

The Mental Health Framework:

A Solution in Search of a Problem?

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services recently announced their intent to move forward and implement the Mental Health Framework (MHF) policy on October 1, 2026. The MHF will alter how people on Medicaid access behavioral health services.

Don't be fooled, the MHF is not supported by key stakeholders or people receiving services, it is a bureaucratic shell game that shifts rolls and responsibilities which increases administrative burdens and costs while not improving care for people receiving services.

Please take immediate action and call on MDHHS to STOP their work on the Mental Health Framework. **It is truly a solution in search of a problem.**

The Mental Health Framework DOES

- MHF DOES create fragmentation in care, instead of one coordinated public system, responsibility is split between CMH, Medicaid Health Plans (MHPs), and PIHPs depending on a person's classification. That means more handoffs, more confusion about who pays, and more time spent navigating the system rather than receiving care – this will slow down admissions, approvals, and treatment initiation
- MHF DOES add additional barriers to care by requiring providers to become certified in new lengthy assessment tools for Medicaid recipients and creating complex billing structures that will make it harder for individuals to access services.
- MHF DOES increase the cost of providing Medicaid services by turning over control of large portions of Michigan's Medicaid behavioral health system to private health plans that have higher administrative costs and profit. Hospitals, CMHs, and providers have raised serious concerns about the operational strain this framework would create—requiring new contracts, duplicative processes, and shifting payment responsibilities.
- MHF DOES circumvent the Michigan legislature by making significant policy changes through administrative rules as the proposal appears to conflict with Michigan's Mental Health Code and recent Court of Claims rulings.

The Mental Health Framework DOES NOT

- MHF DOES NOT offer better access to care
- MHF DOES NOT identify a clear problem that is attempting to be solved
- MHF DOES NOT better clarify roles and responsibilities
- MHF DOES NOT speak for thousands of persons served across Michigan as MDHHS has stated – they do NOT want this change

JOIN THE FOLLOWING GROUPS IN OPPOSING THE MENTAL HEALTH FRAMEWORK

