

## Director's Report – August 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](http://www.oaklandchn.org)

Oakland Community Health Network (OCHN), remains deeply committed to connecting with our community partners and staying actively present in the lives of those we serve. As summer festivities and community events continue, we're reminded of the importance of this ongoing engagement.

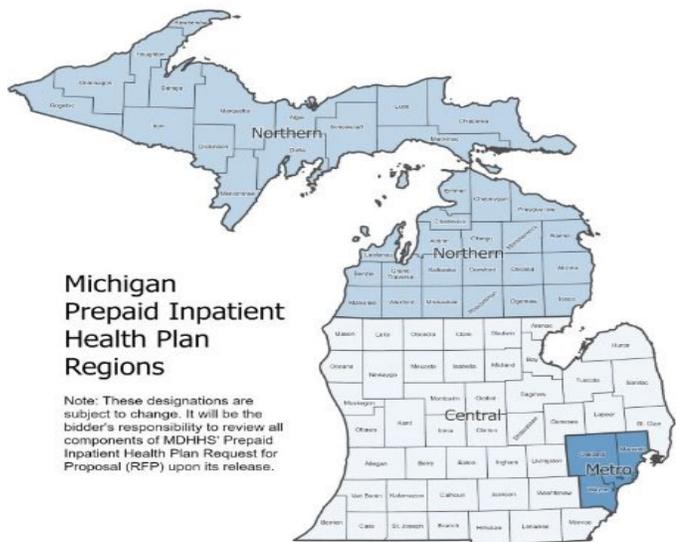
August holds special significance for us, as it offers a meaningful opportunity to recognize and celebrate individuals within our network who exemplify resilience, leadership, and community spirit. The annual **Your Voice, Your Value Conference** is a highlight of our year—an inspiring event that honors those receiving public behavioral health services through our **Peer and Achievement Awards**.

This celebration is more than a ceremony—it reflects OCHN's broader outreach and the initiatives we champion to support, empower, and uplift our community. You'll find an overview of these vital efforts in this month's report below.

### PIHP Request for Proposals (RFP)

MDHHS released an RFP for Prepaid Inpatient Health Plan (PIHP) to manage Medicaid specialty behavioral health care services on August 4, 2025, and since its release the RFP has had 3 amendments. The RFP response is due on September 29, 2025, at 11:50 AM.

- Eligible groups: public organizations, private nonprofits, and public universities
- Changes start 10/1/2026
- Defines 3 new regions (see map below)



OCHN is both a CMHSP and a PIHP

**Community Mental Health Services Program- (CMHSP)** is a governmental entity in Michigan that provides comprehensive mental health services to individuals with mental illnesses, developmental disabilities, and substance use disorders. CMHSPs serve as the single point of entry into the public mental health system, managing resources, responding to community needs, and ensuring compliance with standards of care. OCHN is accountable to local citizens and must provide services that are medically necessary for people enrolled in Medicaid, and other benefit waiver programs.

**Pre-Paid Inpatient Health Plan (PIHP)** are charged with providing adequate supports and services to Michigan residents in need of the specialty behavioral health benefit. They manage provider networks, including Community Mental Health Services Programs (CMHSPs) and behavioral health providers. PIHPs are responsible for monitoring network providers to ensure Medicaid funds are used in compliance with laws, regulations, and the provisions of contracts. MDHHS contracts with PIHPs as the regional Medicaid managed care entity.

OCHN is actively engaged in addressing the following challenges impacting the public behavioral health system such as the **Federal and MDHHS Budget Challenges** – a reduction in Medicaid funding and eligibility and **MDHHS Contractual Requirements**.

OCHN has expressed concerns, many are referring to it as another attempt to privatize the PUBLIC community mental health system with the following major issues we are facing:

- Federal Medicaid Cuts
- A Chronically Underfunded System
- Incorrect Medicaid Redeterminations
- Workforce Shortages

OCHN is dedicated to working with the community and seeks to engage people served in the design and delivery of critical behavioral health services to our community's most vulnerable citizens and is assessing the following:

- MDHHS's vision and plan for the system
- How changes will impact people's lives, services and support.

MDHHS remains committed to transparency and preserving the public foundation that has long anchored behavioral health care in the state and OCHN priorities align with MDHHS to:

- Operating at a low system-wide administrative rates
- Improve access and provider availability
- Ensure the provision of integrated care, including wraparound services
- Enhance system of care with a structure that ensures mutual accountability and improves provider relations; and meaningful/measurable outcomes
- Is committed to recruiting and retaining a trained and highly qualified workforce.

In addition, OCHN is a National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) as a MBHO Managed Behavioral Healthcare Organization (MBHO), which demonstrates OCHN's commitment to follow evidence-based practices to provide high-quality care and to the following:

- Provide high-quality, timely services.
- Improve choice and consistency through standardization across regions.
- Ensure accountability and transparency.
- Simplify the system with reduced bureaucracy and redundancy

OCHN is

- ✓ Currently required and adheres to the standards set forth in the open meetings act and the freedom of information act.
- ✓ A nonprofit public organization that is accountable to the community it serves which provides effective governance oversight.
- ✓ OCHN consistently maintains that one-third of the PIHP's governing body is individuals with lived experience in Michigan's specialty behavioral health system elevating the voice of individuals and families served.

OCHN continues to advocate for the PUBLIC Community Mental Health Systems. OCHN received letters supporting the public system and opposing the RFP from:

- Oakland County Association of Chiefs of Police
- Oakland County Sheriff Bouchard
- Oakland County Exec Coulter and Commissioner Woodward
- 52nd District Court
- And Resolutions from:
- Oakland County Board of Commissioners
- OCHN Board of Directors

Additional county letters:

- Michigan Association of Counties (MAC)
- Macomb County Exec Hackel and Commissioner Sabatini

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## ACCESS & CRISIS SERVICES

OCHN remains committed to connecting individuals with essential behavioral health services. Our Access Team makes timely service eligibility determinations and links individuals to critical community resources. Through a robust network of contracted providers, OCHN offers crisis and support services for individuals with Medicaid, Medicare, the Healthy Michigan Plan, private insurance, or 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	July 2025	FY25 YTD
Calls to Access	1,853	21,228
Screenings Completed	446	5,609
<b>Total Crisis Calls</b>		
OC Resource & Crisis Helpline	2,672	26,353

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## Advocacy & Collaboration

OCHN hosted a critical conversation on Monday, August 18th, titled “Your Voice Matters: A Town Hall on the State's Proposed Changes to Pre-paid Inpatient Health Plans.” The event was held both in-person and virtually to ensure broad community participation. The conversation centered around the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services' (MDHHS) Request for Proposal (RFP) that could shift critical community mental health funding and oversight away from local public systems. This change has raised questions across the behavioral health community, with widespread concern about the devastating effects on those who rely on Michigan’s publicly managed behavioral health services. Featured speakers guiding the discussion included:

- Kevin Fischer, Executive Director of [NAMI Michigan](#)
- Alan Bolter, Associate Director of the [Community Mental Health Association of Michigan \(CMHA\)](#)
- Commissioner Michael Spisz, [Oakland County Board of Commissioners](#)
- Amit Agrawal, Person Served, OCHN Trainer
- Deidre V. Smith, CNA, CRNA, Program Director Founding Partner, Therapeutics, Inc. [Home - DeepMind](#)

- Jenny Brown, Executive Director, Dutton Farm, <https://duttonfarm.org/>
- Pepper Catt, Certified Peer Support Specialist and Peer Recovery Coach, The Alliance of Coalitions for Health Communities

In addition, local providers, advocates, and individuals with lived experience shared powerful personal stories and professional insights about how the RFP threatens to destabilize services, reduce accountability, and eliminate local control that ensures individualized, community-based care.

OCHN reminds the community that your voice matters! Stay informed, share your stories, and support efforts to maintain strong, localized PIHP services focused on people. For more information, visit OCHN's Advocacy page at [www.oaklandchn.org/advocacy](http://www.oaklandchn.org/advocacy).

### **BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICE DELIVERY INFRASTRUCTURE ENHANCEMENTS**

OCHN received a grant through the State of Michigan for \$1 Million in FY25 thanks to the support of the Michigan Legislature and Governor. These enhancements are designed to strengthen access and improve care coordination. To achieve this, OCHN plans for significant infrastructure improvements in:

- **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, more importantly, reinforces our unwavering 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.

### **Value Based Care**

OCHN has transitioned from Service Models to a Value-Based Care model. This transition is using standardized rates to promote equity and a fee-for-service reimbursement model to support service sustainability which aligns with MDHHS reimbursement models. The goal is to improve measurable and sustainable outcomes for people served.

OCHN moved to a standardized and improved reimbursement process by utilizing fund source management with Value-Based Care. The value-based care model brings tangible benefits by using standardized service rates to ensure provider network equity and prioritizing quality life outcomes for persons served.

OCHN is collaborating closely with its provider network to develop and implement appropriate funding rates and draft new contractual language, removing criteria specific to the Service Models. Examples of these changes include the removing:

- Incentive payments

- The 2% profit cap requirement
- Monthly Financial Status Report (FSR\*) submissions
- Year-end cost settlements

## CRISIS SERVICES & SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER (SUD) SUPPORT

OCHN continues to support substance use disorder treatment through grant-funded initiatives. In July, the **Sober Support Unit (SSU)** served 77 individuals, totaling 1,141 YTD. Additionally, 31 underinsured individuals received necessary SUD services, bringing the YTD total to 254 individuals.

### Youth & Family Care Connections (YFCC) Outcomes

Metric	July 2025	FY25 YTD
Service Requests	84	1,411
Unique Persons Served	71	1,092
Inpatient Dispositions	22	295
Diversions	62	1,116
Mobile Crisis Unit Responses	19	204

## CUSTOMER SERVICES & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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

### Community Engagement & Outreach

Metric	July 2025	FY25 YTD
Customer Service Call Responses	836	6,452
Community Events	13	132
Email Engagements	24,915	250,883
Website Views	42,656	396,748



*Pictured above (left to right): Glenda V., Dana Lasenby, Shannon H., Tony C., Lisa L. Kalynn L., Jessica T.*

OCHN hosted its annual **Your Voice, Your Value** event on Tuesday, August 5, 2025. The event began with highlights from all the important activities of OCHN Workgroups in a unique way. Members of the workgroups participated in presentations, skits, games and activities to showcase their talents and efforts with these important OCHN initiatives. OCHN workgroups include Begin Ending Stigma Today (BEST), Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC), Community Evaluation Education Committee (CEEC), Empowerment Workgroup, Recipient Rights Advisory Council

(RRAC), and the Strategic Planning Workgroup. To learn more about OCHN Workgroups, visit the OCHN website at this link [Workgroup Engagement | Oakland CHN, MI](#)

The focal point of this event is to honor both Achievement and Peer Awardees. The Achievement Awards recognize the successes and accomplishments of individuals who receive public mental health services, including those with an intellectual / developmental disability, mental health challenges, or substance use disorder.

Achievement Award categories and winners:

- **Helping Hands:** Carl M.
- **Stigma Buster:** Tony C.
- **My Life:** Lisa L.
- **Dan Moran:** Renee N. & Jessica T.
- **Directors Award:** Peter S.

The Peer Awards celebrate the contributions made by peers to support people within the public mental health system and include peer support specialists, peer mentors, recovery coaches, youth peer supports, and parent support partners.

Peer Award categories and winners:

- **Stigma:** Christopher B.
- **Hope Giver:** Glenda V.
- **Outstanding Achievement:** Kalynn L.
- **Making a Difference:** Shannon H.

Congratulations to these individuals for these accomplishments and for all they do to uplift and inspire the community every day.

September is traditionally recognized as both Recovery and Suicide Awareness Month. OCHN once again put forth two proclamations distinguishing these important observances ([link to proclamations](#)). OCHN distributed these meaningful resolutions throughout the county as a reminder to all Oakland County residents that recovery is possible, and suicide is preventable. Local municipalities, school boards, and faith-based organizations are being asked to adopt both proclamations and to share this beneficial information with the community.

### 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 Data

Metric	July 2025	FY25 YTD
Referrals	475	3,950
Remained in Community	238 / 50%	1,957 / 50%
Arrests	15 / 3%	130 / 3%
Voluntary Emergency Transports	76 / 16%	724 / 18%

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

#### **JULY-AUGUST 2025 CEO COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & ADVOCACY**

- Minority Mental Health Awareness Month Event (7/10)
- ViewFest Mental Health Walk and Event (7/13)
- Michigan Association of Health Plans Annual Conference (7/22 – 7/25)
- Your Voice, Your Value Event (8/5)
- CIT Conference (8/11 – 8/15)
- Metro Region Meeting (8/21)

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#### **STRATEGIC GOALS & PRIORITIES (FY23-25)**

CEO Semi-Annual Report provided for Board of Directors review. 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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#### **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 Text line:** Text TALK to 741741
- **OCHN Access Line:** (248) 464-6363

Upcoming OCHN Board Meetings:

- **Committee of the Whole:** Monday, September 8th at 4:30 p.m.
- **General Board:** Tuesday, September 16th at 6 p.m.

#### **Looking Ahead**

As we are wrapping up FY2025, OCHN remains committed to fiscal responsibility, workforce engagement, advocacy leadership, and compassionate care delivery. With our partners, we will continue to strengthen public behavioral health services in Oakland County.

Respectfully,

**Dana Lasenby**

**Chief Executive Officer & Executive Director**