# **Key Objectives for**

# **Transformation of the Michigan Mental Health System**

Fred A. Cummins (fred.a.cummins@gmail.com)

Below are seven key objectives for transformation of the Michigan public mental health system. These objectives will help establish a context in which the system is more efficient, quality of care is improved, and the system is driven to achieve quality of life of Michigan citizens.

1. **Effective legislative governance**

* Represent the interests and concerns of Michigan citizens
* Legislators must ensure that the system is doing the right thing and doing it well
* Ensure that persons with disabilities have opportunity to be the best they can be
* Independent oversight agency to support legislative governance

1. **Budget based on need.**

* Objective state-wide assessment of needs and unmet needs
* Defined levels of disability covered by the budget
* Support for sustained individual improvement

1. **Objective legislative and public oversight**

* Ensure adequate and appropriate services within the scope defined by the budget
* Independent rights protection and assurance of true services entitlements
* Require provider compliance with FOIA and Open Meetings
* Objective evaluations of providers and recipient opportunities for improvement

1. **State-level consolidation—public system**

* Administrative activities and provider contracts
* Advanced and efficient information systems
* One mental health system (state-wide consistency and accessibility)
* Leadership in clinical practices and technology advances

1. **Community collaboration.**

* Collaboration with community agencies and regional advisory boards
* Early intervention—Outreach, respond to family and community concerns, reduce severity and adverse consequences, treatment and services for early symptoms
* Access to housing, transportation, employment and fulfilling community involvement

1. **Fee for service, no delegation of risk**

* Remove conflicts of interest—no denial of appropriate care
* Eliminate cost shifting—e.g., criminal justice, nursing homes, schools, families
* All providers bill state payer—seamless access to services across the state
* Do it right and save money—timely and appropriate care

1. **Quality care**

* People first culture, person-centered treatment planning
* Certification of care employees
* Competitive wages and benefits
* Direct care oversight, professional judgement and accountability
* Support for sustained improvement—best they can be 1-10-18