

**Board of Chosen Freeholders
Morris County, New Jersey**

Resolution No. 36

Adopted: March 8, 2017

WHEREAS, Morris County's community behavioral health system serves thousands of our county's most vulnerable adults, children and families with a full range of publically funded programs each year;

WHEREAS, community providers rely upon both state and county funding to sustain the full continuum of mental health and addiction services;

WHEREAS, during 2017 the state is transitioning from cost reimbursement contracts to fee for service rate reimbursement to support mental health and addiction services;

WHEREAS, with implementation of fee for service, mental health providers are projecting budget losses from \$230,000 up to \$1.2 million per agency annually because some services will no longer be reimbursable or rates are too low;

WHEREAS, we recognize that people with serious mental illness miss doctor's appointments 20-to-30 percent more often than the general public, which would create a hardship for agencies in a fee for service system because staff still must be paid;

WHEREAS, the fee for service transition currently being implemented will potentially dismantle a 40-year system in which the state provided the safety net that allowed service access for residents in need and did not depend upon ability to pay;

WHEREAS, our goal is to serve residents in the community through adequate service access, not in our higher cost jails, emergency rooms and psychiatric hospitals;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we, the Morris County Board of Chosen Freeholders, strongly urge the state to put fiscal safeguards in place during the transition to fee for service, or delay the July 1, 2017 implementation date. We need full assurance that agency doors will stay open and current services remain available to New Jersey's most vulnerable residents. We also call upon all other counties in New Jersey to join with us to insist on these safeguards for our communities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be distributed to the Honorable Governor Chris Christie, to all our local state representatives and to all other Boards of Chosen Freeholders in the State of New Jersey urging them to adopt similar resolutions.

I hereby certify the above to be a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Morris at a regular meeting on March 8, 2017.

Diane M. Ketchum, Clerk of the Board