



STATE OF MICHIGAN

GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
LANSING

ELIZABETH HERTEL  
DIRECTOR

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** May 11, 2022

**TO:** Executive Directors of Prepaid Inpatient Health Plan (PIHP)  
Executive Directors of Community Mental Health Service Programs (CMHSP)

**FROM:** Brenda Stoneburner, M.A., LPC *BKS*  
Manager  
Community Practices and Innovation (CPI) Section

**SUBJECT:** Level of Care Utilization System (LOCUS) Michigan Fidelity and Assistance Support Team (MIFAST) Visits and Follow-up MIFAST Visits

Thank you for your efforts in the recent years to support LOCUS implementation across the state! As we ease out of the pandemic and look to the future, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) LOCUS Project Team has been planning. Sustainability over time is a crucial component to this effort to maintain LOCUS reliability and fidelity. To continue the momentum that we have all built together, the following recommendations are being made regarding *LOCUS MIFAST* implementation across all PIHP regions.

- Agencies work on scheduling a MIFAST visit at least once every three years. It is highly encouraged that agencies scoring below a 4 on their initial visit consider a follow-up visit sooner.
- The pandemic may have impacted agencies' ability to move forward with their LOCUS implementation plans. If an agency is not ready for a follow-up visit, then LOCUS consultancy is highly recommended to support agency needs.
  - Consultants can help organizations delve into areas where development is needed and work with the agency on these items.
  - Ideas include training, planning, and implementation; advanced curriculum development; policy development; data identification, collection, and management, etc.
  - LOCUS consultants are also LOCUS MIFAST reviewers and provide technical assistance. If technical assistance would be beneficial, a consultant can be assigned for support.

Upon determination of whether or not your organization would like a LOCUS MIFAST visit, LOCUS consultancy, or for any other questions, please send your request through [MDHHS-MIFAST@michigan.gov](mailto:MDHHS-MIFAST@michigan.gov) which will then be forwarded to the LOCUS MIFAST team for assignment. We are in process of developing the FY23 LOCUS MIFAST visit schedule and would like to hear from agencies by July 1, 2022.

c:     Jeff Wieferich  
       Belinda Hawks  
       Jean Pfaendtner  
       Jasmin White  
       Michelle Boudreaux  
       LOCUS MIFAST Program Team