



436 S. Saginaw St., Suite 400 • Flint, Michigan 48502-1829
Toll-free: (800) 724.7441 • Phone: (810) 244.8044 • Fax: (810) 244.5550

January 25, 2021

Dear Genesee County Board of Commissioners,

The Center for Civil Justice (CCJ) writes in support for a Mental Health Millage targeting mental health crisis response and prevention to be included on the May 2021 ballot. CCJ is a nonprofit legal organization based in Genesee County that advocates for the rights of low-income people. We work to ensure that people experiencing poverty have greater access to basic needs and services, particularly related to food and nutrition, housing, healthcare and monetary support. We prioritize health equity and area working to identify and address the causes of racial disparities in health outcomes.

This Millage would provide integral mental health supports and services to our community that are not otherwise available through traditional or sustainable funding sources. For instance, CCJ is currently working with Genesee Health System and many community and law enforcement agencies in Genesee County to bring a crisis intervention team and training to Genesee County. The goals of our crisis intervention team are to improve officer and consumer safety and help people with mental disorders/addictions access treatment rather than the criminal justice system.

This Millage would also support other focus areas including jail diversion, court/corrections mental health supports and services, suicide and crisis prevention, school crisis prevention and de-escalation, a crisis stabilization center and health and wellness for vulnerable populations.

Thank you for your consideration of this Millage targeting mental health crisis response and prevention.

Sincerely,

Kelly L. Bidelman
Executive Director