

# Citizens Advisory Committee Minutes

Meeting Date / Time: January 15, 2025 9:30-11:30am

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

Facilitator: Diane Sansalone, Chairperson

Liaison: Linda Bartaloni-Till, OCHN Customer Services Manager

Scribe: Jessica Space, OCHN Customer Service Support Specialist

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

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Present: **Dana Lasenby**; OCHN; **Adrienne Gasperoni**, Community Housing Network; **Chakusola Guinn**, Easterseals; **Christie Kay**, ARC Oakland County; **Christina Root**, OCHN Board; **Diane Sansalone**, Common Ground; **Glenda Vidosh**, Oakland Family Services; **James Helstowski**, FAIR Drop-In Center; **Lloyd Austin**, Member At-Large; **Lois Shulman**, Member At-Large; **Matthew Fritzen**, Easterseals MORC; **Nancy Diane Carter**, OCHN CEEC; **Pam Casper**, CNS Healthcare; **Paulette Howell**, New Horizons; **Renee Bacci**, Clubhouse Inspirations; **Steve Ludwig**, JARC; **Suzanne Serlin-Resnick**, Member At-Large; **Verdrina Mathews**, Member At-Large; **Victoria Peterson**, Member At-Large; **Zach Cardinell**, Member At-Large  
Absent: **Amelia Jacobs**, CLS-OC; **Angela Taylor**, Visions Clubhouse; **Cheryl Patel**, OCHN CAC Member At-Large; **Chris Wright**, My Place Center for Wellness; **Malkia Newman**, CNS Empowerment Team; **Tammy Wallace**, Our Clubhouse

Guests:



	Agenda Item	Presented By	Discussion
I	<b>Welcome to Members, Guests</b>  <b>Approval of Agenda and Minutes</b>	<i>Diane Sansalone, CAC Chair</i>	The meeting was called to order at 9:35 am. Roll call attendance was taken by J. Space. S. Serlin Resnick motioned to approve January 2025’s agenda and M. Fritzen seconded the agenda. M. Fritzen motioned to approve the minutes from December 2024 and was seconded by C. Guinn.
II	<b>Public Comment /</b> <b>Announcements</b>	Members & Guests	

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III	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Introduction and OCHN Budget Presentation</b></li> </ul>	<p><i>Robert Blumenfeld, OCHN Chief Financial Officer</i></p>	<p>Robert Bloomfield introduced himself and spoke about the OCHN Budget. He explained that the majority of our funding comes from Medicaid, and we have been analyzing our funding streams and changes in our funding, and we need support in advocating for resources. Publicly funded institutions are under tremendous amounts of pressure because our funding comes from tax revenue and for many years there has been a downward pressure on tax, or a negative view of tax and the needs have grown. The convergence of those declining resources and the increasing need has continued to put a significant amount of pressure on all organizations like OCHN. Our annual budget is just shy of four hundred and ninety million dollars and the vast majority of those dollars are passed through to providers specifically for the purpose of providing service. Our overall administrative percentage is roughly six percent, which is very lean. We are trying to balance needs with resources and communicate with providers and listen to their requests for additional funding, while at the same time aggressively and consistently advocating with MDHHS and the County to ensure that as resources are available that they make sure that we are an important part of that conversation going forward. L. Austin states that 6 percent is very lean and advised that he appreciates it as it provides more funding to those served. He asked if there is an emergency plan in place in case funding is cut. Robert stated that OCHN has a team in which he is confident can deal with any challenges we come up against. He advised that he is hesitant to say we are prepared for everything and that it depends on the magnitude of the storm. Robert stated that he can say confidently that we are prepared to the extent that any organization can be, and we have done anything we can to gather knowledge and understanding and have been leveraging the talent that we have</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management Presentation</b></li> </ul>	<p><i>Dr. Vasilis Pozios, OCHN Chief Medical Officer</i></p>	<p>throughout the organization, to make sure we are prepared and have contingency plans in place. D. Sansalone asked about the money that Lansing was holding, she thought it had to be released by the 31<sup>st</sup> of December and has it been released and how will it be disbursed. Robert stated that we are still fighting that battle and that it has not been released to us.</p> <p>Dr. Pozios spoke about our new OCHN Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management program and highlighted some of the foundations of the program with respect to theories around the pathway to violence and its prevention. It is important to understand that when we are talking about targeted violence, attacks are rarely impulsive. The attacks are usually thought about and planned over a few days or years and warning signs are usually evident. It is a misconception by the public that people with mental illness are inherently violent and it is important to continue educating the general public about this. The pathway to violence focuses on behaviors, not mental health symptoms of an individual. The pathway to violence order is a discernable process outlined by the research of Fredrick Calhoun and Steve Weston. The steps are grievance, violent ideation, research planning, preparation, probing and breaching, then attack. Some individuals may move through stages multiple times without ever implementing an attack. Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management (BTAM) is a fact-based, systematic process designed to identify, assess, and manage potentially dangerous or violent situations. The primary goal of BTAM is to determine the difference between making a threat and posing a threat to a community. Research and best practice guidelines indicate that a collaborative,</p>
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			<p>multidisciplinary approach to BTAM can identify effective interventions and support, build a management plan that mitigates a potential threat and supports community safety, while also helping individuals towards a more positive pathway. Progress made to date includes Oakland County Prosecutor’s Gun Violence Commission, expanded collaboration with law enforcement; connection to JTTF through Task Force Officer from Oakland County; WOMBAT, staff training and consultation with Reid Meloy, Dewey Cornell and Dave Okada, OCHN Co-responders, School Mental Health Navigators, training collaboration with Intermediate School District. Last year, OCHN received nearly \$650,000 from Homeland Security in a competitive grant process. The grant period is from 10/01/2024 to 9/30/2026. OCHN, OCSO, and OCEM and Home will expand threat assessment activities through our communities through a threat assessment team comprised of mental health, law enforcement and community partners. This BTAM team will build a continuum of behavioral threat assessment and management that facilitates collaboration and communication between partners while providing access to behavioral health services for individuals that are on the pathway to violence. The funding will support three full-time staff, community awareness activities and educational training. M. Fritzen asked if this program was going on before the Oxford shooting and if so, why was it not caught. Dr. Pozios stated that this program was not in effect prior to the Oxford tragedy but that the Oxford tragedy kicked this program into high gear.</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Communications Report</b></li> </ul>	<p><i>Kaylee Salveta, OCHN Community Outreach Specialist / Christine Burk, Chief of Staff</i></p>	<p>Kaylee advised that we had our Veterans drive through event in December in partnership with Forgotten Harvest and the Alliance of Coalitions for Healthy Communities. We saw around 250 households and they received some behavioral health resources as well as some food supplies that were supplied by Forgotten Harvest as well as Naloxone distribution and training which the Alliance provided. We have a transportation forum coming up on January 29<sup>th</sup> from 6 pm – 7 pm to discuss some outcomes from the transition, some success stories and what still needs to be improved. On February 10<sup>th</sup> we have a Legislation Breakfast at the Troy location. We have another Community Workshop that is Substance Use topic focused that will occur on February 13<sup>th</sup>. The Men’s Veterans Peer Support group will meet on February 18<sup>th</sup>. The Abilities Awareness event will be on March 3<sup>rd</sup> from 1 pm to 3 pm.</p> <p>Christine stated that she hopes to have more information on advocacy with Legislature next month. We are in the process of sifting through the updates as we are getting them from Lansing. The primary focus, which is standard for us for between January and May, we will be setting up one on one meetings for Dana with our Legislators to have more personal conversations about our community and the persons we serve. The legislative Breakfast will be an opportunity to start to build new relationships with new Legislators and build upon existing relationships. We will be having conversations about the budget for FY26 and the priorities for OCHN and will be asking the Legislators to keep our service system in mind when they are building the FY26 Budget.</p>
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IV	Old Business – Provider & Committee Reports	<p><b>Christina Root</b>, OCHN Board</p> <p><b>Adrienne Gasperoni</b>, Community Housing Network</p> <p><b>Amelia Jacobs</b>, Community Living Services</p> <p><b>Angela Taylor</b>, Visions Clubhouse</p>	<p>Christina advised that the COW meeting had some absentees and no public comments so it ended up being a short meeting and the Board meeting will be next week. The COW meeting included a financial update from the OCHN CFO, they also received a review of the Needs Assessment Survey timeline for 2025 and they had a Annual Rights Report presentation for 2024.</p> <p>Community Housing Network has a path street outreach program that is called Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness. It is a street outreach team that works in collaboration with community partners to locate the most vulnerable people in their community that are on the street and do have mental illness. The staff practice assertive engagement and provide housing case management services and assist in linking people with services while still employing housing first practices. Program participants are provided with assistance in applying for social security as applicable.</p> <p>No Report - absent</p> <p>No Report - absent</p>
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	<b>Christie Kay</b> , ARC of Oakland County	No Report
	<b>Diane Sansalone, (Chairperson)</b> Common Ground	No Report
	<b>Glenda Vidosh</b> , OFS	OFS hired a Youth Care Support Specialist and are excited about the experience she brings to them. Yesterday there was an internal CPR training session that some staff attended.
	<b>James Helstowski</b> , F.A.I.R., Drop-In	No Report
	<b>Lloyd Austin</b> , Member At-Large	No Report
	<b>Lois Shulman</b> , Member At-Large	No Report
	<b>Malkia Newman</b> , CNS Anti-Stigma	No Report - absent
	<b>Matthew Fritzen</b> , Easterseals MORC	No Report
	<b>Nancy Diane Carter</b> , CEEC	No Report - the next CEEC Meeting is March 5th

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		<b>Pam Casper</b> , CNS Healthcare	No Report
		<b>Paulette Howell</b> , New Horizons	New Horizons celebrated their 60 <sup>th</sup> anniversary this past fall in providing vocational services for persons with disabilities.
		<b>Renee Bacci</b> , Clubhouse Inspirations	No Report
		<b>Suzanne Serlin-Resnick</b> , Member At-Large	No Report
		<b>Tammy Wallace</b> , Our House Clubhouse	No Report - absent
		<b>Verdrina Mathews</b> , Member At-Large	No Report
		<b>Victoria Peterson</b> , Member At Large	No Report
		<b>Zach Cardinell</b> , Member At-Large	Zack expressed thankfulness about working with Easterseals MORC on the development and facilitation of their Working with People Trainer to Trainer program that will be rolling out in March. They have some soft dates selected throughout this next year for this pathway and it is something to keep on your Radar. You can email Zach for more information. Working with

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			People is another term for Gentle Training. They are updating some of the video and trying to make it more universal about how they are talking about it and not just cornering it into an IDD framing. He will also be doing interviews with people to get some positive support experiences in their life and if you have any interest, please reach out to Zach.
V	Public Comment / Announcements		
VI	Adjournment		The Meeting was adjourned at 11:17 am
VII	Next Meeting		February 19, 2025

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Space

Jessica Space, OCHN – Customer Service Support Specialist

February 10, 2025