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Attn: Community Editors

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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OCHN Participates in The Call to Solidarity

OAKLAND COUNTY, MI (February 9, 2024) – Oakland Community Health Network (OCHN) had the honor of hosting the second Call to Solidarity at their administrative offices in Troy, MI on Thursday, February 8, 2024.

The Call to Solidarity Meeting convened individuals and organizations in Oakland County with a shared interest to identify solutions for the behavioral health needs of our community members, which includes increasing knowledge of services, breaking down the stigma surrounding mental health, substance use disorders, and homelessness.

The Call to Solidarity was hosted by multiple agencies across Oakland County in a joint effort to address the needs of our community.

The event was formally convened by Oakland County Deputy Executive Madiha Tariq. The event featured a presentation by Dr. Rebecca Cheezum from Oakland University on the Social Determinants of Health (SDoH), a legislative update from Ben Bodkin of Capitol Services, and a presentation on education and mental health by Dr. Amber Zarb from Oakland Schools.

The event also included resource tables for attendees, a discussion on substance use disorders and youth by Steve Norris from the Alliance of Coalitions for Health Communities, and a Juvenile Justice presentation by various members of the OCHN Justice Initiatives and Training Team. Douglas Jones, an OCHN Board Member and Pastor of Welcome Missionary Baptist Church concluded the meeting with a final call to solidarity.

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Pictured Presenter: Oakland County Deputy Executive Madiha Tariq



Pictured Presenter: Dr. Amber Zarb of Oakland Schools



Pictured (Left to Right): OCHN Executive Director and CEO, Dana Lasenby; OCHN Board Member Malkia Newman; OCHN Board Member Pastor Douglas Jones; Senator Rosemary Bayer

About OCHN

OCHN is contracted by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services to lead a provider service network that assists approximately 29,000 Oakland County citizens at more than 400 service sites across the county. People who receive public behavioral health services through OCHN's provider network include those who have an intellectual or developmental disability, mental health concerns, or substance use disorder. Most of these individuals have Medicaid insurance coverage.

OCHN's goal is to ensure these individuals are aware of and have access to services and supports that will improve their health and quality of life, as well as ensure their engagement in full community participation. Its mission to "inspire hope, empower people, and strengthen communities" reflects an unyielding belief in a "Valuable System for Valued People." Programs and supports provided by OCHN's service network are available at www.oaklandchn.org.

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