

BAY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MAY 14, 2019

RESOLUTION

BY: VAUGHN BEGICK, 3RD DISTRICT COUNTY COMMISSIONER

WHEREAS, During the 1990's, two thirds of the state-operated psychiatric hospitals which served Michigan citizens closed; and

WHEREAS, In the absence of needed inpatient treatment and care, individuals in acute or chronic disabling psychiatric crisis increasingly are found in hospital emergency rooms, jails and prisons; and

WHEREAS, Law enforcement agencies find service calls, transportation and hospital security for people in acute psychiatric crisis creating significant, growing demands on their officers and straining public safety resources; and

WHEREAS, Jails and prisons are increasingly populated by individuals with untreated mental illness with some facilities reporting one-third or more of their inmates are seriously mentally ill; and

WHEREAS, The Legislature responded to this crisis by providing \$115 million in state building authority financed construction for a new state psychiatric hospital, and expressed its intent that the facility be built on the grounds of the current Caro Center in the FY 16-17 and 17-18 budget. Then-Governor Snyder concurred, by signing Public Act 107 of 2017, in July of that year; and

WHEREAS, On December 19, 2017, the State Administrative Board approved a \$5.4 million contract with Integrated Design Solutions, to design a new 200 bed, regional state psychiatric hospital (an increase from the current 150 beds at the Caro Center), on the site of the existing Caro Center; and

WHEREAS, On October 19, 2018, then-Governor Snyder participated in a ground breaking for the new 225,000 square-foot state psychiatric hospital at the site of the current Caro Center. The new hospital was scheduled to be completed in 2021, and would replace the aging Caro facility; and

WHEREAS, On March 13, 2019, Governor Whitmer halted construction, and contracted with a private consulting firm, at the cost of \$277,000, to re-assess the siting of a new state psychiatric facility, potentially delaying the availability of new psychiatric beds and the replacement of the aging Caro facility by another 2-4 years; and

WHEREAS, The facility is a vital economic engine of the entire region including Bay County, employing approximately 360 people, making it the second largest employer in Tuscola County; and

WHEREAS, Relocation of the facility would have dramatic, devastating negative repercussions to businesses, schools and families living in communities throughout this region of the state; and

WHEREAS, The previous closure of State Prisons in this area already had a severely damaging impact to the local and regional economy; and

WHEREAS, There is a 100-year tradition of caring in this community, with some 360 employees currently working at the Caro Center, and 70% of the employees traveling less than 30 miles to work; Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Bay County Board of Commissioners does hereby urge Governor Gretchen Whitmer, Department of Health and Human Services Director Robert Gordon, and members of the State Legislature, in response to a critical shortage of inpatient state psychiatric beds, continue with the construction of a new 200-bed, state psychiatric hospital on the grounds of the current Caro Center, in Tuscola County, as the best option for quality, accessible services to patients and their families, and as the best value to the taxpayers of Michigan; Be It Finally

RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to Governor Gretchen Whitmer, Department of Health and Human Services Director Robert Gordon, State Senator Kevin Daley, and State Representatives Annette Glenn and Brian K. Elder.

VAUGHN BEGICK
3RD DISTRICT COMMISSIONER

BEGICK - Caro Center
MOVED BY COMM. LUTZ

SUPPORTED BY COMM. COONAN

COMMISSIONER	Y	N	E	COMMISSIONER	Y	N	E	COMMISSIONER	Y	N	E
MICHAEL J. DURANCZYK	X			KIM J. COONAN	X			MICHAEL E. LUTZ	X		
ANNE KRYGIER	X			THOMAS M. HEREK	X						
VAUGHN J. BEGICK	X			TOM RYDER	X						

VOTE TOTALS:

ROLL CALL: YEAS _____ NAYS _____ EXCUSED _____
VOICE: X YEAS 7 NAYS 0 EXCUSED 0

DISPOSITION: ADOPTED X DEFEATED _____ WITHDRAWN _____
AMENDED _____ CORRECTED _____ REFERRED _____

23.