

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH AND PUBLIC SAFETY PRESERVATION MILLAGE EXPENDITURE POLICY ORDINANCE FOR WASHTENAW COUNTY

WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

September 20, 2017

WHEREAS, it is necessary to provide information regarding the procedures and standards for the expenditure of funds provided by Washtenaw County's Community Mental Health and Public Safety Preservation Millage which has been certified for the November 7, 2017 election (Resolution 17-105); and

WHEREAS, Pursuant to the authority granted to Washtenaw County by MCLA 46.11(j), the Board of Commissioners seeks to enact an Ordinance to provide a framework for the expenditure of funds provided by Washtenaw County's Community Mental Health and Public Safety Preservation Millage should that millage be approved at the November 7, 2017 election; and

WHEREAS, the Headlee Amendment to the Michigan Constitution and Proposition A have artificially reduced the amount of property taxes which all Michigan local governmental entities, including Washtenaw County, receive to pay for their various programs; and

WHEREAS, two critical areas in Washtenaw County which have been especially affected by this lack of funding are public safety which is overseen by the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Office ("WCSO") and mental health services which is overseen by the County's Community Mental Health Department and Board; and

WHEREAS, as costs increase to provide services in these two critical areas, the County is faced with either directing more of its general fund to these areas which reduces the funding for other critical County programs for County citizens or, in the public safety area, charging more to those jurisdictions which contract for police services throughout the County; and

WHEREAS, these two major areas often overlap as is the case in the County jail where a number of inmates are also being treated for mental health disorders; and

WHEREAS, treating inmates in the County jail, while important, is a reactive and expensive way to address these individuals' mental health needs; and

WHEREAS, additional funding would permit the WCSO and Community Mental Health to address these issues proactively which would ultimately prove to be much more cost effective; and

WHEREAS, the County certified ballot proposal language for the November 7, 2017 election provides that an eight-year millage of one (1) mill be allocated for the following purposes: (1) 38% of the amount collected will be used for mental health crisis, stabilization and prevention efforts; (2) 38% of the amount collected will be used for public safety efforts to ensure continued operations and greater cooperation with the mental health community; and (3) 24% of the amount collected will be sent to those entities within the County which maintain their own police force (currently Ann Arbor, Chelsea, Milan, Saline, Ypsilanti, Pittsfield Township and Northfield Township) at a rate proportionate to their respective 2016 population values, be presented to Washtenaw County voters at the November 7, 2017 general election; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Ordinance provides that if the Washtenaw County Community Mental Health and Public Safety Preservation millage is approved by Washtenaw County voters on November 7, 2017, the County portion of the funds generated from the millage will be used to pay for four broad areas of mental health services: (1) crisis funding; (2) stabilization funding; (3) Prevention funding; and (4) Jail Services for inmates with mental health issues; in addition, the funds would support the Washtenaw County Sheriff Office's continued efforts to provide County-wide police services with an emphasis on criminal justice system diversion along with collaborative efforts involving mental health and substance abuse disorder treatment partners.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners hereby adopts the Community Mental Health and Public Safety Preservation Millage Expenditure Policy Ordinance, attached to this resolution.

Title: Community Mental Health and Public Safety Preservation Millage Expenditure Policy Ordinance

Date of Adoption: September, 2017

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PREAMBLE: Whereas it is necessary to provide information regarding the procedures and standards for the expenditure of funds provided by Washtenaw County's Community Mental Health and Public Safety Preservation Millage enable through passage of Washtenaw County Resolution 17-105;

Title: AN ORDINANCE providing procedures and standards for Washtenaw County's expenditure of its Community Mental Health and Public Safety Preservation Millage funds, THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF WASHTENAW COUNTY ORDAINS:

SECTION 1: Declaration of Purpose

The Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners seeks to fully address the challenges of a lack of necessary resources affecting mental health services which is overseen by the County's Community Mental Health Department and Board; and public safety which is overseen by the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Office (WCSO).

SECTION 2: Authorization

Pursuant to the authority granted to Washtenaw County by MCLA 46.11(j), the Board of Commissioners seeks to enact this ordinance to govern the expenditure of funds provided by Washtenaw County's Community Mental Health and Public Safety Preservation Millage enable through passage of Washtenaw County Resolution 17-105, on July 12, 2017.

SECTION 3: Community Mental Health Services

In exercising its authority to provide for the mental health needs of Washtenaw County residents, the Board of Commissioners and the CMH Board intends for the revenue raised by this millage to be used in a manner affecting four broad areas of mental health services and supplements to auxiliary services within other Washtenaw County Offices and Departments:

Crisis- Funding will be used to address mental health and substance abuse crises which include immediate crisis assessment, referral, treatment and diversion from jail or emergency departments. Additionally, funds will be used for supportive services post crisis engagement.

Stabilization- Funding will be used to provide mental health treatment services to adults and children with the severe mental illness and developmental disabilities who do not currently qualify for services due to insurance status or unaffordable deductibles and to those individuals for whom traditional outpatient treatment is not adequate.

Prevention- Funding will be used to support mental health awareness, prevention, and early intervention programming for use in working with community partners such as schools, law enforcement and other first responders, and health care providers.

Jail Services- Jail service expansion will include mental health and substance abuse assessment and treatment inclusive of counseling and psychiatric services and prisoner re-entry with a focus on case management.

SECTION 4: Community Mental Health Advisory Committee

1. The County Board shall create and appoint, with recommendation of the Washtenaw County Community Mental Health Board an eleven-member body under this Ordinance to be named the Community Mental Health Advisory Committee ("CMHAC"). CMHAC shall function as an advisory body to assist both the Board of Commissioners and the CMH Board on a yearly basis with the identification of the needs of community mental health service recipients, the evaluation of services provided for such need, related to millage funds, and promotion of collaborative and complementary practices among stakeholders and the community at large. The CMHAC will be responsible for identifying and recommending entities or individuals which have an expertise and capacity to perform these functions under contract with CMH.
2. CMHAC members must be County residents or representatives of entities, businesses or organizations within the County. At least one member shall be appointed who has demonstrable level of expertise in each of the following

areas of expertise and/or representation: (a) primary consumer; (b) secondary consumer; (c) health system representative; (d) CMH unionized workforce representative; (e) Washtenaw County Court System representative (f) member at large. In addition, the County Board may appoint ex-officio members.

3. CMHAC members shall serve two-year terms, except that the initial terms of six of the members shall be for a three-year period. The County Board may reappoint members to successive terms. The County Board shall have the discretion to remove CMHAC members for good cause.
4. CMHAC members shall not be compensated for their services but shall be reimbursed for attending meetings and for mileage as provided under the Rules of the County Board.
5. The County Board may terminate CMHAC upon approval of 2/3 of the County Board elected and serving.
6. Individual CMHAC members shall disclose any potential financial conflict of interest and abstain from any discussion or voting on the matter in which he/she has a conflict.

SECTION 5: Public Safety

The WCSO is comprised of over 350 staff supported by reserves and volunteers spread throughout five (5) divisions. Serving a population in excess of 350,000 residents spread across 25 local units of government, the WCSO focuses on building strong local communities through quality public safety and social justice services for all of Washtenaw County.

The funds from the millage will help support the WCSO's continued efforts to provide county-wide police services with a specific focus on criminal justice system diversion.

The WCSO will continue to work collaboratively with their mental health and substance use disorder treatment partners to:

1. Maximize the impact of their existing community based diversion, treatment and support programs; and
2. Plan, implement and sustain nationally recognized "best practices" criminal justice alternative/diversion programs for individuals suffering from mental health/substance use disorders.

SECTION 6: Duration

This Ordinance will sunset once the millage is no longer being collected.