

To: House Appropriations Committee
From: Adam Carlson, Vice President, Government and Political Affairs
Date: Apr. 21, 2021
Re: HB 4420
Position: Support

As Michigan continues to address and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, hospitals and health systems expect a greater and widespread need for comprehensive, reliable and effective supports for behavioral health services. Patients with mental illness now have higher acuity of their conditions because they may have delayed necessary care during the pandemic or may have developed underlying behavioral health issues because of pandemic events. The strain of the pandemic will increase the stress on Michigan's system of care for behavioral health, which is severely under resourced.

The availability of federal COVID-19 recovery funds presents the opportunity Michigan needs to address at least some of its' behavioral health system resources. These funds can be leveraged for a dual approach to improve services in the short term, while building the infrastructure our state truly needs over the long-term for pediatric patients. The funds can also leverage public-private partnerships to enhance the quality of care for Michigan's behavioral health patients, reduce waiting time in emergency departments (ED) and provide a better continuum of care. **The MHA supports House Bill (HB) 4420 (H-1), which includes several one-time funding opportunities to improve quality and increase access to behavioral health services.**

Infrastructure Grants to Enhance Pediatric Inpatient Bed Services - \$100 million:

The root cause of Michigan's delays in providing care for pediatric patients can be traced back to the lack of staffed longer-term inpatient beds. This funding would be set up as a one-time grant pool with a 20% match from healthcare facilities to bring longer-term pediatric inpatient behavioral health beds online. No single prosperity region would receive more than 25% of the funds and the funds would be mandated to allow for coverage across Michigan's geographic regions. Based on preliminary conversations, the MHA estimates a need for 120 beds with a length of stay model of four to 12 weeks, depending on what is clinically necessary to improve outcomes for children and adolescents.

Grants to Improve Behavioral Health Treatment in Emergency Departments - \$15 million:

Even with the recent legislative attention to crisis behavioral health needs, numerous individuals enter Michigan's mental health system through hospital EDs. For patients with special needs or who need

Brian Peters, Chief Executive Officer

longer-term services, this often results in unacceptably long wait times for suitable treatment. This funding would be set up as a one-time grant pool. Hospitals apply for a portion of the funds to use for the infrastructure necessary to better care for behavioral health patients who enter through the ED. The grants would be used to improve ED entrances and rooms for behavioral health patients separate from the general ED patient. Hospitals would be required to provide a 20% match and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services would be required to award grants to at least five different facilities.

The MHA represents stand-alone inpatient psychiatric hospitals and hospitals with inpatient psychiatric care units. It also represents every short-term acute care hospital in the state with an ED. Every MHA member serves behavioral health patients of every acuity. The MHA is committed to assisting these patients, its members and the legislature in any way possible to address Michigan's behavioral health needs, and work toward a budget that ensures access to a complete set of healthcare services for all Michiganders. Please contact Adam Carlson (acarlson@mha.org) if you have any questions about HB 4420.