



Recently, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) has indicated that it is developing a new PIHP Request for Proposal (RFP) and intends to implement the Mental Health Framework policy by October 1, 2026, despite significant concerns raised by providers, hospitals, CMHs, and stakeholders across the state. Advancing these initiatives without clear legislative direction or broad stakeholder consensus increases the risk of disruption and limits the flexibility of the next administration to evaluate and address the long-term impacts of these changes.

The proposed PIHP RFP and Mental Health Framework would fundamentally restructure the management of a substantial portion of Michigan's Medicaid behavioral health system by shifting greater control to privatized entities. Although these proposals are framed as efforts to improve coordination and access, they raise serious concerns regarding clinical integrity, beneficiary rights, continuity of care, due process protections, and long-term fiscal sustainability.

Throughout the state budget process, we have urged both the House and Senate to include language preventing MDHHS from moving forward with these sweeping changes during the final months of the Whitmer administration. We were encouraged that the House adopted this language in House Bill 5619, the FY27 Omnibus budget, and we must now work to ensure these protections remain in the final negotiated budget.

REQUEST FOR ACTION: We are asking you to contact your House and Senate members and urge them to retain House-passed boilerplate sections 1020, 1021, and 1022 for the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) in the final budget agreement. As the current administration approaches its conclusion, it is neither prudent nor responsible for MDHHS to pursue major structural changes to Michigan's public mental health system, particularly changes that are likely to increase administrative costs, create additional bureaucracy, and make it more difficult for individuals and families to access needed care.

Action Alert: Urge Legislators to Support House DHHS Boilerplate Sections 1020-1022