



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
LANSING

MARLON I. BROWN, DPA
ACTING DIRECTOR

October 10, 2023

Dear Behavioral Health Provider and Valued Stakeholder:

In 2019, the State of Michigan Departments of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA) and Health and Human Services (MDHHS) partnered to launch the Michigan Care Access Referral Exchange (MiCARE), hosted by Bamboo Health's OpenBeds® solution. The project initially began in Macomb County, and as of December 2022, had begun implementation in all PIHP regions across Michigan.

The goal of MiCARE was to create a statewide, comprehensive network of all behavioral health treatment providers, referrers, and social support resources with the capability to link those in need of treatment to appropriate, available care. Throughout the past four years, orientations were held across the state and made available to all behavioral health providers, PIHPs and CMHSPs. To date, less than 10% of the 1,000+ licensed behavioral health providers and facilities have completed onboarding into MiCARE. Numerous meetings occurred with facilities, as well as with facilities and their Electronic Health Record (EHR) vendor(s) to discuss integration options, with minimal progress.

Over the past six months, LARA has assessed onboarding progress and utilization, and has made the difficult decision to end the project as of October 31, 2023. Unfortunately, the state's behavioral health structure, lack of engagement, and cost were all factors leading to this decision. Over the next month, LARA will work with the OpenBeds team on the decommissioning process. As MDHHS is legislatively driven to stand up a Psychiatric Bed Registry, inpatient psychiatric facilities and referring entities should expect to hear from MDHHS on next steps within the next few weeks.

We thank you for the opportunity and time provided for our team to present this project to you. If you have questions regarding this communication, please contact Haley Winans (WinansH@michigan.gov) and Amber Daniels (DanielsA3@michigan.gov). Inpatient psychiatric hospitals and units that have questions related to the Psychiatric Bed Registry and its requirements, please direct to Krista Hausermann, MDHHS Crisis and Stabilization Services Section Manager, at HausermannK@michigan.gov. We appreciate your understanding of this decision.

Sincerely,

Amy Gumbrecht, Director
Bureau of Professional Licensing
Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs