

Director's Report – April 2024



Dana Lasenby
OCHN Executive Director & CEO

OCHN MISSION:
Inspire Hope • Empower People •
Strengthen Communities

OCHN VISION:

OCHN will be a champion for the empowerment of persons seeking quality integration of physical and mental health supports and services. This includes youth and adults with developmental or intellectual disabilities, mental health concerns, and substance use disorders. We listen and respond to our community's needs, providing support and opportunities for people to lead independent and self-directed lives.

OCHN Access: 248-464-6363
Crisis Line: 988

www.oaklandchn.org

This month, Oakland Community Health Network (OCHN) joined worldwide efforts to raise awareness and increase acceptance for individuals living with autism. OCHN acknowledged World Autism Acceptance Day, which is celebrated annually by participating in the “Light It Up Blue” campaign on Tuesday, April 2, 2024. OCHN staff celebrated this worthy observance in their best blue.

ACCESS

OCHN remains focused on ensuring that people needing public behavioral health services can connect with OCHN's Access Team. Last month, OCHN's Access Team conducted 3,628 screenings and 730 referrals for people. OCHN continues to prioritize linking people to support and services when and where needed, including determining network service eligibility, and identifying follow-up resources.

COLLABORATION

I had the privilege of joining our amazing community partners, the Oakland County Sheriff's Office (OCSO) and The Alliance, in celebrating the installation of the 100th Save-a-Life Narcan station in the county. OCHN launched the Law Enforcement Responds with Narcan (LERN) Program nearly 10 years ago, with the OCSO. The Alliance became the first service provider contracted by OCHN to advance the distribution of Narcan.

OCHN's Substance Use Disorders Director, Megan Phillips, participated in a town Hall meeting hosted by Oakland County Sheriff, Michael Bouchard, on Tuesday, April 16, 2024. The event featured numerous community experts to discuss the Fentanyl Crisis.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

OCHN is pleased to once again host the 2nd Annual Autism Provider Showcase to inform community members about the Autism Service Provider Network. The event is being held on Thursday, April 25, 2024, from 4 – 5:30 p.m.

OCHN Veterans Navigator, Chaka McDonald, recently participated in a podcast about the organizations Veterans Program. The podcast highlighted information about how to access services, the history of Walking with Warriors through the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS). OCHN is thrilled to announce plans for an upcoming veteran's event on Saturday, May 11, 2024, at the United Wholesale Mortgage Sports Complex in Pontiac.

OCHN Co-Responder Clinician, Hillary Nusbaum, took part in the Bloomfield Township Community Policing podcast to bring awareness to autism resources. The podcast focused on a recent positive experience with Bloomfield Township Police Department when collaborating with an individual with autism.

CRISIS SERVICES

OCHN's crisis services through its contracted provider network include supporting those with Medicaid, Medicare, Healthy Michigan Plan, private insurance, or underinsured insurance. Crisis services include:

- Crisis Intervention
- Crisis Stabilization
- Crisis Residential services
- Authorizing psychiatric hospitalization, and
- Local management of the Common Ground, vendor for the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline.

Using grant funds, OCHN supported substance use disorder (SUD) services to 35 underinsured individuals who would not otherwise receive treatment. In February, the Sober Support Unit (SSU) served 87 individuals and 598 people this fiscal year.

INTEGRATED HEALTHCARE

OCHN manages Behavioral Health Homes (BHH) in Oakland County. Health Homes prioritize a "whole person" philosophy, paving the way for integrating physical and behavioral health services. The BHHs provide comprehensive care management and service coordination to individuals with serious mental illness. OCHN enrolled 17 new people in BHHs last month, with 908 enrollees for the program.

SYSTEMS OF CARE

I recently attended the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE) Congress on Healthcare Leadership Conference. This is a premier event for healthcare leaders that brings together experts and thought leaders from across the healthcare continuum. It was an exceptional opportunity to hear about unique perspectives and alternative solutions to positively impact health in our communities.

VALUE-BASED CARE & OUTCOMES

In line with our commitment to improve and ensure quality care, services, and support, our current leadership-led projects are:

1. Finance & Budget: Business Central software implementation, Fund Source Management, and rate standardization planning is ongoing.

2. Information Technology & Data Analytics: Aligning Oakland Data Information Network (ODIN) with Power-BI for encounters/claims systems will improve data analytics and reporting and enhance the cost-settling project.
3. Legal and contracts implementation of Cobblestone Contract management system implementation is complete.
4. Operations: Integrated Urgent Behavioral Health Clinic services project with Honor Community Health, St. Joseph Mercy Oakland, and Oakland County Health Division. A soft launch is scheduled for May 2024.
5. Strategic Initiatives: Rate standardization, planning and development of transportation service line, and completing grants for Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC).

RECOGNITIONS

The Center for Behavioral Health and Justice recently recognized OCHN for achieving fidelity for its In Jail Medication Assisted Treatment Model. The award presentation was hosted by the Oakland County Sheriff's Office (OCSO) at a recent press conference on Thursday, April 4, 2024. OCHN is grateful for this valuable partnership with the OCSO.

Christine Burk, OCHN's Chief of Staff, received an exemplary honor at the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Michigan Honors night on Saturday, April 13, 2024. She was recognized as the 2024 NAMI Michigan Administrator of the Year.

CALL TO ACTION - If you or someone you know needs support now:

- [National Suicide Prevention Lifeline](#) – [Call 988](#), [Text 988](#), or [Chat with Lifeline](#)
- [Crisis Textline](#) – Text TALK to 741741
- OCHN Access – (248) 464-6363