



## For Immediate Release

Contact: Stephanie Van Koevering  
517-974-6065

# Disability rights groups draw a line in the sand regarding behavioral health

**(Lansing, MI—Feb. 22)** A diverse group of Michigan disability rights advocates today spoke out about efforts to redesign the state’s behavioral health system.

“We’re drawing a line in the sand,” said Sherri Boyd, executive director of The Arc—Michigan. “Together, we’ve identified what works for individuals and families, and what doesn’t. We are clearly defining the hallmarks of an effective behavioral health system, and we’re going to fight to ensure all Michigan residents get what they need to live fulfilling, independent lives.”

The coalition’s line in the sand states that no Michigan citizen should be worried about who is going to be there for them and their family if they experience a mental health condition, substance use disorder, or disability. It goes on to lay out 10 standards by which any effective behavioral health system can be measured.

The 10 standards included in the coalition’s line in the sand can be found [here](#). They all are aimed at ensuring person-centered care that is high-quality, consistent, and accountable to both end users and the taxpaying public.

“Quality must be the cornerstone and aspiration of any Michigan behavioral health network,” said Angela Martin, senior associate director of the Michigan Developmental Disabilities Institute at Wayne State University. “We believe any discussion about improving the lives of our state’s residents must begin and end with an assurance that their care will improve dramatically.”

To learn more about the coalition and watch a video that outlines its priorities, visit [michiganbehavioralhealthcoalition.org](http://michiganbehavioralhealthcoalition.org).

###