

RESOLUTION OPPOSING LEGISLATION TO DISSOLVE THE UPPER PENINSULA COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH SYSTEM INTO A SINGLE SPECIALIZED REGIONAL MENTAL HEALTH AUTHORITY

WHEREAS, the Upper Peninsula Community Mental Health (CMH) and Prepaid Inpatient Health Plan (PIHP) system has historically operated under a decentralized, community-based model intended to preserve local control, responsiveness, and accountability to the residents of each county; and

WHEREAS, Senator McBroom's proposal would require the dissolution and consolidation of all five Upper Peninsula CMHs into a single specialized regional mental health authority, thereby transferring governance and operational authority from local entities to a centralized regional structure; and

WHEREAS, the Iron County Board of Commissioners recognizes and appreciates efforts to improve behavioral health outcomes in the Upper Peninsula, including efforts to expand access to psychiatric inpatient services, the Board finds that the proposed legislation presents substantial governance, policy, and fiscal concerns; and

WHEREAS, the proposed legislation is inconsistent with the longstanding principles of the Michigan Mental Health Code, which has favored decentralized, community-driven CMH systems over centralized institutional models; and

WHEREAS, a single specialized regional authority serving all fifteen Upper Peninsula counties would reduce local responsiveness and community control by removing decision-making authority from locally based CMH programs that understand the distinct geographic, demographic, and service delivery needs of their communities; and

WHEREAS, the proposal would effectively expose counties to expanded and potentially uncapped fiscal liability by eliminating the current statutory framework that defines and limits county financial responsibility, including formula-based protections established under Michigan law; and

WHEREAS, under the proposed structure, counties could become jointly responsible for the financial performance and obligations of a single specialized regional entity without clear statutory limits on deficits, extraordinary costs, capital obligations, or long-term psychiatric inpatient liabilities; and

WHEREAS, the proposed legislation would require the single specialized regional entity to assume responsibility for long-term psychiatric inpatient services, including facility ownership or leasing, staffing, and operations, without clearly identified and sustainable funding parameters; and

WHEREAS, psychiatric inpatient services are capital-intensive and historically underfunded, and any expansion of inpatient capacity must account for workforce constraints, regulatory requirements, and the limitations on the use of Medicaid and opioid settlement funds; and

WHEREAS, the County Board believes that durable improvements in behavioral health services in the Upper Peninsula should be developed through consultation with subject matter experts, local providers, county officials, and community stakeholders in a manner that strengthens services without undermining local governance or long-term sustainability; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Iron County Board of Commissioners hereby opposes legislation that would dissolve the existing Upper Peninsula Community Mental Health system into a single specialized regional mental health authority; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Iron County Board of Commissioners urges the Michigan Legislature and all relevant policymakers to reject any proposal that removes local control, weakens community responsiveness, or imposes uncertain and potentially unlimited fiscal liability upon counties; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Iron County Board of Commissioners supports collaborative, sustainable, and community-driven approaches to strengthening behavioral health services in the Upper Peninsula, including solutions that address access, workforce, funding, and inpatient capacity without compromising local accountability.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, to send a copy of this resolution to the Governor of Michigan, the Michigan Senate, the Michigan House of Representatives, Senator Ed McBroom, and other interested parties.

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED BY IRON COUNTY ON JULY 14, 2026.



Board Chairperson

July 14, 2026

Date