

County of Financial Responsibility (COFR) Dispute Resolution Committee - Case 2015-1

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| Committee: | Doug Ward      | Community Mental Health for Central Michigan |
|            | Chuck Kopinski | West Michigan Community Mental Health        |
|            | Heather Garcia | Kalamazoo Community Mental Health            |
|            | Kendra Binkley | Department of Community Health               |

The Committee met in person and on the phone on April 1, 2015 concerning a dispute involving three county CMHSPs. CMHSP representatives from the counties participated to explain the case and the rationale for each CMHSP's position.

Issue: An individual was raised in County A and sometime after 1992 moved as an adult with his parents out of state. While there, he was placed in a dependent setting. After his parents died, his siblings brought him back to Michigan into County A where he resided with his sister/guardian. In 2001, his guardian moved him (without the assistance of a CMHSP) to a dependent placement in County B and County B CMH began to provide services. In 2012, his guardian moved him to a dependent placement in County C near where she now lives. County B CMH was still coordinating his services.

County B, in re-reviewing this case, said that it should have no continuing responsibility for the cost of the individual's services because he no longer lived in County B and never lived there independently. They were looking for a COFR resolution on a going-forward basis.

County A stated that it had no COFR responsibility for this person since they appear never to have provided services to him and there was too much delay in raising the issue. County C also was not providing services to this individual and he did not live there independently.

Resolution: The basic contract guideline is that the COFR is the county where the individual last lived independently. In this case, it is County A.

Because of the long timeline involved and the importance of recognizing consumer choice, the Committee strongly recommends that County A and County C reach a COFR agreement per section II-K of the COFR Amendment to transfer COFR responsibility within two years to the consumer/guardian's county of choice, County C.