

Citizens Advisory Committee Minutes

Meeting Date / Time: August 16, 2023, 9:30-11:30am

Location: OCHN (Troy) – Teams Virtual /Call-In

Facilitator: Matt Fritzen, Chairperson

Liaison: Linda Bartaloni-Till, Customer Services Manager

Scribe: Valarie Spaven, Customer Service Support Specialist

Desired Results: ***Teamwork toward achieving committee goals.***



Present: **Lloyd Austin**, At-Large; OCHN Communications & Community Outreach; **Nancy Diane Carter**, CEEC; **Zach Cardinell**, At-Large; **Pam Casper**, CNS Healthcare; **Andrew Field**, Dreams Unlimited Clubhouse; **Matthew Fritzen**, (Chairperson) MORC; **Adrienne Gasperoni**, CHN; **Amelia Jacobs**, Community Living Services; **James Helstowski**, F.A.I.R. Drop-In Center; **Lois Shulman**, At-Large; **Mark Jones**, OCHN; **Cheryl Patel**, At-Large; **Christie Kay**, ARC of Oakland County; **Paulette Howell**, New Horizons; **Steve Ludwig**, JARC; **Verdrina Mathews**, Easter Seals; **Malkia Newman**, CNS Healthcare Anti- Stigma Team / OCHN Board; **Victoria Peterson**, At-Large; **Suzanne Serlin-Resnick**, At-Large; **Diane Sansalone**, (Vice-Chairperson) Common Ground, **Valarie Spaven**, OCHN; **Linda Bartaloni-Till**, OCHN; **Tammy Wallace**, Our House Clubhouse; **Glenda Vidosh**, Oakland Family Services
Absent: **Chris Wright**, My Place Center for Wellness; **Christine Burk**, Chief of Staff, **Dana Lasenby**, Executive Director/CEO, OCHN; **Liz Janovits**, TTI; **Logan Kavalar**, My Place Center for Wellness
Guests: **Mellena Martinez**, Community Housing Network
Scribe: **Valarie Spaven**, OCHN

Minutes – August 16, 2023

	Agenda Item	Presented By	Discussion
I	Welcome to Members, Guests Approval of Agenda and Minutes from July 19, 2023	<i>Matthew Fritzen,</i> CAC Chair	Lois S. made motion to approve the agenda and minutes from May 17, 2023, as written. G. Vidosh seconded the motion.
II	Public Comment / Announcements	<i>Members & Guests</i>	S. Ludwig announced JARC is hosting a carnival on August 24, 2023. There will be an Ice Cream Social at

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			<p>the Dairy Queen (Maple & Telegraph Rd.) JARC recently hired new staffing.</p> <p>L. Austin stated transportation has been a forever problem for people with both physical and mental challenges. Easterseals MORC has done an excellent job with their services and employ their own drivers. He had a recent experience and stated the driver was congenial and he made a friend. The driver was unable to transport him back home so Easterseals MORC provided him with an Uber driver who transported him back home without little downtime.</p> <p>L. Austin announced that the “Walk a Mile Rally” in Lansing is coming up on September 13, 2023, and stressed how important it is to show up and educate state representatives who we are, to commune with other people, that we are not alone in our struggles and issues. He would like to see more Case Managers participate in upcoming years and feels it is a learning experience, also suggesting they receive a paid afternoon to attend the rally with people they provide support and services to.</p> <p>D. Sansalone announced she is part of MCET (Michigan Consumer Evaluation Team) and they are seeking Board Members. A flyer with information on contacting MCET was provided to members or contact you can contact D. Sansalone directly. The next meeting is on August 24, 2023, at 2:00pm.</p>
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III	<p>New Business</p>	<p><i>Christine Burk, Linda Bartaloni-Till, Manager, OCHN</i></p>	<p>Christine was unable to attend the CAC Meeting today. Linda lead discussion regarding the OCHN Public Comment Policy. She stated the OCHN Board of Directors adopted a policy and made a recent change of time limit from 5 minutes to 3 minutes. It was decided to bring this new policy before the CAC Members since not everyone agreed with the new change and members did not have a chance for input.</p> <p>L. Shulman asked to hear from M. Newman, OCHN Board member, and what the OCHN Board discussed. M. Newman stated, “The OCHN Board had a lengthy discussion about the changes since there was not a policy prior to the change. Some people making public comment were not being respectful of the 5 minutes.” There are two opportunities to make public comment. If you cannot finish within the first 3 minutes you have a chance to speak again later in the meeting. “This does not have anything to do with shutting people down or speak to the Board.”</p> <p>G. Vidosh asked how many public comments there are historically. Was there a disruption from individuals or just a lot of comments? M. Newman stated, “prior to the policy change, and during COVID, the Board did</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Public Comment Policy Discussion 		

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			<p>not meet publicly, but developed a form located on the OCHN Website that allowed persons to submit public comment. Once we went back to open meetings, not many people attend in person, and wish to speak to the Board.” There are now two options to provide public comment. One in person and the other through the OCHN Website.</p> <p>L. Austin stated, “It is a good rule and needs to be respected. Who will be the timekeeper, it needs to be enforced?” L. Bartaloni-Till stated her and V. Spaven would be timekeepers for the OCHN CAC.</p> <p>L. Shulman asked M. Newman if the policy was already in place and, are asking for input from CAC Members? Ms. Newman stated, “The policy is already in place. There was only a statement, but no actual policy in place. People were sending anonymous comments (that were read at the board meetings) and the Board had to institute a policy on what is and what is not acceptable, according to the <i>Open Meetings Act.</i>” L. Shulman said, “It is important that people in the community that make the effort to attend a meeting are valued and emphasized concern about the 3-minute limit.</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Community Housing Network, Housing Resource Center (HRC) 	<p>Mellena Martinez, Director of Housing Resources, Community Housing Network</p>	<p>Mellena Martinez is the Director of Housing Resource Center (HRC) for Community Housing Network (CHN), she oversees the Call Center, Street Outreach Teams that cover both Oakland and Macomb counties, and the Housing Counseling Department. She started out as a Case Manager for Training Treatment & Innovations and her passion has been helping people with mental health and housing services.</p> <p>Mellena provided in-depth information on how to get the word out and connect someone in need of housing assistance. The HRC is a one-stop shop with answers to housing questions for people facing housing crisis, people with disabilities, and those who are homeless. They also provide help with assessing your current housing situation, identifying your needs, and targeting available resources to reach your housing goals. To access the Housing Resource Assessment Tool, you can text “housing” to (248) 269-1335 or email HRC@chninc.net.</p> <p>CHN receives funding through HUD, MSHDA and Oakland County grants. Each program has their own criteria requirements a person must meet to become eligible. Everyone that calls CHN is screened and if they meet the governmental eligibility requirements, then they will be placed on a registry in Oakland</p>
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			<p>County. Every week the partnering agencies meet, if there is an open slot, they will then discuss the person with the highest need and will then be pulled for those programs.</p> <p>M. Fritzen commented that he has been in contact with CHN in the past, but they were not able to accommodate him with an apartment that he could maneuver around in easily with a wheelchair. He is still looking for a place with accessible wheelchair accommodations. He pointed out the CHN helps assist people in dire need but does not have much to offer in his situation.</p> <p>CHN does have a person on staff (that works with OCHN) who assists one-on-one for people who require special accommodation. Contact information will be provided.</p> <p>L. Austin asked, “what happens to people that do not qualify under these programs?”</p> <p>CHN has a section 8 alert list. If you are interested, please sign up at the link below and CHN will send you notifications when the different housing commissions open their waitlist.</p> <p>Community Housing Network (list-manage.com)</p> <p>Listing of MSHDA Section 8: GOsection8, Housing Authority Sign-up, Section 8 Properties.</p>
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	<p>♦ Director’s Report</p>	<p><i>Dana Lasenby,</i> Executive Director/CEO, OCHN</p>	<p>Dana was unable to attend the CAC Meeting due to her participation in the International Crisis Intervention Training Conference,</p> <p>Suzanne gave a synopsis of what’s been going on at OCHN this past month.</p> <p>We have had quite a few visitors from senators and representatives that have been touring the Resource & Crisis Center in Pontiac. Our Youth & Family Care Connection (YFCC) was recently renovated.</p> <p>Dana has been working with DHHS, trying to identify additional beds for kids (in the state) so there are beds for kids in crisis. Trying to increase the number in Western and Southeast Michigan.</p> <p>We had our Advocacy Workgroup meeting and there are continuing conversations with PIHP’s regarding conflict free case management and integrating this practice and how we can influence so of that system reform.</p> <p>Dana recently went to the Board of Commissioners requesting an increase in funding for Community Mental Health and continuing to have conversations and collaborate. She also continues to work with Oakland County Deputy Executive and Director of Health and Human Services. They are working on a</p>
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	<p>♦ Communications Report</p>	<p><i>Christine Burk</i>, Chief of Staff, OCHN <i>Suzanne Weinert</i>, Director of Communications, OCHN</p>	<p>lot of priorities so we can align some of the initiatives, that include urgent care, expanding our services (School Mental Health Navigators) and working diligently with school districts, Oxford Mental Health Program, and our Co-Responder Program. OCHN is making updates to our phone line to help enhance our services in Oakland County to ensure we are connecting people to supports and services in a timely manner. OCHN is working with The Alliance of Coalitions in placing “Save a Life” stations throughout Oakland County. They are like vending machines where you can get free Narcan or Naloxone. OCHN is still working on wage increase for Direct Care Staff.</p> <p>Suzanne provided upcoming event information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Your Voice Your Value “event is on August 17th, from 8:30am – 12:30pm. It’s a time where we honor our Peer & Achievement Awards Winners. • “Recovery Celebration” is on September 21st from 10am – 2pm. • “Annual Plan Community Forum” is August 23rd from 4pm – 6pm.
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IV	<p>Old Business – Provider & Committee Reports</p>	<p>Adrienne Gasperoni, Community Housing Network</p> <p>Amelia Jacobs, CLS</p> <p>Andrew Field, Dreams Unlimited Clubhouse</p> <p>Angela Taylor, Visions Clubhouse</p>	<p>Back-to-School Celebration for residents of our Unity Park and Palmer Pointe Housing in Pontiac on August 24th. CHN will be providing students with backpacks in preparation for school. We welcome people and families who might not have school-age children to attend to provide some opportunities for connection and fun as well. To raise residents’ awareness of available services and support, we extend an invitation to local organizations. So far, we will be joined by Fifth Third Bank who will be bringing their 40ft. Financial Empowerment E-bus, the Pontiac Library, MSU Extension 4-H program, the YMCA youth programs, and Community Housing Network Staff.</p> <p>No report</p> <p>Dreams Unlimited Clubhouse went on a field trip to Belle Isle and a fun 4th of July Celebration. They have a garden with several herbs and vegetables members attend to. The Clubhouse is still working on their accreditation. The Director has received a link to new software for Clubhouses. Members will be attending the "Your Voice Your Value" conference.</p> <p>Visions Clubhouse had their camping trip earlier in the month through Clubhouse Michigan. Clubhouse</p>
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		<p>Cheryl Patel, At-Large</p> <p>Chris Wright, My Place Center for Wellness</p> <p>Christie Kay, ARC of Oakland County</p>	<p>members plan on attending the Walk a Mile Rally and the NAMI Walk.</p> <p>NAMI has started back with support group meetings for persons experiencing mental health issues. Please contact Cheryl Patel for more information.</p> <p>No report (absent)</p> <p>Christie announced the ARC will be sponsoring an informational session for families “Sexuality Education for People with Developmental Disabilities, Thursday, September 28th from 6:30pm – 8:00pm. There is also a 22-week workshop series based on the Elevatus Training Curriculum for individuals with an intellectual or developmental disability in Oakland County.</p> <p>The ARC has an opening for an Accountant and great applicants looking to work in the non-profit. People interested can access the website at www.thearcoakland.org to apply.</p> <p>The Arc is working on their Supported Decision-Making campaign, in partnership with OCHN. This summer they have focused on CEU opportunities to Support Coordinators, Social Workers, Clinicians. etc. in Oakland County and have received great feedback.</p>
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		<p>Clubhouse Inspiration</p> <p>Diane Sansalone, Common Ground</p> <p>Glenda Vidosh, OFS</p> <p>James Helstowski, F.A.I.R., Drop-In</p> <p>AAOM</p>	<p>No report</p> <p>The Oakland Crisis Intervention & Recovery Team (OCIRT) is back in session. The Oxford Resiliency Center had expanded hours during the Miller Trial. MCET is recruiting members and Diane provided flyers to pass out to members.</p> <p>OFS is putting a group together for the Walk a Mile Rally coming up in Lansing. They are hiring Home-Based Clinicians and seeking Youth Peer Support Specialists. OFS wants to enhance their services by having groups for adolescents and starting a DBT Group, one of Glenda’s passions (she will be facilitating.)</p> <p>The F.A.I.R. is doing well with approximately 60 attendees. They will be going on an upcoming field trip to the Detroit Princess. Members are happy to have gone to Frankenmuth, Belle Isle, and some of the Michigan State Parks.</p> <p>No Report</p>
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		<p>Liz Janovits, TTI</p> <p>Lloyd Austin, At-Large</p> <p>Logan Kavalari, My Place Center for Wellness</p> <p>Lois Shulman, At-Large</p> <p>Malkia Newman, OCHN Board / CNS Healthcare Anti-Stigma</p> <p>Matthew Fritzen, Easterseals MORC</p>	<p>No Report (absent)</p> <p>Easterseals MORC transportation is exceptional!</p> <p>No report</p> <p>No Report</p> <p>CNS is still working on the rebranding of its' Anti-Stigma program. It has been a slow go but are changing the name from CNS Healthcare Anti-Stigma to the Empowerment Team. Malkia gave kudos to Christine Burk and Suzanne Weinert. They presented the activities report to the Board and Committee of the Whole Meeting last week, they included a year-to-date summary of activities of the Empowerment Team. This is the first time it has been presented to the Board in the 17 years of its existence.</p> <p>No Report</p>
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		<p>Suzanne Serlin-Resnick, At-Large</p> <p>Tammy Wallace, Our House Clubhouse</p> <p>Verdrina Mathews, Easter Seals</p> <p>Victoria Peterson, At-Large</p> <p>Zach Cardinell, AMORC</p>	<p>Suzanne is working with an officer from the Farmington Hills Police Department who will be the Director for Mental Health. They are looking for ideas and anyone involved in the mental health system. Contact Suzanne for further discussion.</p> <p>No Report</p> <p>No Report, but happy to be meeting in person and interacting with members.</p> <p>Victoria provided a flyer (emailed to members) with information regarding the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) who is hosting a virtual Resource Fair on Tuesday, August 29th from 1:30pm – 3:00pm. Presentations from eight state departments. You may click on the link and listen in to see what is happening with MSHDA.</p> <p>Michigan Inclusion, formerly AMORC, is still being organized on the back end. I am working on a new website, new socials, logo, etc. with the anticipated relaunch in October.</p>
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			<p>Tony Jacobsen is a man with Osteogenesis Imperfecta (OI) and hosts a bunch of different online and in person events for individuals with disabilities who want to focus on both their mental health and physical health. Tony is an author and also hosts writing classes that help get folks focused on telling their disability story. You can find all sorts of fantastic info on his website at https://www.tonyjacobsen.com. Tony, myself and Mark Duiguid of OCHN recently met to discuss the possibility of Tony running some beginner's physical health events out of OCHN's health center (gym). These talks are all very preliminary.</p> <p>An FYI that Easterseals MORC's training department has been training nurses and physicians on Implicit Bias in an effort to help reduce disparities in health care for all people, with an emphasis on individuals with disabilities. It's a fantastic initiative and has received great feedback from nurses and doctors alike.</p> <p>Lastly, Gentle Teaching America is in the early stages of formalizing as a group. There are and will continue to be monthly meetings surrounding the culture of gentleness, resource sharing and creating pathways to identify and mentor folks in keeping the philosophy of gentle teaching alive and strong. Michigan's mentors have a huge presence on the planning and organization</p>
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			<p>side of this endeavor, and I will keep you all posted as things fall more in place around its formalization.</p> <p>I am so happy to have many of your faces to names today and appreciate the engagement level of the group today, both on the in-person side of things as well as the virtual.</p>
V	Public Comment / Announcements		<p>Z. Cardinel hopes in the future the OCHN Board looks to reevaluate the Public Comment Policy and change it back to a 5-minute limit.</p> <p>L. Shulman stated, “The Board needs to review Robert’s Rules of Order. A sergeant-at-arms is a person if someone is out of order to deal with that person and not penalize the policy, based upon a certain group of actors.”</p> <p>M. Fritzen stated that sometimes 3 minutes in not enough time for some people with disabilities and need time to cognitively think about what they want to say. Or people who may use assistive speaking devices.</p> <p>It has been recommended by some CAC Members, that Malkia highlights this discussion and presents it to the OCHN Board members.</p>
VI	Adjournment		The Meeting was adjourned at 11:32am

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VII	Next Meeting - HYBRID		September 20, 2023 @ 9:30 am
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Respectfully submitted,

Valarie Spaven

Valarie Spaven, OCHN – Customer Service

September 8, 2023

Date