



The Right Door for Hope, Recovery, and Wellness, formerly known as Ionia County Community Mental Health, the Behavioral Health safety net for the county of Ionia, **hosted a Community Forum on November 19, 2018**. The Board of Directors would like to share the community concerns with you below. Partnering to address the needs of our community is an important part of improving the quality of life for all citizens in Ionia County. Our hope is that we can increase community wellbeing together.

Please find attached an invitation to the March “Ionia County Community Collaborative” Meeting where we will continue to address these identified community concerns and try to address them in partnership.

Thank you for taking the time to review them and considering attending a collaborative meeting.

Sincerely –

The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness Board of Directors

Station Topic: What do you think are the biggest Behavioral Health Needs in our community that The Right Door should be addressing?

- Substance Use/Abuse –
 - o recovery treatment centers
 - o Streamlining information of supports available.
 - o Detox – lack of county resource, hard to find one with availability.
 - o Waiting lists
 - o Needle Exchange Program
 - o Local drop off for controlled meds that are unused.
 - o More recovery coaches
- Presentations in the community to build awareness. Families don’t know what The Right Door can provide.
- Transportation resources lacking
- Mental Health/Physical health integration
- Homelessness needs
- Homeless Shelter needed
- Primary Care Coordination
- Mental Health and School services
- More Healthy Relationships Education
- Better communication in transition from school to Community Health Services – 26 year olds – from families with child with a DD
- Mental Health Court/Jail diversion – continued provision needed.

- Outreach on services The Right Door provides
- More places to socialize in the community.
- Clubhouse for those diagnosed with a developmental disability
- More support/education for people regarding budgeting and paying bills
- CLS/Respite services expansion of provision of services.
- Community Safety – collaborate more with police
- Workgroup involving Community Mental Health, Hospital, Police

Station Topic: What trends, problems or issues have you identified in our community that we should be aware of?

- Housing – no homeless shelters, no post-incarceration shelters or recovery housing available in county.
- Homeless Shelters
- Transportation – lack of availability.
- Children losing Medicaid upon removal from home.
- Limited resources for inmates upon re-entry to community.
- Job Development and training needs.
- Housing Assistance Funds – Used to receive from DHHS.
- Limited affordable activities for youth.
- Agencies don't collaborate enough.
- Current substance use throughout county.
- Need needle exchange.
- Financial concerns when people are on parole. Don't have a lot of money to finance all the requirements of parole.
- Single parent support for those caring for children diagnosed with Developmental Disability
- The ones you know need help – teach people how to help them.

Station Topic: What do you think are the barriers for people accessing our services?

- Available Transportation
- Available Childcare
- Stigma
- People cannot afford services and do not qualify for Medicaid – but unable to afford other insurance.
- Emergency Room Communication/Coordination

Station Topic: How can The Right Door be more culturally competent?

- Farm season difficulty in making appointments/hours work.
- LGBTQ Friendly signage
- Cultural competency training for providers – should be simplified
- More consumer representation on the board; minorities, LGBTQ, Multi-generational representation
- Outreach to Migrant community
- Identify Hispanic and Latino communities
- Outreach to farm workers – dairy and seasonal

- Supports for differing family systems: Blended, single, interracial families, relatives raising relatives.
- Senior citizen outreach
- Continue providing Trauma Informed Care
- Better understanding on what the county Veteran Service Officers do.
- Move from term consumer to person served.
- Recognizing current substance use issues
 - o Lack of treatment
 - o No homeless shelter
- Cell phones and lack of engagement, isolation, communication with outside world.
- Know the prison system better.