

Director's Report – April 2025



Dana Lasenby
OCHN Executive Director & CEO

OCHN MISSION:
Inspire Hope • Empower
People • 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

In recognition of April being World Autism Acceptance Month, please join OCHN in lifting up this year's theme: "Celebrate Differences." This is an excellent reminder that each of us is unique, and to always treat one another with respect, dignity and kindness.

I am especially proud of my fellow OCHN team members who continue to be champions for change on behalf of people living with an Autism diagnosis, during the month of April and beyond.

ACCESS & CRISIS SERVICES

OCHN remains committed to connecting individuals with essential behavioral health services. Our Access Team plays a vital role in making timely service eligibility determinations and linking individuals to critical community resources. Through a robust network of contracted providers, OCHN offers crisis and support services for individuals with Medicaid, Medicare, Healthy Michigan Plan, private insurance, or those who are underinsured. These services include:

- Crisis Intervention
- Crisis Stabilization
- Crisis Residential Services
- Pre-Admission Review for Psychiatric Hospitalization Authorization
- Local management of Common Ground (988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline)

Service Utilization Overview

Metric	March 2025	FY25 YTD
Calls to Access	2,243	17,285
Screenings Completed	647	3,599
Total Crisis Calls		
- 988*	574	5,857
- OC Resource & Crisis Helpline	2,535	16,393

**Source: MiCAL/988/Lifeline, Common Ground; Data reflects state-wide reporting from MiCAL's annual report.*

ADVOCACY & COLLABORATION

It was an honor to sit down with **MEA-TV, a Middle Eastern satellite television channel**, last month to OCHN's public behavioral health services.

The conversation provided a meaningful platform to discuss the unique needs of diverse communities across Oakland County and the greater metro area region. I'm grateful for the chance to raise awareness about OCHN work providing mental health, developmental disabilities, and substance use services, while ensuring culturally responsive care for all. The segment can be viewed on the MEA-TV website at www.meatv-radio.com

Pictured: Zeina Baydoun, MEA-TV host and Dana Lasenby, OCHN CEO



Last week, I provided the OCHN quarterly update to the **Oakland County Board of Commissioners (BOC)**. It is important for elected officials to be aware of OCHN's array of services, as well as to acknowledge their collaboration and financial support impacting the lives of Oakland County residents. I also used this occasion to share exciting updates on community initiatives including OCHN's 2025 Needs Assessment results, the addition of behavioral health clinicians embedded in the Oakland County Health Division Southfield location, and the Integrated Health Center in Pontiac. Given the current landscape with proposed federal budget reductions, BOC members were encouraged to be public behavioral health ambassadors.

I had the distinct honor of attending and presenting to awardees at the annual **NAMI Honors Night** on Saturday, April 12, 2025. It was an inspiring evening celebrating the tireless efforts of individuals and organizations dedicated to advancing mental health awareness and support. OCHN was especially thrilled



to see our nominee, **Senator Rosemary Bayer**, recognized with the **Legislative Award**. Her commitment to strengthening Michigan’s public behavioral health system is evident in her advocacy, policy leadership, and genuine compassion for the individuals we serve. Events like this remind us how essential it is to recognize and support champions of mental health—those who integrate this mission into their daily work and lead by example.



Pictured: Senator Rosemary Bayer

Pictured: Dana Lasenby, OCHN CEO and Kevin Fischer, NAMI Executive Director

OCHN is proud to share that Dr. Vasilis Pozios, OCHN’s Chief Medical Officer, has been inducted into The American College of Psychiatrists (ACP). The ACP is a prestigious organization comprising more than 750 distinguished psychiatrists who have demonstrated exceptional contributions to the field through clinical practice, research, academic leadership, or teaching. This honor reflects Dr. Pozios’s unwavering commitment to advancing mental health care and exemplifies the excellence he brings to OCHN every day. We are deeply grateful for his leadership, expertise, and continued dedication to the communities we serve. Congratulations, Dr. Pozios, on this well-deserved recognition!

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICE DELIVERY INFRASTRUCTURE ENHANCEMENTS

To strengthen access and improve care coordination, OCHN plans to significant infrastructure improvement:

- **OCHN Assessment Center – Troy:** This site will enhance access to screenings and early intervention services, streamlining entry into the behavioral health system.
- **Resource & Crisis Center (RCC):** Focused on urgent and walk-in behavioral health needs, this facility ensures timely support and reduces reliance on emergency departments. The RCC supports the crisis continuum and reinforces our commitment to trauma-informed care.

These centers support our broader strategy to build a responsive, person-centered service delivery infrastructure that adapts to community needs in real time.

COLLABORATIVE STRATEGY TO ADDRESS SYSTEMIC THREATS

OCHN is actively engaged in addressing the following challenges impacting the public behavioral health system:

- **Potential Loss of Local Oversight**
- **Federal and MDHHS Budget Challenges** – reduction to Medicaid eligibility and funding.
- **MDHHS Contractual Requirements**
- **Privatization Threats:**

These collaborative efforts are core to OCHN’s mission to protect and advance accessible, equitable, and high-quality behavioral health services.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH & FEEDBACK

As the collection phase of the **Service Delivery Feedback Survey**, is now complete, OCHN has analyzed the valuable input from community members, network employees, and contracted providers. OCHN is grateful for the response of almost 900 individuals. The feedback will drive OCHN’s annual planning and development of our three-year strategic planning process.

CRISIS SERVICES & SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER (SUD) SUPPORT

OCHN continues to support substance use disorder treatment through grant-funded initiatives. In March, the **Sober Support Unit (SSU)** served 99 individuals, totaling 739 YTD. Additionally, 24 underinsured individuals received necessary SUD services in March, bringing the YTD total to 167 individuals.

OCHN participates in the Hidden in Plain Sight interactive drug educational program for parents. Many parents say they do not know what indicators may signal drug use. This program portrays a mock teenage bedroom displaying some everyday items that can actually be indicators of drug use or risky behavior. See some examples at this [link](#)

Youth & Family Care Connections (YFCC) Outcomes

Metric	March 2025	FY25 YTD
Service Requests	156	878
Unique Persons Served	131	661
Inpatient Dispositions	37	155
Diversions	119	702
Mobile Crisis Unit Responses	29	123

CUSTOMER SERVICES & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

OCHN remains dedicated to engaging with our community through outreach initiatives and transparent communication.

Community Engagement & Outreach

Metric	March 2025	FY25 YTD
Customer Service Call Responses	523	3,764
Community Events	17	90
Email Engagements	30,658	159,348
Website Views	45,076	223,879

OCHN hosted its second annual **Community Resource and Job Fair** on the campus of Oakland University. The event was held on April 1, 2025, and supported by the Oakland University School of Social Work. More than 50 vendors, including OCHN contracted service providers, were in attendance. Students, professors, faculty, behavioral health professionals, and community members gathered to network, explore employment opportunities, and learn about community resources.

OCHN acknowledged **World Autism Awareness Day**, which is celebrated annually on April 2, by participating in the “Light It Up Blue” campaign. OCHN staff participated in the campaign on Wednesday, April 2, and Thursday, April 3, 2025, by wearing blue. “Light It Up Blue” is an initiative to spread awareness, celebrate the unique talents of people with autism, and bring attention to these individuals’ needs.



Pictured: OCHN staff wearing blue in honor of Autism Awareness Month

JUSTICE-RELATED INITIATIVES & TRAINING

OCHN’s **Co-Responder (CoRe) Program** strengthens partnerships with law enforcement, policymakers, and the judiciary to divert individuals from incarceration to behavioral health services.

CoRe Program Outcomes

Metric	March 2025	FY25 YTD
Referrals	442	2,126
Remained in Community	49% (216)	48% (1,011)
Arrests	4% (17)	3% (67)
Voluntary Emergency Transports	16% (68)	19% (401)

Additionally, OCHN continues to provide **Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training**, **Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) services**, and **jail diversion programs** to support individuals with mental health and substance use challenges.

STRATEGIC GOALS & PRIORITIES (FY23-25)

OCHN remains focused on achieving key objectives aligned with our mission:

1. **Staffing & Retention** – Cultivate a positive work environment to enhance recruitment and retention.

2. **Quality Systems of Care** – Expand direct service options for adults and children.
 3. **Administration & Service Delivery** – Streamline payment structures and processes.
 4. **Integrated Healthcare** – Strengthen the crisis continuum of care.
 5. **Partnerships, Advocacy & Outreach** – Strengthen collaborations with county officials, community leaders, law enforcement, and healthcare providers.
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SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER (SUD) SERVICES

Our SUD initiatives continue to grow:

- **Sober Support Unit:** 99 people served in March (739 YTD)
- **Underinsured Access:** 24 individuals in March (167 YTD)
- **Youth & Family Care Connections (YFCC):**
 - Requests: 156 (YTD: 878)
 - Diversions: 119 (YTD: 702)
 - Mobile Crisis Responses: 29 (YTD: 123)

CALL TO ACTION

If you or someone you know needs immediate support, contact:

- **National Suicide Prevention Lifeline:** Call 988, Text 988, or visit online.
- **Crisis Textline:** Text TALK to 741741
- **OCHN Access Line:** (248) 464-6363

Upcoming OCHN Board Meetings:

- **Committee of the Whole:** Monday, May 12th at 4:30 p.m.
 - **General Board:** Tuesday, May 20th at 6 p.m.
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Looking Ahead

As we continue into the second half of FY2025, OCHN remains committed to **fiscal responsibility, workforce engagement, advocacy leadership, and compassionate care delivery**. Together with our partners, we will continue to strengthen public behavioral health services in Oakland County.

Respectfully,

Dana Lasenby

Chief Executive Officer & Executive Director