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July 27, 2020

**2020-2021
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To whom it may concern:

The COVID-19 pandemic has prompted a number of measures by Allegan County CMH to support our provider network during this challenging time. The health and safety of consumers and staff and the stability of the organizations that serve them have been, and will continue to be, our highest priority.

Network Stability Efforts – In order to assure network stability, we have surveyed the needs of all network providers, and have encouraged them to make use of the numerous state and federal programs offering financial support for businesses in need. In addition, we have offered all providers the option to request enhanced financial support, and are working in concert with our regional Community Mental Health (CMH) partners because many providers contract with more than one of the CMH’s in the area and because funding for this support – if it materializes – will flow through the Lakeshore Regional Entity (LRE). Those that have followed the financial status of the LRE will know that deficits in the past several years means that there are no reserves on which to draw for this support. It will have to come from unused current year funds or increased revenues from state or federal sources. One rule that is unlikely to change is the state/federal requirement that Medicaid funds be utilized only after all other sources have been exhausted.

Direct Care Wage Support – Funds to provide for increased wages for direct care staff as directed by the Governor and as specified by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) are now being distributed. We have amended our contracts with providers to adjust the rates we pay for the service codes specified by MDHHS, and included retroactive payments for services within MDHHS’s timeframe for previously submitted services. As of now, and through 9/30/2020, we will continue to provide these enhanced payments through our standard billing process.

Please contact our office at the telephone number listed above if you have any questions about this information or concerns about the well-being of any person we serve or the stability of any agency with whom we contract.

Sincerely,

Mark A. Witte, MSW, LMSW
Executive Director

Promoting Behavioral Wellness and Community Health
Treatment for Adults and Children with Autism, Mental Illness, and Substance Use Disorders
Meeting Needs of People with Developmental/Intellectual Disabilities

Services provided through an affiliation with the Lakeshore Regional Entity and our partners – Network180 (Kent), West Michigan Community Mental Health (Lake, Mason, Oceana), HealthWest (Muskegon), and Community Mental Health Services of Ottawa County

