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DWIHN Announces \$227M Plan to Expand Behavioral Health Treatment Capacity *Seeks State Funding Support for Crisis Care Centers and In-patient Care to Serve Metro Detroit Residents*

DETROIT— Today, the Detroit Wayne Integrated Health Network (DWIHN) announced a four-point comprehensive plan to improve behavioral health treatment care capacity in Metro-Detroit by seeking the state’s support to invest \$227 million in crisis care and residential housing. DWIHN President and CEO Eric Doeh was joined by Mayor Mike Duggan, Wayne County Executive Warren C. Evans, and state health officials to address gaps in mental and behavioral health services for vulnerable residents. The plan includes increasing capacity for short term and long-term inpatient housing by providing an additional 450 beds at a newly developed Crisis Care Center and specialized holistic and integrated resource center.

DWIHN knows that behavioral healthcare changes are needed throughout our community. The need to improve mental health capacities and the infrastructure in Metro Detroit is essential.

“Creating more opportunities for our region’s most vulnerable persons by including step-down approaches to long-term care, expanded residential services, and the ability to offer behavioral health interventions for families are critical, and the time to act is now.” Eric Doeh, President, and CEO of DWIHN.

DWIHN is the largest community mental health organization in the state and is currently in the process of expanding needed behavioral healthcare services with the goal of establishing a fully integrated crisis continuum care system to best serve our vulnerable residents. This infrastructure will help persons suffering with mental illness, intellectual and development disabilities, substance use disorders and children with serious emotional disturbances. By utilizing a data-driven, solution-minded approach, residents will benefit from increased access to recovery-oriented care through a person-centered and trauma informed model of healthcare service delivery.

DWIHN has been working with the Wayne County Executive’s Office, City of Detroit Mayor’s Office, and a coalition of community stakeholders to improve the resources available throughout our region. By implementing crisis intervention training for first responders, emergency service personnel can intervene on crisis management, apply appropriate de-escalation skills, and triage cases that require psychological intervention rather than making arrests and incarcerating the mentally ill.

“DWIHN’s plan to rebuild mental health treatment capacity for our most vulnerable residents will fill the gaps in mental healthcare system that have existed for decades now,” said Mayor Duggan. “Providing this added capacity will save lives by helping to prevent individuals experiencing a mental health crisis from causing harm to themselves or others, or just getting caught up in a criminal justice system that is not equipped to meet their needs. We have the data to demonstrate the need for these additional beds and support DWIHN’s efforts in working with the state to secure the funding needed to support them.”

Currently, residents with severe mental health issues sit on waitlists for in-patient treatment. Law enforcement is often the first to engage with untreated individuals when families become overwhelmed with what to do with their loved ones. As a result, too often our emergency departments and jails are the first stop for persons experiencing a behavioral health crisis.

“It’s no secret that I’ve spent more than half of my life in law enforcement. I’ve seen cases where mental health was a factor. Since 1992, when Governor Engler stopped State funding to the Lafayette Clinic, we’ve searched for ways to treat and care for those with severe mental illnesses who find themselves in the criminal justice system. These individuals do not need jails, they need resources, trained professionals, and a safe place where they can receive treatment. That’s why I’m proud to stand alongside DWIHN on the initiative to Expand Mental Health Treatment Capacity. This will not only serve the residents of Wayne County, but it’ll expand our ability to truly impact an overwhelmed system,” said Wayne County Executive Warren C. Evans.

Services	Need based on Crisis Now Model	Current Capacity	Under Development	Proposed Development	Funding Need	Population Impact
Crisis Beds	260	49	119	60	\$60 Million	15,000
Acute Psychiatric Inpatient Beds	288	128	0	160	\$112 Million	25,000
Residential & Housing	N/A	Residential: 4630 Permanent Supportive Housing: 167	0	Specialized Holistic Housing: 120 Integrated Housing: 110	\$55 Million	22,000
Total				450 beds	\$227 Million	62,000 individuals

Issue: Current Behavioral Healthcare Revolving Door

Frequent and repeated users of emergency services with serious mental illnesses (SMIs) become a part of the mental health system’s “revolving door,” in which SMI patients cycle through the emergency care and justice systems due to insufficient or unavailable treatment options.

The City of Detroit has identified 1,481 individuals stuck in this vicious cycle who have repeatedly interfaced with these systems. As such, this population accounted for over 21,000 calls for emergency service between 2020-2022, attributing to over half of all mental health calls for service in Detroit during this time.

Of interest (1,481 individuals):

- 214 (29%) had 3 or more pre-admission crisis screenings, accounting for:
 - 1,730 screenings
 - 58 crisis residential admissions
- 177 (12%) had 3 or more pre-admission crisis screenings and 3 or more inpatient admissions, accounting for:
 - 1,235 inpatient admissions
- 361 (24%) had 3 or more calls for service for emergency medical services (EMS) with an average of 11 EMS runs per person
- 132 (9%) had at least one booking in Wayne County Jail, 19 had 3 or more bookings

Solution:

A comprehensive 4-point plan to address long and short-term treatment capacity:

1. Crisis Care Center: +60 beds Short Term
2. In-patient Psychiatric Care: +160 beds Long Term
3. Specialized Residential Housing: +120 beds Long Term
4. Integrated Residential Housing: +110 beds Long Term

These new accommodations would add a capacity of 450 beds to facilitate individualized and comprehensive care for the targeted group of “revolving door” individuals, as well as alleviate the region’s overburdened justice and mental

health systems. This solution allows for law enforcement and families to utilize a community mental health system that is beneficial to all, by offering specialized treatment that is a step-down from inpatient services and is medically supervised.

“The steps DWIHN has taken thus far to strengthen our ability to not only help those experiencing a behavioral health crisis, but to intervene before a crisis occurs is admirable. I continue to support DWIHN’s efforts to provide the additional resources outline is this four-point plan, which moves us closer to the first-class crisis continuum of care Wayne County residents deserve.” Kevin Fischer, executive director of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI Michigan) and interim executive director of Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) International.

People working together is the key as we try to move the needle in combating the stigma that has been attached to mental illness for centuries. It must be a collective effort to work with families, law enforcement, hospitals, provider partners and community stakeholders to save not one life, but every life.

If you or someone you know is interested in learning more about DWIHN’s programs and services, please call 800-241-4949 or visit www.dwihn.org. Residents can speak to a trained staff member that is available 24/7 to help get you or a loved one connected to behavioral healthcare services.

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