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For Immediate Release

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## **Governor's Budget Calls for Mental Health and Physical Health Treatment Integration In Kent County**

**GRAND RAPIDS** – Network180, Mercy Health's Affinia Health Network and Pine Rest Christian Mental Health Services have been authorized to implement a pilot program integrating physical health care and behavioral health services in the State Budget signed by Governor Rick Snyder Friday. The pilot in Kent County is specifically designated in Section 298 of the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services budget, a fairly rare occurrence in State budgets. The Kent pilot is considered a "public" pilot because mental health funding will continue to flow through the public mental health system. In addition to Kent's pilot, the budget also calls for up to three additional private health plan pilots in other parts of the State.

This pilot, entitled, "The Kent Total Health Collaborative," is designed to offer comprehensive and integrated services for all levels of physical health, mental health, substance use disorder, and developmental disability. Budget language provides \$3.1 million to support the State's implementation costs relate to four pilot projects and demonstration models in Michigan. The funds will support an independent project facilitator, evaluation costs, modifications to state contracts, and three additional full-time State employees.

"This is an incredible honor and responsibility. We have the opportunity to implement our integrated care service model that we believe will significantly improve the physical and mental health outcomes for those involved," said Scott Gilman, Executive Director of Network180. The Kent pilot is based on a risk-bearing provider-led integration model that requires savings to be reinvested into services and supports in the County. What that really means is the mental health and primary care providers work together to address all the social determinants of health. "For example a patient can have the best hospital and surgeon in the world, but if they happen to have a mental illness and are discharged back to the street, the outcome and recovery from surgery isn't going to be that great," said Gilman.

"The partners involved in this pilot understand to have successful health outcomes, behavioral health providers must work together with primary care physicians and health systems," said Mary Boyd, Executive Vice President of Regional Operations at Mercy Health. "Patients will have access to a full range of mental health and substance abuse treatment and recovery options which will be fully integrated into physical care."

The Facilitator will report back to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services regarding:

- Improvement of the coordination between behavioral health and physical health.
- Improvement of services available to individuals with mental illness, intellectual or developmental disabilities, or substance use disorders.

- Benefits associated with full access to community-based services and supports.
- Customer health status.
- Customer satisfaction.
- Provider network stability.
- Treatment and service efficacies before and after the pilot projects and demonstration models.
- Use of best practices.
- Financial efficiencies.

“Our goal is to design the system of care around the patient to achieve the best quality of life possible,” said Dr. Mark Eastburg, CEO of Pine Rest Christian Mental Health Services.

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#### **About Mercy Health**

*Mercy Health is a regional multi-campus health care system serving West Michigan and the lakeshore with five hospital campuses, more than 60 physician offices, more than 1,300 medical staff physicians, more than 800 hospital beds and 7,200 colleagues, and hospice, home health and long-term care service offerings. Mercy Health Physician Partners, our multi-specialty physician network, employs more than 500 physicians and advanced practice professionals in Grand Rapids, Muskegon, Holland and the lakeshore. Mercy Health, a Member of Trinity Health – the nation's second-largest Catholic Health System – is committed to being a trusted health partner for life, transforming the communities we serve, by providing high-quality care that is the most accessible, compassionate and personalized in West Michigan. Visit us at [MercyHealth.com](http://MercyHealth.com), [Facebook](#), Twitter at [@MercyHealthWM](https://twitter.com/MercyHealthWM) and [LinkedIn](#).*

#### **About Pine Rest**

*Pine Rest Christian Mental Health Services is a nonprofit organization founded in 1910 in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Pine Rest is one of the five largest free-standing behavioral health providers in the U.S., offering a full continuum of services including inpatient and partial hospitalization, residential and outpatient services, addiction treatment and recovery, extensive child and adolescent programs, senior care services, as well as specialized assessment and treatment clinics.*

#### **About Network180**

Network180 is inspiring hope, improving mental health, supporting self-determined lives, and encouraging recovery - every day. More than 50,000 individuals in Kent County are served annually through network180 and its network of care.