

Minutes of a regular meeting of the Chippewa County Board of Commissioners, held at the Chippewa County Building, 325 Court St., Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan on the 17th day of July 2025 at 4:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Jim Martin, Damon Lieurance, Scott Shackleton, Jim Traynor

ABSENT: Justin Knepper

The following preamble and resolution was offered by Commissioner Lieurance and seconded by Commissioner Shackleton.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-14

**County Resolution Opposing the Proposed Competitive Procurement of
Prepaid Inpatient Health Plans (PIHPs)**

WHEREAS, the State of Michigan currently operates a publicly managed and community-based system for the delivery of specialty behavioral health services through 10 Prepaid Inpatient Health Plans (PIHPs), which are responsible for managing Medicaid mental health, developmental disability, and substance use disorder services; and

WHEREAS, the current PIHP system has consistently demonstrated value, local accountability, and community engagement, while successfully managing costs and improving health outcomes for vulnerable populations; and

WHEREAS, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) has announced plans to initiate a competitive procurement process for the management of PIHP functions, which may allow private, nonprofit health plans or managed care organizations (MCOs) to assume control over behavioral health services; and

WHEREAS, such a shift toward privatization could disrupt longstanding relationships between local Community Mental Health Services Programs (CMHSPs), providers, and the communities they serve, and threaten the person-centered, recovery-oriented approach cultivated under the public system; and

WHEREAS, numerous stakeholders—including individuals receiving services, advocates, providers, and local officials—have expressed significant concerns about how competitive procurement could impact care quality, access, local control, and transparency; and

WHEREAS, counties across Michigan have historically played a critical role in the governance, oversight, and financial support of the public behavioral health system, and changes to this structure without meaningful county involvement erode the principles of local governance and accountability; and

WHEREAS, maintaining a publicly accountable and locally governed behavioral health system is essential to ensuring timely, appropriate, and high-quality care for individuals with mental health and substance use disorder needs;

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-14

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chippewa County Board of Commissioners hereby opposes the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services' plan to implement a competitive procurement process for Prepaid Inpatient Health Plans (PIHPs); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board urges Governor Gretchen Whitmer, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, and the Michigan Legislature to immediately halt any efforts toward privatization and instead work in close collaboration with counties, PIHPs, CMHSPs, service recipients, and other stakeholders to improve and strengthen the existing public behavioral health system; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that should a procurement process move forward, only public organizations with demonstrated experience managing Michigan's public behavioral health system should be eligible to participate in any bidding process; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be transmitted to Governor Gretchen Whitmer, MDHHS Director Elizabeth Hertel, member of the Michigan Legislature representing Chippewa County, and the Michigan Association of Counties (MAC).

A VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS

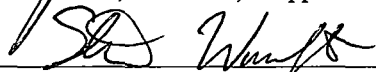
AYES: Jim Martin, Damon Lieurance, Scott Shackleton, Jim Traynor

NAYS: None

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.



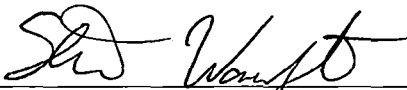
Jim Martin, Chairman, Chippewa County Board of Commissioners



Steven Woodgate, County Clerk

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
) ss.
COUNTY OF CHIPPEWA)

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of the resolution adopted by the County Board of Commissioners of Chippewa County at a regular meeting held on the date first stated above, and I further certify that public notice of such meeting was given as provided by law.



Steven Woodgate, County Clerk