

**STATE OF MICHIGAN
GENESEE COUNTY PROBATE COURT**

**Duncan M. Beagle, Chief Judge of Probate
Jennie E. Barkey, Presiding Judge of Probate
F. Kay Behm, Judge of Probate
Assigned to the Circuit Court**



**Samuel A. Olson, Administrator/Probate Register
Telephone: (810) 424-4426
Fax: (810) 257-3234**

**900 S. Saginaw Street, Room 502
Flint, Michigan 48602**

January 26, 2021

RE: Mental Health Millage Support

Dear Genesee County Board of Commissioners,

I am writing 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 the only probate judge that deals with the mentally ill in our county, I've spent the past 15 years trying to help them and their families. Shortly after taking the bench, I started the first Mental Health Court in Michigan. The Court has a strong relationship with Genesee Health System (GHS) and its efforts to provide services to the mentally ill population in the community. The efforts and cooperation of GHS, the Sheriff's Department, the local hospitals, and community providers, continue to improve the response to those suffering from mental illness.

While due to recent medical issues of my own I have not had the opportunity to fully review the specifics of the proposed millage, I am and continue to be a staunch advocate for the mentally ill in Genesee County. Any measure to further the well-being of this population has my 100% support. It is my sincere hope that this millage will serve as another positive impact on the lives of the mentally ill and their families, and the services provided as a result will keep those in the community from requiring unnecessary hospitalization and incarceration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennie E. Barkey".

**Honorable Jennie E. Barkey
Genesee County Probate Court**