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Title: Support of Michigan Mental Health Court System

Introduced by: Nabiha Hashmi for the Medical Student Section

Original Authors: Kelly Fahey and Benjamin Malamet

Referred To: Reference Committee B

House Action:

Whereas, 18.5 percent of all United States adults reported at least one mental health disorder in 2017, and the prevalence in the criminal justice system is higher, as 37 percent of prisoners and 44 percent of jail inmates reported having been told they had a mental health illness by a professional, and

Whereas, mental health courts provide juveniles and adults who have been diagnosed with a serious mental illness, serious emotional disturbance, developmental disability, or a co-occurring disorder the opportunity to enroll in a treatment program to address their mental illness instead of being sentenced to lengthy prison or jail terms, and

Whereas, mental health courts offer comprehensive services such as medical treatment through local community health service providers, drug testing, referrals to community services such as housing or clothing resources, enrollment in educational classes, transportation, assistance with obtaining employment, and access to substance use disorder treatment, and

Whereas, medication adherence in the general population varies by disease state (major depressive disorder: 28-52 percent, bipolar disorder: 20-50 percent, schizophrenia: 20-72 percent and anxiety disorders: 57 percent), with many patients non-adherent overall, and

Whereas, medication adherence of those who successfully completed the mental health court system was significantly higher as 91 percent, 92 percent, and 77 percent of participants were fully compliant with medication in the adult circuit mental health court, adult district mental health court, and juvenile mental health court respectively, and

Whereas, mental health courts positively impacted the health and quality of life of participants, as of those who successfully completed the program reported upwards of 97 percent improvement in mental health and 96 percent improvement in the quality of life, and

Whereas, in a matched-pair analysis of those who completed the mental health court system and those who were not in the mental health court system, mental health court participants had lower rates of a new conviction within three years after their offense. In the adult circuit mental health court system, rates of reconviction were 15 percent compared to 36 percent of comparison members. In the adult district court system, rates of reconviction were 33 percent compared to 54 percent of comparison members. In the juvenile mental health court system, rates of reconviction were 31 percent compared to 45 percent of comparison members, and

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51 Whereas, MSMS supports efforts to improve mental health services in the state of Michigan,
52 and

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54 Whereas, the American Medical Association supports “state responsibility to develop
55 programs that rapidly identify and refer individuals with significant mental illness for treatment, to
56 avoid repeated psychiatric hospitalizations and repeated interactions with the law, primarily as a
57 result of untreated mental conditions,” and

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59 Whereas, there are only 33 mental health courts in the state of Michigan, and the creation
60 of mental health courts requires grant funding and the development of proper resources; therefore
61 be it

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63 RESOLVED: That MSMS support continued expansion of Michigan’s mental health court
64 system.

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67 WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE: \$1,000-\$2,000 for new MSMS policy.

Relevant MSMS Policy:

Support of Mental Health Reform in Michigan

- 1.) That MSMS support efforts to improve mental health services in Michigan, including those that address mental health disparities in the state
- 2.) That MSMS shall advocate for legislation and governmental programs that support interdepartmental coordination and shared accountability, as well as greater access to timely outpatient treatment, crisis intervention, specialty behavioral health services, inpatient psychiatric hospitalizations and other medically necessary related therapies.

Relevant AMA Policy:

Maintaining Mental Health Services by States H-345.975

Our AMA:

- 1.) supports maintaining essential mental health services at the state level, to include maintaining state inpatient and outpatient mental hospitals, community mental health centers, addiction treatment centers, and other state-supported psychiatric services;
- 2.) supports state responsibility to develop programs that rapidly identify and refer individuals with significant mental illness for treatment, to avoid repeated psychiatric hospitalizations and repeated interactions with the law, primarily as a result of untreated mental conditions;
- 3.) supports increased funding for state Mobile Crisis Teams to locate and treat homeless individuals with mental illness;
- 4.) supports enforcement of the Mental Health Parity Act at the federal and state level; and
- 5.) will take these resolves into consideration when developing policy on essential benefit services.

Statement of Principles on Mental Health H-345.999

- 1.) Tremendous strides have already been made in improving the care and treatment of patients with psychiatric illness, but much remains to be done. The mental health field is vast and includes a network of factors involving the life of the individual, the community and the nation. Any program designed to combat psychiatric illness and promote mental health must, by the nature of the problems to be solved, be both ambitious and comprehensive.
- 2.) The AMA recognizes the important stake every physician, regardless of type of practice, has in improving our mental health knowledge and resources. The physician participates in the mental health field on two

levels, as an individual of science and as a citizen. The physician has much to gain from a knowledge of modern psychiatric principles and techniques, and much to contribute to the prevention, handling and management of emotional disturbances. Furthermore, as a natural community leader, the physician is in an excellent position to work for and guide effective mental health programs.

3.) The AMA will be more active in encouraging physicians to become leaders in community planning for mental health.

4.) The AMA has a deep interest in fostering a general attitude within the profession and among the lay public more conducive to solving the many problems existing in the mental health field.

Sources:

1. FY 2018 Problem-Solving Courts Annual Report. Michigan Supreme Court Office of Public Information. <https://courts.michigan.gov/Administration/SCAO/Resources/Documents/Publications/Reports/PSCAnnualReport.pdf>.
2. Bronson J, Berzofsky M. Indicators of Mental Health Problems Reported by Prisoners and Jail Inmates, 2011-12.
3. FY 2018 Problem-Solving Courts Annual Report. Michigan Supreme Court Office of Public Information. <https://courts.michigan.gov/Administration/SCAO/Resources/Documents/Publications/Reports/PSCAnnualReport.pdf>.
4. Ehret MJ, Wang M. How to increase medication adherence: What works? *Mental Health Clinician*. 2013;2(8):230-232. doi:10.9740/mhc.n132973.