

## **SUBSTANCE ABUSE ADVISORY COUNCIL TREATMENT AND PREVENTIVE SERVICES DIVISION**

### **DESIGNATION OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE COORDINATING AGENCY FROM THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT TO THE SAGINAW COUNTY COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH AUTHORITY**

The Saginaw County Department of Public Health (SCDPH) has been the Substance Abuse Coordinating Agency (CA) for the County of Saginaw since 1996, as authorized in the Michigan Public Health Code (PA 368 of 1978; Part 62) and designated as such by the Michigan Department of Community Health as approved by the Saginaw County Board of Commissioners.

The responsibilities of the Substance Abuse Coordinating Agency, through the health department's Division of Substance Abuse Treatment and Prevention Services (TAPS), include the provision for comprehensive county-wide substance abuse treatment and prevention planning and coordination of local use of state-administered funds; and the Saginaw County Community Mental Health Authority (SCCMHA) has been a separate governmental entity since the Saginaw County Board of Commissioners established the Authority in 1997 (Resolution E on May 22, 1997) as was permitted in the Michigan Mental Health Code (PA 290, Section 205).

On December 27, 2012, Governor Snyder signed into law House Bills 4862 and 4863, more commonly known as the Poleski Bills and now as PA 500 and PA 501 of 2012, which amended the Michigan Mental Health and Public Health Codes respectively, changing the designation of Coordinating Agencies for substance abuse services in Michigan.

These new laws bring the functions of the Substance Abuse Coordinating Agencies under the same management system as the Michigan Department of Community Mental Health (MDCH)-designated Community Mental Health Service Programs (CMHSP).

The Community Mental Health Service Programs in Michigan are being reorganized into 10 new regional authorities currently under development and to be designated for contracts by the Michigan Department of Community Health by January, 2014; and the new legal entity being developed by SCCMHA and 11 other CMHSP partners covering a 21 county region, known as MDCH Region #5, will be contracting with SCCMHA for the local management of most of the substance abuse coordinating functions for Saginaw County by January of 2014.

The Poleski Bills permit the contracting back with existing Coordinating Agencies that currently function as local public health departments inside county governments for a period not to exceed two years; and the SCCMHA and the SCDPH desire to make the upcoming change in CA designation for Saginaw County as smooth as possible to provide stability for the staff members working at TAPS and to assist in meeting the MDCH requirements for CA management and CA contracted provider network oversight.

The Saginaw County Board of Commissioners approved the plan and authorized the Saginaw County Community Mental Health Authority as the Substance Abuse Coordinating Agency for Saginaw County as of October 1, 2013, provided that MDCH determines all required assurances are met; and, further, approved the Saginaw County Department of Public Health enter into a contract with SCCMHA to continue to provide CA functions for a two-year period as provided for in the Poleski Bills, through September 30, 2015.