018/19 budget)*

RECOMMENDATION: Seek collaborative efforts to increase access, encourage providers to have additional beds for mental health and expand the Vivitrol Pilot Program

ACTION: We created a pilot program in Livonia for a 10-bed wing for patients with substance use disorders and provided additional support for the Vivitrol Pilot Program. *(FY 2018/19 budget)*

RECOMMENDATION: Seek collaborative efforts to increase access to mental health services

ACTION: We continue to support the new Caro Regional Mental Health Center and are requiring the state to explore a location for a new psychiatric facility in northern Michigan. *(FY 2018/19 budget)*

RECOMMENDATION: Support and expand Michigan's problem-solving courts and promote early intervention in our mental health system

ACTION: The House approved a plan to provide earlier mental health treatment. We also introduced legislation to improve problem-solving courts and create juvenile mental health courts in Michigan. In addition, we allocated a record \$18.9 million to support problem-solving courts, which significantly reduce recidivism. *(HBs 5806-5808 and 5810; FY 2018/19 budget)*

RECOMMENDATION: Address the backlog of cases at state forensic center

ACTION: The House approved a plan to fix the backlog of cases at our state forensic center and continue to urge the state to identify specific outcome and performance measures for the center. *(HBs 5243, 5244 and 5246; FY 2018/19 budget)*