

Chapter: **ADMINISTRATION**
Title: **BOARD MEETINGS - STATE OF EMERGENCY**

Approved by: 
Board of Directors - Chair

Approval Date:

Date: 3/20/2020

Approved by: 
Chief Executive Officer

Date: 5-20-2020

(BOARD APPROVAL: March 18, 2020)

MACOMB COUNTY COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES BOARD

**AMENDED RULES ALLOWING THE BOARD TO CONDUCT OPEN MEETINGS
ELECTRONICALLY AND ALLOW REMOTE PARTICIPATION BY BOARD MEMBERS
AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC**

WHEREAS, the federal government, the Governor of the State of Michigan, and the Macomb County Executive have recently declared a state of emergency to exist in Michigan related to the COVID-19 pandemic, and

WHEREAS, the State of Michigan has taken certain steps in order to stop the spread of the disease, particularly in the context of large gatherings of people; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of Michigan's Open Meetings Act ("OMA") is to promote the public's engagement and participation in the governmental functions and activities of their government, and to ensure the general public has meaningful access to the meetings and decision-making processes of certain public bodies;

WHEREFORE, the Macomb County Community Mental Health Board, consistent with its authority under MCL 15.263(1) to adopt rules to orderly conduct meetings, and in an effort to prevent the community spread of COVID-19, hereby approves, effective immediately, the attached rules allowing the CMH Board to attend and conduct its open meetings remotely by telephone, teleconference, video conferencing, or some other electronic virtual meeting platform, and to allow the public to participate remotely in its open meetings as follows:

REMOTE ATTENDANCE: CMH Board members may be connected to a public meeting remotely via telephone, videoconferencing, or some other electronic virtual meeting platform, under the following conditions:

- (1) Public notice of the meeting is posted and provided to the public, consistent with Sections 264 and 265 (MCL 15.264 and 15.265) of the Open Meetings Act;
- (2) The remote connectivity is sufficient and will not interfere with the progress of the meeting;
- (3) The Board members' participation shall be considered attendance for the purpose of establishing a quorum at a public meeting and conducting the business of the Board;
- (4) Members of the public will be provided a means to attend the meeting via remote means by listening to or viewing the meeting live via telephone, teleconference, videoconferencing, or some other electronic virtual meeting platform.
- (5) Any member of the public that has comments on any agenda item can email those comments to the Board at sandy.hays@mccmh.net Comments must be germane to the MCCMH Board business. Comments submitted via email will be included in the meeting minutes. (MCL15.263(5));
- (6) The public body shall keep minutes of the meeting and provide copies of those minutes to the public, consistent with Section 269 of the Open Meetings Act. (MCL 15.269);
- (7) The Board shall comply with all other aspects of the Open Meetings Act, so as to comply with the Act's goal of promoting public engagement and participation in the activities of government, and to ensure the general public has meaningful access to the decision-making processes of its public bodies.