



**June 25, 2024**  
AC Hotel  
Lansing University Area  
3160 E. Michigan

**9:00am - 9:40am**

**Registration Opens | Continental Breakfast Provided**

**9:40am – 10:40am**

**Medicaid Inmate Exclusion Policy and the Medicaid Section 1115 Waiver**

***Robert Sheehan, CEO, Community Mental Health Association of Michigan, and***

***Samantha Gibson, governmental affairs associate, Michigan Association of Counties***

For years, local sheriffs have worked to ensure that jail inmates have access to health care services, including mental health care – all with local dollars. The use of local county dollars to cover these healthcare costs, even for services to an inmate who had Medicaid before being incarcerated, is the result of the federal prohibition against the use of Medicaid dollars in jail and prison settings. Such a prohibition and tight county budgets often result, to the dismay of sheriffs and community mental health leaders, in inmates not receiving the mental and physical healthcare they need while in jail, often leading to a degradation in the mental and physical health of those inmates. Michigan has recently announced that it will join several other states who are applying for federal approval of an exception to this “Medicaid inmate exclusion”. If approved, Medicaid eligibility would be reinstated for inmates during the period 90 days prior to their release. This session will discuss the problems that have been created by this exclusion, the status of the state’s request for federal approval for the exception, and the mechanics and outcomes of such an exception.

**10:45am – 11:45am**

**Opioid Settlement Funds: Year in Review**

***Amy Dolinky, technical adviser, opioid settlement funds planning and capacity building, Michigan Association of Counties***

This session will explore data from the first annual opioid settlement reporting survey. The survey included information on stakeholder engagement and planning efforts as well as utilization of funds and resources. Data was captured from 63 of the 83 counties across the state.

**11:45am – 12:30pm – Lunch Provided**

**12:30pm – 1:30pm**

**Why and How to Conduct a Road Usage Charge Pilot in Michigan**

***Baruch Feigenbaum, senior managing director of transportation policy, Reason Foundation***

The motor fuel tax, a major source of funding for Michigan's roadways, is like a rock star on his farewell tour. The motor fuel tax has been a reliable revenue source for the past 100 years, but it is far from its prime, and is no longer an effective funding mechanism. Road usage charges are one potential replacement. This presentation will examine what road usage charges are, what other states have implemented, and how road usage charges could work in Michigan. The presentation will explain how road usage charges could be a long-term, sustainable funding source that improve Michigan roadways.

**1:30pm – 2:30pm**

**Beyond the Numbers: Assessing the Resilience of Michigan County Governments' Finances**

***Stephanie Leiser, lead, Michigan Local Government Fiscal Health Project at the Center for Local, State, and Urban Policy (CLOSUP)***

This presentation uses financial data reported to the State of Michigan from 2021-2022 to understand both short-term and long-term measures of county governments’ fiscal health. Supplementary subjective assessments of fiscal health, captured on the annual Michigan Public Policy Survey, provide context to the financial data.

For short-term measures related to healthy reserves, adequate cash, and balanced budgets, most counties are doing well. However, when it comes to measures of long-term ability to meet financial and service obligations, there may be concerns. One challenge for counties is a high reliance on property tax revenues, which counties have little autonomy over. They also tend to lag economic growth, making it difficult for counties to keep up with costs in an inflationary environment. Staffing shortages have been an ongoing challenge for critical county services like courts and public safety. Additional long-term issues include fixed service costs, and long-term liabilities from pension and OPEB obligations. Looking forward, it will be important to monitor county finances not only to ensure that short-term indicators remain strong, but also to proactively respond to any looming warning signs associated with long-term liabilities and service delivery costs.