
WE ARE MANY, PLLC

January 26, 2021

Dear Genesee County Board of Commissioners,

I am writing you in the order of a resident, a father, social worker and business owner of a small mental health agency that provides mental health needs to children and families in Genesee Co. I write this Board to make my support known for a **Mental Health Millage targeting mental health crisis response and prevention to be included on the May 2021 ballot.** This would provide integral supports and services to our community that are not otherwise available through traditional or sustainable funding sources.

As a mental health practitioner serving the residents in our county I see first hand the overlap of mental health and criminal justice reform. A mental health crisis can lead an individual to crime. Though the crime can be easily punished the unmet mental health need leading to it is often not.

In a previous role I have had the privilege of working with the Genesee Co. Jail in collaboration with Michigan State University to explore ways to reduce suicide rates after release back into the community (2016-2018 Suicide Prevention Intervention for at-Risk Individuals in Transition {SPIRIT} under Dr. Jennifer Johnson). In that role I was able to see first hand the role that effective mental health treatment can have in reducing recidivism and suicide risk. A win for both criminal justice and mental health.

Having effective and well funded systems in place, such as crisis response and prevention is key to reducing crime by addressing the oft present underlying untreated or inadequately treated mental health needs that lead our residents to crime in the first place.

I enthusiastically support the inclusion of the mental health millage on the May 2021 ballot.

Please feel free to contact this office with further comment.

Sincerely,



Joshua Sinclair, LMSW

Owner

We Are Many, PLLC

(810) 333-7150 (ph)

josh@wearemanypllc.com