

July 30, 2014

Department of Community Health
ATTN: James K. Haveman, Director
201 Townsend Street
Capitol View Bldg., 7th Floor
Lansing, MI 48913

Re: re-basing; Medicaid

Dear Mr. Haveman:

I am the parent of a child //or adult child// with a disability receiving public mental health services from the Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority ("OCCMHA"). My son //or daughter// is // ___ // years old and requires //24-hour care, supervision, day programming, health care//. //Tell your "story" about why these services are important ... briefly ... here//.

I respectfully urge your re-consideration relative to the effects of the current and proposed budget reductions to the OCCMHA. Individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities have and will lose services and may be severely and negatively impacted if Michigan's Department of Community Health (DCH) continues to reduce OCCMHA's overall budget relative to Medicaid rate-setting.

The OCCMHA had to cut a total of about \$14 Million dollars over the course of FY14, which translated into about \$9.2 million relative to services for children and adults with developmental disabilities. To its credit, the OCCMHA used reserve funds to cover most of these reductions during FY14, while core service providers had to also implement significant reductions in expenditures. Depending upon the Medicaid rate-setting decisions soon to be made for FY15, the current projections for such decreases might be an additional \$8-to-\$10 million for services on behalf of children and adults with developmental disabilities.

Due to reduced Medicaid and General Fund dollars, the OCCMHA has implemented a "Service Wait List," removed respite or other services for minor children not eligible for Medicaid, and beginning in FY15, only state licensed camps will be allowed because they can receive Medicaid dollars. Many families use certified, but unlicensed day camps for respite services to get a break from the rigors of caring for a child/adult with special needs.

Again, I respectfully request your help in maintaining these, and other, vital mental health services in Oakland County. As a parent/advocate/consumer, I urge you to protect the most vulnerable citizens of our state and stop these proposed reductions. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,