



2020-2021 HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES PLATFORM

This committee shall review all pending Health and Human Services reforms that pertain to county governments. This committee supports local control and accountability to meet the individual needs of local communities and opposes the creation of any unfunded mandates. This committee has the responsibility to assess the adequacy of state appropriations related to the local delivery of services. MAC supports stronger prevention and treatment initiatives for all human services, such as, but not limited to: mental health issues, substance abuse, homelessness, children's protective services, the stabilization of families and the prevention and control of disease.

COUNTY BOARDS OF HEALTH

MAC supports:

- coordinated decision-making by county, state and federal health care officials to provide optimal customer services.
- efforts to preserve and strengthen the role of local boards of health.
- adequate funding for mandated local public health services, which at minimum should include full implementation of the 50/50 cost-sharing mechanism to avoid potential reduction in services.
- continuation of county health plans as important components of the social safety net in providing access to health care for low-income and uninsured persons.
- state and local coordination of health needs surveys to identify the state priority health problems.

MEDICAID AND MANAGED CARE ISSUES

MAC supports:

- a policy of county, state and federal government agencies and county health boards working as responsible partners in providing optimal and equitable health care services, with adequate state and federal funding.
- continued collaboration between local health and community mental health boards in the development and delivery of local health care services.
- flexible use of local funds to match and/or support individual county Medicaid and Medicare services.
- federal entitlement benefits for otherwise Medicaid- and Medicare- eligible individuals placed in a state or county facility, including correctional facilities.
- amending Section 1905(a)(A) of the Social Security Act to allow the continuation of federal benefits, such as Medicaid, Medicare and Children's Health Insurance Plan, for enrolled and eligible individuals who are pending

disposition from mental illness, substance use disorders and/or other chronic health conditions.

MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER (SUD) ISSUES

MAC supports:

- our public mental health system, which, together with adequate state funding, gives local control and oversight to our counties to ensure quality and accessible services for all residents.
- community and evidence-based mental health care.
- optimal funding for mandated mental health services.
- continued mental health parity, thereby ensuring financial requirements for mental health and SUD are no more restrictive than requirements applied to other medical or surgical benefits.
- sustainable funding for SUD treatment services.
- the ability of the regional advisory committee to determine the appropriate use of PA 2 SUD funds, with county member input.
- increases state funding to support community mental health providers and proper classification of enrollees to ensure maximum Medicaid rates.
- state investment for treatment and services related to combatting the opioid epidemic.
- removal of Section 928, which requires local counties to fund the State's obligation for drawing down Medicaid funds.
- maximizing the use of local and state match to leverage Medicaid revenue
- a rate-setting system that more effectively responds to changes in the quantity and cost of services.
- increasing the ability of the PIHP system to build adequate reserves.

MAC opposes:

any state attempt to keep money from the opioid settlement only for state general fund appropriations, similar to that of the tobacco industry settlement.

COUNTY MEDICAL CARE FACILITIES

MAC supports:

- an appropriate reimbursement and regulatory structure that is adequate for the delivery and sustainability of quality care services.
- merging Medicaid and Medicare dually eligible persons into one managed care program only if improved care is achieved, care settings are used appropriately and in the best interest of the beneficiary, reimbursement is not reduced, and County operated entities are fully engaged and fully funded.

MAC recognizes:

- the importance of medical care facilities and long-term care units in guaranteeing access to long-term care for county residents.

AGING ISSUES

MAC supports:

- coordinating county, state and federal programs to meet the needs and services of Michigan's aging population.
- quality long-term care options focused on individualized quality care.
- senior initiatives that encourage and prolong independence, including, but not limited to: wellness programs, suitable housing, transportation, health care choices, home delivery of meals, in-home care, care-giver respite and senior volunteers.
- state investment for the advocacy and research of effective alternative treatment programs that improve health and well-being for age-friendly communities.

VETERANS AFFAIRS

MAC supports:

- collaboration and communication between the Michigan Department of Veterans Affairs and counties to ensure adequate and sustained funding for veterans services.
- directing funding to the local level for the most efficient programming and services for veterans, which includes at least \$50,000 funded through the county veteran service grants.
- increased funding for veterans specialty courts.
- maintaining current staffing levels for veteran regional coordinator services.

COUNTY CHILD CARE FUND ISSUES

MAC supports:

- an increase in the state match for children's community-based prevention/intervention programs with proven, positive outcomes. Such programs are the best alternative for children and will ultimately save both the counties and the state money.
- continuation of at least a minimum of 50 percent cost share in state funding for out-of-state placements made by the local courts.
- ensuring the 10% indirect cost allocation is applied to cost related to both the child welfare and juvenile justice populations.
- the state's recognition of the county role in child welfare and juvenile justice funding model discussions and allowing counties to decide how child care fund dollars are most appropriately allocated.
- continued collaboration toward best practices between the state and the counties to ensure timely payments.
- fair appeal processes for fund source determinations and partnership with the state to maximize federal foster care funding.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

MAC supports:

- extensive involvement and oversight by county commissioners in administering the Partnership Accountability Training Hope (PATH) program, or other programs that move people to self-sufficiency.
- adequate funding for training displaced and unemployed workers to address the gap that exists between workers' skills and employers' needs.
- delivery of employment and training services by existing county-structured partnerships and labor market areas through the state's Workforce Investment System.
- increased funding for the skilled trades training, such as the GoProProgram.
- sufficient and sustainable funds for all workforce development activities, particularly the provision of employment and training services to welfare recipients.