



**Detroit Wayne
Mental Authority**

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RESOLUTION No. 8

Gun Violence Isn't Just A Major Public Health Concern

**RESOLUTION BY DETROIT WAYNE MENTAL HEALTH AUTHORITY'S
CHAIRPERSON BERNARD PARKER**

WHEREAS, Detroit Wayne Mental Health Authority is a quasi-governmental entity pursuant to the laws of the State of Michigan and its authorizing resolutions which pursuant to certain annual contracts is the Prepaid Inpatient Health Plan (PIHP) and the Community Mental Health Service Program (CMHSP) for Wayne County;

WHEREAS, Detroit Wayne Mental Health Authority as PIHP and CMHSP for Wayne County provides services and supports to approximately 75,000 citizens of Wayne County including adults with severe mental illness, individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, children with serious emotional disturbances and persons with substance use disorders;

WHEREAS, Detroit Wayne Mental Health Authority stands with our nation as we continue to mourn senseless acts of gun violence and believes it is imperative that we unite with multiple organizations, to address gun laws and legislation aimed at keeping our communities safe.

WHEREAS, Detroit Wayne Mental Health Authority supports the statements of the American Psychiatric Association, the American Medical Association, the National Council for Behavioral Health and the National Alliance for Mental Illness which assert that gun violence is a major public health concern in this country.

WHEREAS, according to the National Council on Behavioral Health, mental illness does not automatically make a person high risk for perpetrating mass violence.

WHEREAS, people with serious mental illness are responsible for less than 4% of all violence and 25% of mass violence.

WHEREAS, most people who commit mass violence do not have a serious mental illness.

WHEREAS, people are more likely to intentionally kill themselves with a gun than to be killed by a gun in a mass shooting or other type of homicide.

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WHEREAS, Gun access, not mental health symptoms, is the primary predictor of gun violence.

WHEREAS, the Detroit Wayne Mental Health Authority is dedicated to providing education, resources, and care for children and adults with mental illness diagnoses and support for their families and offers a variety of resources to help prevent gun violence and treat the behavioral health of the citizens of Wayne County.

WHEREAS, the School Success Initiative pursuant to which behavioral health clinics currently operate in over 70 schools, which diagnose and treat behavioral health issues in children and youth before they choose negative alternatives.

WHEREAS, Mental Health First Aid and Suicide Prevention educational curricula that: i) introduce participants to risk factors and warning signs of mental health concerns: ii) demonstrate how to assess a mental health crisis: iii) explain how to select interventions and provide initial help; and iv) ways to connect persons to professional, peer and social supports as well as self-help resources preventing suicide, and improving the safety of persons with behavioral health challenges and those in the community.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That

Detroit Wayne Mental Health Authority recognizes the need for continued community programs and realizes that increased participation is essential.

The Detroit Wayne Mental Health Authority has approximately 70 partial behavioral health clinics, local hospitals have about 30 clinics and there are over 400 schools that need a clinic and/or clinician to serve the children of Wayne County. We believe the Federal, State and major foundations need to provide funding so all children can receive preventive Mental Health education and behavioral health services in their school and further resolve;

That all corporations, faith based organizations, nonprofits and governmental institutions need to provide Mental Health First Aid and Suicide Prevention training to their respective employees, congregations and members to introduce them to risk factors and warning signs of people that may have mental health concerns, and Finally resolve;

That this resolution be sent to the President of the United States, the Governor of the State of Michigan, Federal, State, Wayne County elected officials, local schools, major foundations and the media.

Detroit Wayne Mental Health Authority will undertake to pursue collaborations with organizations that share our same mission of compassion and care for those in our communities including health care organizations, law enforcement, the judicial system, and legislative and government agencies, to put an end to this major public health concern and to keep our communities and citizens safe.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing Resolution was adopted on the twenty-first day of August 2019, by the Board of Directors of the Detroit Wayne Mental Health Authority.


Bernard Parker, Chairperson