
CEO Report
March 19, 2020

Good afternoon,

1. COVID-19 has taken an extremely high priority in our region and across the state. In the last week the action and communication on mitigation efforts has intensified. This has required very detailed plans from the CMHSPs on assuring necessary services are provided, while seeking to develop protections that meet Michigan guidelines.
 - a. Essential services are being provided, but wherever possible telehealth services are being utilized. Clarifications on telehealth billing and coding have been provided by MDHHS, but questions remain to be sorted out.
 - b. Regionally we are holding daily meetings under the direction and facilitation of Dr. Scott Monteith of Beacon Health Options. This has been an important way to share information specific to each CMHSP's action to address the service challenges.
 - c. The LRE is posting important communications to the website, www.lsre.org, and has shared information to regional providers.
 - d. Face to face meetings have been suspended by the LRE and Beacon. In compliance with Michigan guidance, site reviews have been suspended.
 - e. Providers are concerned regarding the viability of their businesses if service levels are reduced. I believe there is commitment from MDHHS to assure that providers, CMHSPs and PIHPs are not at risk during this time. Although this commitment has been made there are many questions yet to be answered regarding how to assure funding will be maintained.

With a situation of such magnitude it is important that we stay connected with our stakeholders. I am thankful for the great efforts in our region to take care of our consumers in the best way possible, while seeking to mitigate this public health crisis.

2. There have been no additional meetings with MDHHS regarding our Settlement Agreement. The LRE is preparing additional information requested by MDHHS. A full update will be provided to the Board of Directors in closed session at the Board Meeting.
3. Last week PIHPs met with Department to discuss 2020 rate issues. We continue to work with MDHHS on areas where we are missing payments. On a positive note MDHHS stated a commitment to increase rates for the PIHPs in order to assure that all allocated funds are distributed to the PIHPs. This total amount for the state is 70 million. We do not know specifically what impact this will have on our region. Further analysis will be available in the next few weeks.

4. Last week HealthWest announced the initiation of waiting lists for certain programs (youth services, ABA services, and comprehensive autism assessment). MDHHS contacted the LRE with concerns regarding LRE compliance with Medicaid requirements. We are in communication with MDHHS on this and may need to develop a plan to address this issue. We are committed to assisting HealthWest in assessing service and program utilization to address service capacity issues.
5. The LRE continues to work toward a regional plan to provide supports to individuals from the Michigan Department of Corrections system. A regional team is meeting regularly to address implementation issues. This has been a challenging project due to lack of a unified message from state departments. We are moving forward in a positive direction despite some of these challenges.
6. Several weeks ago, the PIHPs had additional conversation with MDHHS regarding system reform. MDHHS states a desire to be inclusive of PIHP participation in the planning for system reform. It is evident that any public led entity will need to partner with a private organization due to high capital reserve requirements. We expect to see the next iteration of the MDHHS plan in the near future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Greg Hofman", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Greg Hofman, CEO