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MICHIGAN'S HEALTH PLANS AND MENTAL HEALTH AGENCIES REACH AGREEMENT ON ADVOCACY

The Michigan Association of Health Plans (MAHP) and the Michigan Association of Community Mental Health Boards (MACMHB) have signed an agreement to cooperate and jointly advocate on key state budget and policy issues to lawmakers and Gov. Rick Snyder's administration.

“Our two associations have agreed to advocate for streamlined programs that will address the needs of those needing essential health services in a cost effective fashion,” said Rick Murdock, executive director of the Michigan Association of Health Plans. “Currently, state, federal and local government spending on services provided by members of both associations’ totals more than \$6 billion dollars. By working together and joining with state policymakers in crafting a more efficient program, we believe we can better meet the needs of our state and Michigan’s most vulnerable population,” Murdock said.

In the agreement, MAHP and MACMHB call for the Legislature and Snyder administration to focus on cost-effective care for Medicaid through expansion of managed care enrollment and delivery of coordinated services between the members of the two organizations. The agreement recognizes that each organization and its members have certain strengths, and future collaboration and coordination should leverage these strengths into more effective programming for the “whole person.”

“Both organizations will advocate that health care services for the whole person must be seamlessly integrated, planned for and provided through collaboration at every level,” said Mike Vizena, executive Director of MACMHB. “This agreement shows how our two associations can work collaboratively to focus on a high quality and cost effective delivery of essential health care benefits that will be in alignment with future health policy implementation.”

Murdock added: “This agreement also provides a framework for us to work together on addressing other issues and arrive at a consensus that make sense for Michigan policy makers.”

Both organizations agreed that the first series of issues that will be pursued for collaboration will be Michigan’s Medicaid pharmacy benefit, the delivery of outpatient mental health services, and the manner in which dual-eligible (Medicare/Medicaid) beneficiaries can be served in a more cost effective manner.

For more information, please contact David Waymire (MAHP) at 517-485-6600, or Emily Palsrok (MACMHB) at 517-862-5462.