

# Citizens Advisory Committee Minutes

Meeting Date / Time: June 18, 2025 9:30-11:30am

Location: Teams Virtual /Call-In

Facilitator: Diane Sansalone, Chairperson

Liaison: Linda Bartaloni-Till, OCHN Customer Services Manager

Scribe: Linda Bartaloni-Till, OCHN Customer Services Manager

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



**Present:** **Adrienne Gasperoni**, Community Housing Network; **Cheryl Patel**, OCHN CAC Member At-Large; **Chakusola Guinn**, Easterseals; **Christina Root**, OCHN Board; **Diane Sansalone**, Common Ground; **Glenda Vidosh**, Oakland Family Services; **Lloyd Austin**, Member At-Large; **Nancy Diane Carter**, OCHN CEEC; **Pam Casper**, CNS Healthcare; **Suzanne Serlin-Resnick**, Member At-Large; **Tammy Wallace**, Our House Clubhouse; **Verdrina Mathews**, Member At-Large; **Zach Cardinell**, Member At-Large; **Steve Ludwig**, JARC; **Matthew Fritzen**, Easter seals MORC; **Renee Bacci**, TTI; **Christie Kay**, ARC Oakland County; **James Helstowski**, FAIR Drop-In Center;

**Absent:** **Amelia Jacobs**, CLS-OC; **Chris Wright**, My Place Center for Wellness; **Lois Shulman**, Member At-Large; **Malkia Newman**, CNS Empowerment Team; **Paulette Howell**, New Horizons; **Victoria Peterson**, Member At-Large.

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 09:30 am. Roll call attendance was taken by L. Bartaloni-Till. S. Serlin-Resnick motioned to approve June 2025’s agenda and M. Fritzen seconded the agenda. L. Austin motioned to approve the minutes from June 2025 and was seconded by S. Ludwig.
II	<b>Public Comment /</b> <b>Announcements</b>	Members & Guests	Megan Johns- guest  D. Sansalone addressed anyone has any public announcements. L. Austin addressed AI becoming very prominent and concerns of government operations. He is also disturbed by the government and concerned about the mental health system changes.

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			<p>C. Guinn, please keep in mind there was a press conference with the U.S. Senate about what they want to do with the budget. Please try to contact the National Representatives, also State level regarding food assistant, Medicaid, Housing cuts. Not enough people talking about the effects of that. They are considering consolidating all the Housing programs and turning them into grants. They expect the States to manage that in a short period of time. This affects a lot of people. Concerning Public and Section 8 Housing, subsidized housing. They are discussing cutting those programs totally. I do not have faith in Washington to have a conscious to know that they are going to hurt lots of people. What is the game plan to prevent a great amount of homelessness.</p> <p>S. Resnick, is expounding on the housing issue. I am part of the Brain Injury Association, and we are writing a letter to the Democratic and the Republican representatives, the Select Senators and to President Trump to address the issues concerning the cuts for Mental Health, Medicaid and Grants. I will be writing my own letter, and I advise that everyone send a letter regarding these issues. I will provide a copy of the letter to D. Sansalone once I receive it. They need to know how this will affect the people.</p>
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III	<p><b>New Business</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <b>Oakland County Adaptive Recreation Program Overview</b> </li> </ul>	<p><i>Sandy Dorey, Oakland County Parks Recreation Supervisor</i></p>	<p>Sandy presented many updates for recreation events. Staffing was increased to one full time staff and three part time staff and the programs increased from one hundred to two hundred programs in a year. Most of the parks have no entrance fees. All the parks end with the Oaks now and the Michigan license plates now reflect each of the State parks and provide the vehicle pass. Oakland County now provides inclusive programming and training for the internal and external staff to assist. There are new quiet zones for those who want to escape from the noise. Focus groups were created for those with disabilities to assist. There is accessible equipment for those who will need it. A train was added at Groveland Oaks Park which was a great addition. Pool chairs at the water sites, and lots of equipment for the physically challenged. New for 2026 they will be purchasing more trail chairs and hand cycles. Oakland County continues to service these needs and work with community partners.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <b>OCHN Needs Assessment Outcomes</b> </li> </ul>	<p><i>Frances Carly, OCHN Director of Strategic Initiatives</i></p>	<p>Frances spoke about the OCHN vision to Inspire hope, empower people and strengthen communities. She has been working on strategic planning and annual grant reports for assessments that are important for determining what is needed for current and desired outcomes from people in the community and any gaps. OCHN developed and sent out the survey for 2025 in January to receive as much feedback as possible from the community. OCHN revises the survey every year and there is a short and long version available in Spanish and Arabic. Also, other languages are available as requested. Assessment outreach efforts are electronic, Newsletters, Press, and social media. OCHN also offers in-person efforts available such as</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Communications Report</b></li> </ul>	<p><i>Suzanne Weinert, Director, Communications &amp; Community Outreach</i></p>	<p>presentations to workgroups and surveys on-site in the lobby. Survey participation was 823 in total. Most responses were from those receiving services. Most areas of satisfaction service were for Veteran’s, integrated care, crisis care, substance use treatments, transportation to appointments and mental health treatment. Service priorities are mental health treatment, crisis intervention, children and families, integrated healthcare, support for caregivers, and SUD treatment. The focus questions were whether there was a change in services and whether the participants were happy or not happy. Individuals are most concerned with access to medical care/medications, transportation, housing, and food.</p> <p>Suzanne spoke on events and outreach that was recently held this month. We will have the information downloaded and sent out to Linda and Mark to provide as well just to make sure you receive the information. As shared, OCHN held a community Baby Shower at the Wealth of Missionary Baptist Church in Pontiac on June 3<sup>rd</sup> which was a great success. Lots of helpful resources for lots of families and the pregnant women. Lots of educational material and resources for families in the Pontiac community. OCHN also had an event here at the building in the Michigan Room titled Call to Solidarity. This was an important resource gathering for Community partners to inform each other and organize what they each do to gain knowledge. We had around 130 individuals attending this event. There is also another event scheduled for July 10<sup>th</sup> to be held here at this location in Troy from 10:30am until 1:00pm titled Hope is my Superpower. Addressing Mental health awareness across cultures/generations.</p>
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			<p>There are some great speakers lined up; also, small businesses will be attending. We will also provide entertainment for this event. We are really excited about this event. So please make sure you get registered for this event. Also nominations were accepted for peer/achievement awards presentation. The due date for these nominations was due Friday, June 20<sup>th</sup>. P. Casper asks if there could be a link provided due to some people served finding it difficult to utilize the QR code to access. K. Salveta just shared the link to our website. If you have any questions, please contact S. Weinert or K. Salveta.</p>
IV	<p>Old Business – Provider &amp; Committee Reports</p>	<p><b>Christina Root</b>, OCHN Board</p>	<p>Just two things that I wanted to share today. One of the things was previously shared by F. Carley. We discussed our resolution that we wrote last night. We, the board, took a vote and approved of this resolution. We also addressed an announcement from the MDHHS regarding some possible changes to the Mental Health System in the State. Hopefully none of these changes will go through since we do not support these changes that were announced. We anticipate very soon that an OCHN staff representative will speak to us to give more information. OCHN is also in contact with the Detroit, Wayne and Macomb Counties to advocate against the changes and be on the same page in this matter. We also had the Stories That Inspire Hope</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Director's Report</b></li> </ul>	<p>Dana Lasenby, Executive Director/CEO, OCHN</p>	<p>presentation. There were a couple of gentlemen from the Waterford Police Department as well as an individual with a disability who shared what he does there. Included in what he shared was a quote that I was inspired by. He said to Focus on the Fun and only be serious sometimes. I believe that it can benefit us all!</p> <p>I want to acknowledge three major things this month. This is Pride month. Celebrating the LGBTQ+ community, people living their authentic selves. Recognizing and supporting Mental Health Month, focusing on Men's health and reducing the stigma attached to them. Encouraging them to be intentional in setting up check-ups and being conscious of their mental well-being and talking about their feelings and raising awareness. That is very important. Also, we are celebrating Juneteenth on Thursday, June 19<sup>th</sup> acknowledging the end of slavery for African Americans in the United States. This is a powerful reminder of this celebration and education of the history of freedom for African American descent. Oakland County also has a very active celebration for Juneteenth, and if you are interested, I can share a link included in my report. We talked about advocacy and education for the PIHP/CMHSP. The PIHP is a Managed Care Arm, and the CMHSP is a Service Delivery arm. Protect MI Care is a Statewide coalition of health</p>
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		<p><b>Adrienne Gasperoni,</b> Community Housing Network</p>	<p>providers with about 200 organizations. The focus is advocacy efforts for Medicaid cuts and the devastating impact it will have on the community. I sat with a panel of individuals that included County Executive Dave Coulter and his Deputy Madiha Tariq, Deputy County Executive and some other Head Officers. You may go online to get further information regarding this panel session. We just received a grant for One Million Dollars which will be used to enhance the Assessment Center in the Troy Building as well as the Resource and Crisis Center in Pontiac, working to make improvements in those areas. We also collaborate with Law Enforcement and the Public School System on behalf of Mental Health issues. We continue to work internally to do the best that we can to assist in making sure this system is helpful to support the community. M. Fritzen asks about the rebid for the PIHP programs where they combine the different areas and are we at risk of then combining us with someone else</p> <p>I want to share about a service through the OCHN/Community Housing Network which I represent. We have a program called O Link where the case manager/partners in the community provide a direct service to the public. It is a collaboration between CHN and OCHN where they also have information for Vacancies for</p>
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		<p><b>Amelia Jacobs</b>, Community Living Services</p> <p><b>Chakusola Guinn, (Vice Chairperson)</b> Easterseals</p> <p><b>Cheryl Patel</b>, Member At-Large</p> <p><b>Chris Wright</b>, My Place Center for Wellness</p>	<p>Specialized Residential Group Home. If a family member needs to be placed in a group home, we will assist with this service. Through the O Link program, we have a roommate matching service. Your case manager/therapist can help to get this service set up by providing a direct contact link. You can also utilize the Friendship link. M Fritzen concerns rebid and combining the programs together and what that will look like for the people. L. Austin, can we restart the fire for the stigma. S. Resnick to provide the information shared by D. Lasenby.</p> <p>No Report (absent)</p> <p>Easter Seals MORC met on Wednesday, June 11<sup>th</sup> for Human Resources to discuss retention rates, employee engagement and integrating employee culture within Easter Seals MORC. They are also looking to hire within 45 days due to a shortage of staff. There are several goals to accomplish, and we are encouraged that they will be successful.</p> <p>No Report</p> <p>No Report (absent)</p>
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		<p><b>Christie Kay</b>, ARC of Oakland County</p> <p><b>Diane Sansalone, (Chairperson)</b> Common Ground</p> <p><b>Glenda Vidosh</b>, OFS</p> <p><b>James Helstowski</b>, F.A.I.R., Drop-In</p> <p><b>Lloyd Austin</b>, Member At-Large</p>	<p>Arc of Oakland has been focused a lot on Medicaid advocacy and proper funding relating to the new budget getting passed. If you would be open to taking a short video for why Medicaid matters to you. I will share my email to forward those personal stories to get those to the people in charge. We want to try to ensure proper funding the Medicaid funding.</p> <p>No Report</p> <p>The fun thing we are doing is a step challenge. There are about 60 people participating. We encourage each other when we have not made a goal. We also had breakfast and the internal goal for this event was accomplished. The Walled Lake office will be moving to Fourteen Mile and Farmington. We will have to close our Children’s Learning Center but hope in the future we can reopen.</p> <p>No Report</p> <p>Experience with Smart Flex Riding. I had an appointment for my mom, and I needed to call at a certain time. I made an appointment for pickup, and no one showed up.</p>
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	<p><b>Lois Shulman</b>, Member At-Large</p> <p><b>Malkia Newman</b>, OCHN Board / CNS Anti-Stigma</p> <p><b>Matthew Fritzen</b>, Easterseals MORC</p> <p><b>Nancy Diane Carter</b>, CEEC</p> <p><b>Pam Casper</b>, CNS Healthcare</p> <p><b>Paulette Howell</b>, New Horizons</p> <p><b>Renee Bacci</b>, TTI</p> <p><b>Suzanne Serlin-Resnick</b>, Member At-Large</p>	<p>No Report</p> <p>No Report (absent)</p> <p>No Report</p> <p>Presentation for Person Center Planning Training process for Case Managers, which was very detailed, and they highlighted recent improvements and how they to things.</p> <p>The CNS Healthcare Director of Training and Education gave a detailed presentation about person centered planning and the training process for case managers regarding Person-Centered Planning and the Individual Plan of Service. She highlighted recent improvements in training methods and resources.</p> <p>No Report (absent)</p> <p>No Report</p> <p>No Report (Great Meeting)</p>
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		<p><b>Tammy Wallace</b>, Our House Clubhouse</p> <p><b>Verdrina Mathews</b>, Member At-Large</p> <p><b>Victoria Peterson</b>, Member At Large</p> <p><b>Zach Cardinell</b>, Member At-Large</p>	<p>New people assigned. Thaddeus Jameson, Director, Debbie in Visions and Yani in Business unit.</p> <p>No Report</p> <p>No Report (absent)</p> <p>No Report</p>
V	Public Comment / Announcements		
VI	Adjournment		The Meeting was adjourned at 11:34
VII	Next Meeting		July 16, 2025

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Bartaloni-Till

Linda Bartaloni-Till, OCHN Customer Services Manager Date