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“A CONSUMMATE ADVOCATE”

Mental health organization honors ISK’s Jeff Patton for longtime work improving public policy in Michigan

Kalamazoo, Mich. – The [Mental Health Association in Michigan](#) (MHAM) is recognizing Jeff Patton, CEO of [Integrated Services of Kalamazoo](#), for his many years of positive impact on mental health-related public policy in the state. Patton will be honored at MHAM’s virtual 2020 Tribute Celebration on Wed., Oct. 7.

“Jeff has always been a consummate advocate for the persons and families served by the community mental health system in Michigan,” said Marianne E. Huff, the association’s president and CEO. “MHAM is pleased to be honoring Jeff for his advocacy work on behalf of adults and children with psychiatric conditions across the state for many years.”

In a prepared video segment for the event, Patton thanked MHAM for the honor, stating, “Such a recognition further supports the years of work and long lists of accomplishments of the Mental Health Association in Michigan. I humbly consider my recognition not necessarily for the work I do, but for our combined mission and purpose to serve people with serious mental illnesses and co-occurring substance use disorders,

and for people with intellectual or developmental disabilities.” He added, “Our combined work should always recognize that people have the capability to take charge of their lives with adequate specialized supports and services. I believe far too often the public mental health system attempts to improve the quality of mental health services by perfecting institutions, rather than achieving transformational goals of recovery from a more practical approach that recognizes the realities in which people actually lead their lives. People do not and should not lead or be expected to lead their lives by the ways the mental health system is currently funded and how providers must bill for reimbursements. This issue must be our next challenge and priority for change in order to make meaningful change to Michigan’s mental health system.”

About Jeff Patton

Jeff Patton has a distinguished public service career in public, community, and mental health. Since 2001, Patton has led Integrated Services of Kalamazoo (formerly known as Kalamazoo Community Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services) as Chief Executive Officer. His prior positions include Deputy Director of the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services Administration and Director of the Bureau of Community and Hospital Services within the Michigan Department of Community Health (now known as the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services). In the 1980s, he served as the Executive Director of the Family Health Center, Inc., in Kalamazoo.

A resident of Kalamazoo County, Patton serves on various boards and in volunteer positions including as Chair of the Board of Trustees at Kalamazoo Valley Community College. His professional recognitions include Champion of Behavioral Healthcare (Vendome Group, 2011), Friend of Mental Health (Board of Directors of the Community Network Services in Oakland County, 2011), National Advisory Council member for the Center for Mental Health Services (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, 2016-2020) United States Department of Health and Human Services,

Administrator of the Year (National Alliance on Mental Illness, 2018), and Outstanding College/Corporate Partnership Award (American Association of Community Colleges, 2019). Patton holds a Master of Social Work degree from Western Michigan University.

About the Mental Health Association in Michigan and the 2020 Tribute Celebration

The Mental Health Association in Michigan is a voluntary membership citizens' organization representing a broad base of people working together as an advocate for individuals with mental illness. As an advocacy organization, MHAM promotes mental health by influencing public policy, evaluating services, fostering partnerships with stakeholders, providing education and outreach, and empowering people affected by brain disorders. MHAM is affiliated with [Mental Health America](#).

MHAM's 2020 Tribute Celebration takes place online on Wed., Oct. 7 from 6-7 p.m., with a pre-show at 5:30 p.m. The event is both a fundraiser and an opportunity to honor individuals who have made a significant positive impact on mental health-related public policy in Michigan. It can be accessed on [Facebook Live](#) and at the MHAM website, www.mha-mi.com. Hosted by Marianne Huff (president and CEO of MHAM), the free event features live music, an interview with a family who has a lifetime of experience with mental health issues, special messages from honorees Jeff Patton and State Representative Mary Whiteford, and more. Registration is at mha-mi.com/events/2020-virtual-tribute-celebration/.

About Integrated Services of Kalamazoo (ISK)

Integrated Services of Kalamazoo (formerly known as Kalamazoo Community Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services) provides a welcoming and diverse community partnership to share effective resources that support individuals and families to be successful through all phases of life. For more than 30 years, ISK has served youth, families and adults with mental health challenges, intellectual and developmental

disabilities and substance use disorders in Kalamazoo County. ISK serves nearly 8,000 individuals annually, either directly through ISK service programs or through a network of provider agencies that contract with ISK. The agency is one of 46 Community Mental Health Services Programs in Michigan. More information is available at www.iskzoo.org or by calling 269-373-6000. ISK is on Facebook at www.facebook.com/KazooCMH.

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