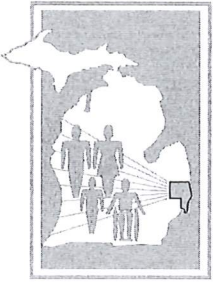


St. Clair County Community Mental Health Authority*Promoting Discovery and Recovery Opportunities for Healthy Minds and Bodies*

Debra Johnson
Executive Director

Brandon Moore, MD
Interim Medical Director

Nancy Thomson
Board Chairman

September 19, 2023

Kim Batsche-McKenzie, Director
Division of Program and Grant Development and Quality Monitoring
Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
333 S. Grand Ave.
Lansing, MI 48933

Dear Ms. Batsche-McKenzie:

St. Clair County Community Mental Health, in partnership with St. Clair County Department of Health and Human Services and St. Clair County 31st Circuit Court Family Division, is submitting this letter with the intent of implementing an Early Childhood Court program.

St. Clair County DHHS currently has 38 children in out of home care because of abuse or neglect. St. Clair County CMH currently serves 15 IMH cases, with 9 having DHHS involvement. Per the Michigan League for Public Policy, there were 208 confirmed victims of abuse and/or neglect birth to five years of age in 2022, and 82 in out of home care. According to the 2020 US Census data, 11.1% of the population in St. Clair County lives in poverty. 4.8% are under the age of five. Data from the 2023 St. Clair County Community Health Improvement Plan indicates that non-white individuals were more than twice as likely as white individuals to experience four or more adverse childhood experiences.

St. Clair County is committed to being proactive and collaborative in meeting the needs of babies and toddlers in our community. All community partners recognize the importance of early intervention and keeping families together whenever possible. Implementing the Safe Babies Approach will enhance oversight, increase coordination, strengthen relationships, ensure appropriate services, and integrate Infant Mental Health practices and principals in to court proceedings and case planning.

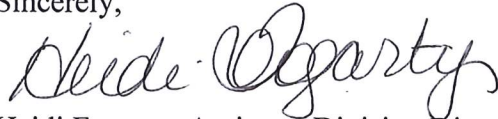
St. Clair County Community Mental Health is confident that we can staff the Community Coordinator Position. We also have an adequate number of IMH endorsed staff to provide services to families referred to the Early Childhood Court Program.

Ms. Kim Batsche-McKenzie
September 19, 2023
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The estimated staffing cost for the community coordinator position is \$74,547 for wages, \$23,143 for fringe benefits, and \$1703 for travel (2,600 miles x .655 IRS rate).

Estimated stipend costs for parent involvement in the active community team are \$600.

Sincerely,



Heidi Fogarty, Assistant Division Director
St. Clair County Community Mental Health
Child & Family Services
2415 24th Street
Port Huron, MI 48060

cc: Debra Johnson, Chief Executive Officer, SCC Community Mental Health
Kathleen Gallagher, Program Director, SCC Community Mental Health
Michael McMillian, SCC Court Administrator
Stella Daniels, SCC DHHS Director