

Citizens Advisory Committee Minutes

Meeting Date / Time: October 18, 2023, 9:30-11:30am

Location: OCHN (Troy) – HYBRI /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; **Christine Burk**, Chief of Staff, **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; **Mark Jones**, OCHN; **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; **Cheryl Patel**, At-Large; **Victoria Peterson**, At-Large; **Christina Root**, OCHN Board Member; **Suzanne Serlin-Resnick**, At-Large; **Diane Sansalone**, (Vice-Chairperson) Common Ground, **Lois Shulman**, At-Large; **Valarie Spaven**, OCHN; **Glenda Vidosh**, Oakland Family Services; **Tammy Wallace**, Our House Clubhouse; **Suzanne Weinert**, OCHN Communications & Community Outreach **Chris Wright**, My Place Center for Wellness;

Absent: **Liz Janovits**, TTI; **Dana Lasenby**, Executive Director/CEO, OCHN; **Angela Taylor**, Vision’s Clubhouse

Guests: **Kaylee Salveta** OCHN

Scribe: **Valarie Spaven**, OCHN

Minutes – October 18, 2023

	Agenda Item	Presented By	Discussion
I	<p>Welcome/Introductions/ Roll Call</p> <p>Approval of Agenda and Minutes from September 20, 2023</p>	<p><i>Matthew Fritzen,</i> CAC Chair</p>	<p>M. Fritzen called the meeting to order at 9:32 am Roll call attendance was taken by V. Spaven. A. Jacobs made motion to approve the agenda and minutes from August 2023, as written, seconded by J. Helstowski.</p>
II	<p>Public Comment / Announcements</p>	<p><i>Members & Guests</i></p>	<p>Announcements: Public Comment:</p>

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III	<p>New Business</p> <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ CAC Ground Rules Discussion 	<p><i>Matt Fritzen,</i> <i>Chairperson</i></p>	<p>M. Fritzen talked to the CAC members and suggested they discuss the possibility of setting some ground rules. Ground rules are a short list of expectations to guide how the group works together.</p> <p>Effective ground rules help:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage respectful listening. • Prevent conflict and understanding. • Increase participation and the sharing of ideas and perspectives. • Promote openness to points of view and increase learning. • Build trust and a sense of safety among . <p>Make meetings a safe space for honest conversation and nonjudgmental.</p> <p>Members agreed to announce their name before speaking since the meetings are virtual and people cannot see who they are talking to.</p> <p>Members would like to review and discuss ground rules from other work groups and move discussion to the November CAC meeting.</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Discussion of CAC Nomination & Elections at the November 15, 2023, Meeting ♦ Voting Information 	<p><i>Matt Fritzen, Chairperson and Mark Jones</i></p> <p><i>Kaylee Salveta, Communications & Community Outreach</i></p>	<p>M. Fritzen reminded CAC Members about upcoming nominations for CAC Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson. Members should be thinking about who they would like to nominate and be ready to discuss at the November meeting.</p> <p>K. Salveta presented a handout to CAC members titled “Your Voice Your Vote” and discussed why it is important. You can influence, change, and make a positive difference in your life and the lives of friends, family, and neighbors. Be an advocate for yourself and make your voice heard.</p> <p>Voting topics discussed were –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to register to vote • How to locate your clerk’s office • Absentee Voting • The Rights of Voters with a Disability <p>Michigan Voting Resources –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The State of Michigan Website: www.michigan.gov/vote Find your local clerk and polling location, watch a video about voting equipment, how to register and much more. • Oakland County Clerk: www.oakgov.com/clerkrod • The League of Women Voters of Michigan: www.lwvmi.org
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			<p>V. Matthews stated when she went to vote in the City of Southfield, they did not have the machine for the visually impaired. The poll workers were not helpful (or knowledgeable) and upset at her for requesting assistance filling out the ballot, since the machine was broken. She has reported the situation to the State of Michigan and since then, has been voting absentee.</p> <p>S. Serlin suggested reading up on the persons you are voting for. The people you choose in your community make a difference. Write letters to our Congress, Secretary of State, etc. to specifically share what is going on with Medicaid issues in our state. She also suggested working with other CACs to make mental health a <i>major</i> new topic of discussions being innovated.</p> <p>P. Casper asked if anything was mentioned about early voting. C. Burk stated OCHN shares information about early voting, mail in ballots, absent voter ballot in a supportive manner and will be a part of our overall messaging.</p> <p>L. Austin stated, “Voting accessibility should be a right not a privilege.” Ask if there is a person at the poll who can accompany you in the voting booth.</p>
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	<p>♦ Director's Report</p>	<p><i>Christine Burk,</i> Chief of Staff, OCHN</p>	<p>M. Newman suggested asking for the 'precinct chair', they are supposed to help navigate the polls.</p> <p>Here is a list of information C. Burk presented in Dana's Directors Report. You can click on the link for more detailed information.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MDHHS receives BOLD grant from CDC to build dementia program and implement best practices • OFS Holiday Message • RELEASE: Governor Whitmer Statement on Growing Michigan Workforce (govdelivery.com) • Oakland County Public Transit Is on a Roll a Year After Voters Approved Millage (govdelivery.com) • MDHHS issues RFP for recovery support services • All ways, moving forward with Dave Coulter newsletter (govdelivery.com) • CHN Special Newsletter • Michigan provides monthly update on Medicaid renewals
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	<p>♦ Communications Report</p>	<p><i>Suzanne Weinert,</i> Director of Communications, OCHN</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RELEASE: Governor Whitmer Signs Legislation Protecting Health Care for Millions of Michiganders (govdelivery.com) • RELEASE: Gov. Whitmer Signs Legislation Lowering Costs for Disabled Veterans and their Families, and Other Bills (govdelivery.com) • Oakland County’s Transformational Program Aims to Erase up to \$200 Million in Medical Debt for Burdened Residents (govdelivery.com) • Michigan provides monthly update on Medicaid renewals • MDHHS community information exchange task force releases final report, seeks participants for advisory committee <p>Members also discussed the Direct Support Professional wages and Budget Shortfall.</p>
<p>IV</p>	<p>Old Business – Provider & Committee Reports</p>	<p>Adrienne Gasperoni, Community Housing Network</p>	<p>After 22 years Community Housing Network announces change in Leadership. On October 9, Community Housing Network’s Founding CEO Marc Craig shared his plans to retire, and Kirsten Elliott was appointed as the organization’s new President. This transition, carefully considered by the Community Housing</p>

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		<p>Amelia Jacobs, Community Living Services (CLS)</p> <p>Andrew Field, Dreams Unlimited Clubhouse (DUC)</p>	<p>Network Board, will take place over the next 12 months, ensuring a seamless handover of responsibilities.</p> <p>CLS is still looking for a lead chairperson to run their CAC meetings.</p> <p>Irvin Weatherspoon is no longer Director of Dreams Unlimited Clubhouse. Clubhouse attended a Tigers game and will be visiting Frankenmuth and having a Halloween party. Members had 2 Lunch & Learns with Sherry Rushman where she provided a Gentle Teaching overview and L.E.A.P. DUC had a table at the NAMI Walk to educate people about the Clubhouse Model. DUC is starting to hold Schizophrenia Anonymous Group at the Clubhouse.</p> <p>Finding employment is an important component to members in a clubhouse program. If any CAC Members know of job openings, please share this information with any clubhouse in your area. Andrew just started a TE position with Easterseals MORC and stated it is a great program.</p> <p>For Quality Improvement, DUC will be having its re-accreditation by the faculty of Clubhouse International in February 2024. Eight clubhouse members participated in a focus group needs assessment for</p>
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		<p>Angela Taylor, Visions Clubhouse</p> <p>Cheryl Patel, At- Large</p> <p>Chris Wright, My Place Center for Wellness</p>	<p>Easterseals MORC. Since COVID, clubhouse has had a low number of members and suggested more trainings to let people know about the clubhouse.</p> <p>No Report, absent</p> <p>No Report</p> <p>My Place Center for Wellness has been busy. Michelle Bidigare has stepped down as Executive Director. Logan Kavalari has taken on the role as the new Executive Director and is still in the learning process, but doing a great job.</p> <p>My Place is working on a budget increase, due to a rent increase, as well as repairs to the building.</p> <p>When COVID-19 first started, our numbers were non-existent. Now that it has been a few years, Member numbers are back up. Members love coming to My Place because the majority live in either Group Homes or AFC Homes. It gives them a chance to be themselves without judgement.</p> <p>Chris is a Certified Peer Support Specialist at Hope 365 in Rochester Hills, MI and works 7 days a week as a</p>
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		<p>Christie Kay, ARC of Oakland County</p> <p>Clubhouse Inspiration</p> <p>Diane Sansalone, Common Ground</p> <p>Glenda Vidosh, OFS</p>	<p>Certified Peer. He finds it rewarding to help those in need of Mental Health support.</p> <p>ARC Director, Dawn Calnen has met with OCHN to review a common error with MDHHS stating a person is not eligible for Medicaid. It has affected persons who were on SSI and are now receiving SSDI. C. Kay shared a bulletin with guidance related to some Medicaid redeterminations. ARC has a team of advocates that are available if you require assistance with their Medicaid.</p> <p>No Report, No representation</p> <p>The Common Ground ‘<i>Victims Assistance for Hope, Fundraiser</i>’ is Saturday, October 21st at Meadowbrook. Their CAC recently had a speaker talk about Victims Assistance and Trafficking Program this month. Diane asked the speaker if she would be willing to present at a future OCHN CAC Meeting and agreed. Common Ground has CARF coming up.</p> <p>OFS in the middle of preparing their Adopt-A-Family for the Holidays event. OFS is hiring for various positions. www.oaklandfamilyservices.org for more information.</p>
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		<p>James Helstowski, F.A.I.R., Drop-In</p> <p>Liz Janovits, TTI</p> <p>Lloyd Austin, At-Large</p> <p>Lois Shulman, At-Large</p> <p>Malkia Newman, CNS Healthcare Anti-Stigma</p>	<p>Losing members at the F.A.I.R. and don't know why. Members are looking forward to taking a field trip in the thumb area of the State.</p> <p>No Report, Absent</p> <p>Lloyd recently incorporated an Independent Facilitator He was able to utilize Respite 365 and was a fantastic opportunity.</p> <p>Some members were not able to meet in person and had difficulty connecting by phone but got through glitches. Lois stated this was a wonderful meeting and thanked everyone for being open and able to request certain items to be presented. She is happy the way Matt, Diane and staff are running the meeting. Lois thanked Valarie for the amazing work she has provided over the years.</p> <p>The Board Meeting meeting was called to order by Board Chair, Jonathan Landsman.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 1st order of business was the pledge of allegiance. ○ Roll call was taken. ○ 1st opportunity for public comment was given.
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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Those that spoke were concerned about the \$1 increase that was being discontinued and also the rates that some of the providers were being paid did not cover costs of doing business. ○ CAC Matt F. read the resolution drafted by the CAC encouraging restoration of the 5-minute time limit per person of public comments. ○ Our new Chief Financial Officer, Cheryl Johnson, was introduced to the board by Dana. ○ The story that inspires hope was given by Ben Rapelje, a person served by Community Living Services – Oakland. He shared his journey from school to employment. And what he enjoyed doing for fun. ○ A special financial report was given by Richard Carpenter of the Rehmann Group. He spoke about the history of Direct Support Workers/Professionals salaries. He also spoke about the present situation with the state and the process of
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			<p>redeterminations and what an impact it will have on our budget. He spoke from a state perspective and not just Oakland Co. There’s not enough information available at this time to determine how much of a cut in revenue we may have to take. He also noted that our Internal Service Fund for Medicaid is at a zero balance at this time.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Chief Executive Officer’s new 5-year contract was approved by the board. ○ Next the annual board elections were held. <p>New officers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chair Dennis Cowan ○ Vice Chair Malkia Newman ○ Treasurer Jonathan Landsman ○ Secretary Adam Furhman <p>Board Liaisons</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ RRAC Dr. Bijaha Hans ○ CAC Christina Root – new ○ OPB Sarah May <p>Board approvals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 2024 Board Calendar ○ RRAC Recommendation approved
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		<p>Matthew Fritzen, Easterseals MORC</p> <p>Nancy Diane Carter, CEEC</p> <p>Pam Casper, CNS Healthcare</p> <p>Paulette Howell, New Horizons</p>	<p>2nd opportunity for public comment, Zach Cardinell spoke about Diane Sansalone’s recognition as Direct Care Worker for August.</p> <p>Easterseals MORC just had their CAC Meeting in October. There is not much going on right now. They are getting ready for year-end.</p> <p>No Report</p> <p>CNS Healthcare is expanding the number of Peer Support Specialists. The goal is for each team to have at least 2 Peers per Team. Peers seeking employment do not have to be certified but must complete their certification within 6 months of hire.</p> <p>New Horizons is still seeking employees. This may be a good fit for clubhouse members seeking employment. If you have an interest in a job opening at New Horizons, there are three ways you can apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mail your resume, application, and/or letter of interest to: <i>Human Resources Department New</i>
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		<p>Steve Ludwig, JARC</p> <p>Suzanne Serlin-Resnick, At-Large</p> <p>Tammy Wallace, Our House Clubhouse</p> <p>Verdrina Mathews, Easterseals MORC</p>	<p><i>Horizons Rehabilitation Services 1814 Pond Run Auburn Hills, MI 48326</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Fax your resume, application, and/or letter of interest to: (248) 724-0226 ○ E-mail your resume, application, and/or letter of interest as an attachment in (Microsoft Word and/or PDF format) to: jkaszubski@newhorizonsrehab.org <p>Working on 3-year contract.</p> <p>S. Resnick stated this was a wonderful meeting and she also enjoyed the recent Workgroup Luncheon that was hosted by OCHN.</p> <p>The Business Unit Manager recently resigned. The 2nd Business Manager is on vacation.</p> <p>CAC participated in a feedback meeting regarding services, with the State of Michigan for most of the meeting.</p>
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		<p>Victoria Peterson, At-Large</p>	<p>Victoria shared the following information: The Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Program administered by the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) may be able to assist.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The HCV program is a federally funded rental assistance program that assists low-income residents with paying their rent. ○ MSHDA’s HCV Program waiting lists for the counties listed below will be open at 11 a.m. 10/17/2023 and closed at 11 a.m. EST 10/31/2023. ○ Applications are available online only; no paper applications will be available or accepted. NOTE: You may only apply to one county from the open waiting lists for the following counties: Alger, Antrim, Arenac, Baraga, Benzie, Branch, Cass, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Chippewa, Delta, Dickinson, Gogebic, Gratiot, Hillsdale, Houghton, Ionia, Iron, Kalkaska, Keweenaw, Lake, Leelanau, Luce, Mackinac, Marquette, Mason, Mecosta, Menominee, Missaukee, Montcalm, Newaygo, Oceana, Ogemaw, Ontonagon, Osceola, Presque Isle, Schoolcraft County. ○ When the waiting list is open, you must submit your application online at: https://mshda.myhousing.com/. Applications received through the website will be entered on
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			<p>the waiting list in the order received (date and time). Preference will be given to county residents (those living or working in the county of application). Additional preferences will be given to Michigan residents (those living or working in Michigan) and to a head of household, co-head, or spouse with a disability. Placement on the waiting list does not indicate you are eligible for rental assistance. A final determination of eligibility will be made when you are selected from the waiting list, including verifying household income and any preferences selected when applying to the list. If you selected a preference as part of your application and it cannot be verified once you are pulled from the waiting list, your application will be denied, and you will be required to reapply to the waiting list when it is open. Acceptable proof of preferences can be found on MSHDA's HCV waiting list webpage at: https://www.michigan.gov/mshda/rental/housing-choicevoucher/mshda-housing-choice-voucher-hcv-waiting-list-information. If you or a household member is disabled and requires a reasonable accommodation to apply for the MSHDA Housing Choice Voucher Waiting List, please call (517) 241-8986 for assistance with your application.</p>
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		Zach Cardinell, AMORC	No report
V	Public Comment / Announcements		Linda announced the CAC has a new applicant the members will be voting on in November. The application has been mailed to all members. L. Austin mention persons with dual disabilities and would like more presentation about this topic at an upcoming CAC meeting.
VI	Adjournment		The Meeting was adjourned at 11:35 am
VII	Next Meeting		November 15, 2023 @ 9:30 am

Respectfully submitted,

Valarie Spaven

Valarie Spaven, OCHN – Customer Service

November 2, 2023

Date