# Report says mental health services lag in county

Oakland County's decision to adopt a full management system for its community mental health services will provide the mechanism to upgrade and expand services, according to the state's mental health director.

-James K. Havoman Jr. was commenting on a series of issues raised by the state's auditor general who recently released a report on Oakland County's mental health services.

on Oakland County's mental health services.
The report said waiting lists for service are too long, the county's decentralized intake services may not provide an equitable opportunity for receipt of services for all county residents, additional montains. county residents, additional mon-itoring of client service contracts should be initiated, and reim-bursement procedures should be updated. The report covers the period Oct. 1, 1989, through Jan. 31, 1992.

"This report indicates clearly the importance of having a full-management mental health system for Oakland County," said Haveman. "The Board of Commissioners and the county Commissioners and the county Commissioners and the county Committed the County Committed the County Committed the County Co

considerably more inexually and authority. However, some recent moves in the state Legislature to attach re-atrictions to that agreement has the Oakland County Board of Commissioners uneasy about their contract.

#### New system ahead

New system meau
"We believe the decision of the
Oakland board to adopt a full
management system is the single
most important step the county
can take to improve and expand

its services." Havemen said. "It commend County Executive L. Brooks Patterson, and members of the Board of Commissioners and Community Mental Health Board for their decision to accept a challenge and initiate work on a more comprehensive service system for residents of Oakiand County."

Haveman said the mental health department "is committed to providing assistance to the board in its effort to upgrade quality of care. Our management and technical assistance staff will work with board personnel to ensure the implementation of the full management contract will proceed smoothly and meet all objectives.

"This is an exciting time in the evolution of mental health services in Oakland County," said Haveman. The county under

terms of the new contract now has \$92 million dollars in state match funding to pay for an array of local services. In addition, relatively new models of care — such as assertive community treatment on an outpatient basis — are demonstrating every day in Michigan that it is possible to provide highly offective and cost efficient services in the community, he said.

#### Increased resources

During the last fiscal year, Oak-land County's community mental health board had a state alloca-tion of \$23 million dollars. Under full management, the board will have revenues totaling \$96 mil-

INSTALLING

lion from all sources.

Haveman noted that under the prior dual system of care — with the state providing some services

and the county providing others
— it is difficult to coordinate services for all clients.

The new full management system will provide for a single-entry, single-exit service system. All clients will be accepted for service based on common criteria, and priorities for service will be established by the local board.

The new contract which the board signed with the state provides for an additional one-half million dollars for administrative support and contract monitoring staff. The single-entry, single-exit system which the board is developing means that all persons in Oakinad County who need mental health services will be evaluated by the county mental health proby the county mental health pro-

Decisions can then be made as to the most effective, and effi-

clent, service which can be provided for that person. This system should eliminate the process of admitting or readmitting persons to high-cost, intensive hospitatal or institutional care without first attempting to meet the person's needs in less restrictive and less expensive alternative proving a streams.

Haveman noted that as the county is able to provide services through more cost-effective approaches, additional money will become available to address the needs of persons on waiting lists for various categories of service. In the recent report, the auditor general noted that "the board was generally in compliance with selected laws, rules, policies, directives and procedures governing community mental health service-board operations."

 $WHY_{-}$ 

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### Later life career changes explored

The Oakland University Continuum Center has designed a four-session, evening workshop to guide adults into successful second, third, or later life careers. "Career Building: Preparing For Change," will be offered 7-10 pm. Thuresdays, Aug. 5, 12, 19 and 26, on the Rochester campus. In addition to the four sessions, one hour of private career counseling is included. Career special.

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ist Gail Bryan will lead partici-pants through a self-exploration process. This structured program focuses on gaining a clear picture of career direction, assessing job talent, exploring options and set-ting goals.

the ting goals.

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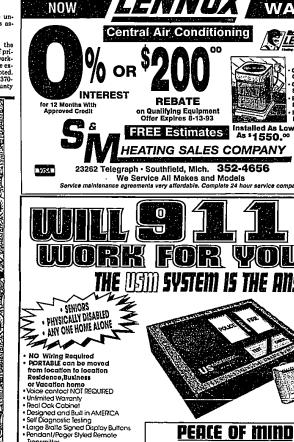
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and techniques to eliminate un-certainty, anxiety, and stress as-sociated with job change.

Fee is \$129 and includes th Fee is \$129 and includes the four sessions plus one hour of private career counseling. The workbook and testing materials are extra; MasterCard /VISA accepted. Register before Tuesday, call 370-3033. Outside Oakland County call toll free 1-800-370-3042. K MAKES MAKES

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