



State Mental Health Profile 2019: Michigan

Mental Health Infrastructure

Michigan's public mental health system is a county based, locally-governed system that serves four populations:

- adults with mental illness
- children and adolescents with emotional disturbance
- adults, children, and adolescents with intellectual/developmental disabilities
- adults, children, and adolescents with substance use disorders.

The service delivery and publicly-run managed care system is made up of:

- 46 public community mental health services programs (CMHs; covering all 83 counties)
- 10 regional public provider (CMH) sponsored risk-bearing Medicaid specialty health plans (in federal terms, Prepaid Inpatient Health Plans (PIHPs) that were formed by and are governed by the CMHs in the regions that they serve)
- Hundreds of private non-profit and for-profit providers on the provider panels of the CMHs and PIHPs

The public CMHs are both providers and payers. Since 1998, Michigan has used a risk-based managed care financing approach for its public mental health system, with capitated payments made to the public specialty health plans (PIHPs) who provide subcapitated/global budgets to the CMHs that formed and governed them. These CMHs then pay their provider network (for SMI, SED, and IDD services) via a mix of subcapitated, case rate, and fee for service approaches. The PIHPs pay the SUD network providers on a fee for service basis.

Annually, the system serves over 300,000 of the most vulnerable and resilient Michiganders. Over 90% of the funding to Michigan's public mental health system comes from Medicaid and Healthy Michigan Plan (Michigan's Medicaid expansion plan), with the balance made up of county dollars, state General Fund dollars, federal mental health and substance abuse prevention and treatment block grants, other federal grants, with a fraction coming from fees.

The service array is very broad, based on research and the application of evidence-based and promising practices, and is a mix of traditional medical/clinical services (psychiatry, psychotherapy) and non-traditional human/social services (residential services, employment support services, supported independent living, drop in centers, outreach case management, peer (client)-led services, respite services, supported housing, jail diversion, clubhouses, homebased therapy) with a very strong focus on social determinants of health.

Michigan's public mental health system (CMHs) fulfill several core functions, including:

- Mental health safety net: providers, purchasers and managers of a comprehensive array of services and supports across a network of providers in fulfillment of statutory roles to serve the individuals, families and communities regardless of the ability to pay
- Community conveners and collaborators: initiating and participating, often in key roles, collaborative efforts designed to address the needs of individuals and communities
- Advocates for vulnerable populations and a whole-person, social determinant orientation
- Sources of guidance and expertise, for the public, to address a range of health and human services needs

The role of those served in leading the work within the public system is both deep and widespread with:

- persons served make up 1/3 of the Boards of Directors of the state's CMHs
- Over 1,100 clients/persons served are on the clinical staff of the CMHs and providers as peer support specialists

The system grew out of a community response to the state psychiatric hospital system so was, from the late 1970s, a risk-based system, where the CMHs assumed the clinical and fiscal risk of allowing persons to move from state psychiatric hospitals and IDD centers to the community.



As a result, Michigan’s public mental health system converted a system dominated by state hospital care to a community-based system of care (over 300,000 served by the public mental health system, every year, compared to less than 800 state hospital beds).

Overview of state department structure

**Funding for mental health, intellectual/development disability and substance use disorder services
FY 19 Appropriations**

Non-Medicaid Services	\$125,578,200
Medicaid mental health and IDD Services	\$2,319,029,300
Medicaid Substance Abuse Services	\$67,640,500
State Disability Assistance Program	\$2,018,800
Community Substance Abuse Programs	\$76,956,200
Prevention, children’s IDD Waiver Home Care Program	\$20,241,100
Autism Services (0-21)	\$192,890,700
Healthy Michigan Plan (Behavioral Health) (Medicaid Expansion)	\$299,439,000

Education and Training opportunities focused on mental health

Over 200 annual education and training events focusing on evidence-based/promising practices, federal/state requirements, and system-wide infrastructure strengthening efforts are offered by a joint effort of the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and the Community Mental Health Association of Michigan.

Additional education and training offerings are sponsored by CMH Association outside of MDHHS partnership. [Click here to see training events!](#)

Major Conferences

- Annual Developmental Disabilities Conference
- Annual Consumer Conference
- Annual Recipient Rights Conference
- Annual Substance Use Disorder Conference
- Employment First Conference
- Ethics and Pain Management
- Home and Community Waiver Conference
- Improving Outcomes Conferences

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services contacts

<https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs>

Robert Gordon, Director of MDHHS
George Mellos, Deputy Director, Behavioral Health and Developmental Disability Services
Kathy Stiffler, Acting Director, Medical Services Administration (Medicaid office)

Community Mental Health Association contacts

www.cmham.org

Christina Ward, Director of Education & Training
Alan Bolter, Associate Director,
Robert Sheehan Chief Executive Officer

Statewide advocacy and organizations led by persons served

Many of these organizations have local chapters across the state of Michigan:

- NAMI-Michigan: <https://namimi.org/>
- Arc Michigan: <https://arcmi.org/>
- Mental Health Association in Michigan: <http://www.mha-mi.com/>
- Association for Children’s Mental Health: <http://www.acmh-mi.org/>
- Justice in Mental Health Organization <http://www.jimho.org/>
- Autism Alliance: <https://autismallianceofmichigan.org/>
- United Cerebral Palsy of Michigan: <https://www.ucpmichigan.org/>
- Michigan Disability Rights Coalition: <http://www.jimho.org/>
- Disability Network- Michigan: <http://www.dnmichigan.org/>
- Michigan Protection and Advocacy: <https://www.mpas.org/>