

Director's Report – December 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

Wishing you all a very Happy Holiday Season from the Oakland Community Health Network (OCHN) family.

The end of the calendar year is a festive time to come together and celebrate the exciting events, experiences, and accomplishments of the past year. I want to recognize the hard work, dedication, and successes of OCHN's team and Board of Directors. OCHN has the utmost appreciation and gratitude to our provider network and community partners, including elected officials, hospitals, schools, law enforcement, and many more. Some of the featured programs and events throughout 2024 are highlighted below.

OCHN 2024 Calendar Year Highlights

January – March 2024

OCHN's partnership with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) included hosting a two-day behavioral health training for more than 40 FBI agents and Task Force Officers.

Monday, January 15, 2024, OCHN's Executive Director and CEO, Dana Lasenby, receive the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Drum Beater Award at the Greater Pontiac Community Coalition's 32nd Annual Luncheon.



OCHN's CEO attended the American College of Health Executives (ACHE) 2024 Congress on Healthcare Leadership, which was held from March 25 to 28, 2024, in Chicago, IL. The Congress is a premier event for healthcare leaders who care about their communities, their careers and the health and well-being of their teams. This yearly event brings together experts and thought leaders from across the healthcare continuum to help advance healthcare leadership excellence across the globe.



An estimated forty Oakland County law enforcement agencies and organizations were represented in attendance at the annual **Law Enforcement Appreciation Day**. Local partnerships, OCHN’s Co-Responder program, Crisis Intervention Team (CIT), Oakland County’s Crisis Response Unit (CRU), and substance use disorder (SUD) prevention were highlighted during this event. In addition, the CIT Executive and Officer of the Year were honored.



OCHN hosted the annual **Legislative Community Conversation** to facilitate a meaningful discussion about public behavioral health services with local elected officials.

On Thursday, February 8, 2024, OCHN hosted the second **Call to Solidarity Meeting**. This event convened individuals and organizations in Oakland County with a shared interest in identifying solutions for the behavioral health needs of our community, including increasing knowledge of services, breaking down the stigma surrounding mental health, SUD, and homelessness.



The annual **Abilities Awareness Event** held on Tuesday, March 5, 2024, celebrated the abilities of people living with an intellectual or developmental disability in honor of Developmental Disabilities Awareness month, observed in March. The event honors Abilities Champions from Community Living Services and Easterseals MORC.

OCHN announced the launch of its **Community Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management (BTAM)** program – the first of its kind in the state. OCHN gathered with elected officials and community partners to discuss this timely initiative. The Community BTAM program aims to prevent targeted acts of violence in the community by implementing and managing intervention strategies. The program also identifies and assesses concerning behaviors and engages and provides support to aid in addressing acts of violence that can impact the community.

April – May 2024

On Thursday, April 4, 2024, the OCHN's Executive Director and CEO, Dana Lasenby, attended the State of the County presented by County Executive David Coulter.



OCHN hosted an anniversary celebration on Friday, May 10th, 2024, at the Resource & Crisis Center (RCC) to celebrate the 60th anniversary of OCHN and the 10th anniversary of the RCC. This celebration honored 60 years of serving the community and 10 years of providing crisis services. It acknowledged the milestone of providing behavioral health services to Oakland County residents and honored May as Mental Health Awareness Month.

OCHN was thrilled to partner with the Oakland County Sheriff's Office (OCSO) and the **Chance for Life (CFL)** Organization to launch a 7-month pilot program. This pilot program meets with people who are transitioning from incarceration back into the community to offer guidance and support, helping to make their re-entry period successful. The video highlighting the important efforts of this program can be viewed [at this link](#).

OCHN hosted the 3rd annual Veteran and Community Resource Event to bring Veterans and their families together to connect them with resources, benefits, and information. Over 45 vendors were present, along with family-friendly activities, onsite Veterans Affairs (VA) health screenings, and a food drive to distribute needed food supplies.

The 2nd annual **Community Baby Shower** was held on Thursday, June 6th, 2024. Pregnant women, mothers, and families gathered at Welcome Missionary Baptist Church in Pontiac for the event and were provided important information on services related to prenatal, pregnancy, and postpartum care.

July – September 2024

OCHN received a stellar compliance rate for the annual **Synar** study and passed with a 91%. The Synar Amendment requires states to have laws that prohibit the sale and distribution of tobacco products to underage youth. According to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), annual Synar checks show the great strides made in reducing the number of retailers who have violated the law and those who give youth access to tobacco, vapor, and other alternative nicotine products in Michigan.

OCHN hosted a **Minority Mental Health Month Event**. Minority Mental Health Month is celebrated each July in honor to address the mental health needs of minority communities. The theme for this year's event was *"The Universal Language of Healing Trauma in Minority Mental Health Care."*



OCHN was awarded **Mental Health America's (MHA) 2024 Platinum Bell Seal for Workplace Mental Health**. The Bell Seal for Workplace Mental Health is a national certification program that recognizes employers committed to creating mentally healthy workplaces. Led by MHA's rich history in research and advocacy, Bell Seal's holistic evaluation of employer practices considers the entire employee experience. Those awarded the Bell Seal have policies and practices in place that support employees' overall wellness.



OCHN recognized six (6) Achievement Award winners and six (6) Peer Award winners at the **2024 Your Voice, Your Value Conference**. 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 challenge, and/or a SUD. 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.

OCHN hosted the 16th annual **Recovery Celebration** on Friday, September 20, 2024. The event is held annually in recognition of September’s national observance as Recovery Month for persons living with a SUD and to promote awareness about the agency’s robust substance use treatment and prevention services. The event recognized the nominees and winner for the “Be the Voice” Award. This award highlights individuals who dedicate their work to the recovery community.

More than 100 Oakland County residents, including individuals receiving public mental health services from OCHN, joined approximately two thousand Michigan citizens on the steps of the State Capitol in Lansing for the 20th **Annual Walk-a-Mile in My Shoes (WAM) Rally**.



October – December 2024



A Community Partnership Press Conference announced the expansion of **OCHN’s Co-Response Community Outreach (CoRe) program** to Ferndale, Royal Oak, Madison Heights, and Hazel Park. CoRe embeds licensed clinicians with local law enforcement to co-respond to calls identified as requiring mental health and/or substance use related support.

The first **Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Resource & Job Expo** was held on Friday, October 11, 2024, at Oakland University’s Oakland Center. OCHN was joined by more than 45 vendors, including those in its provider network and organizations spanning beyond Oakland County. Students, professors, faculty, behavioral health professionals, and community members gathered to network, explore employment opportunities, and learn about community resources.



OCHN attends and sponsors the 2024 Everybody VS Stigma Eating for a Cause Event hosted by NAMI – MI, president, and CEO Kevin Fischer.

[Oakland County Executive Dave Coulter Announces \\$3 Million Pledge by Penske Family Foundation to Integrated Care Center | News | Oakland County, MI](#)



OCHN partnered with Forgotten Harvest and The Alliance of Coalitions for Healthy Communities to host a **Veteran and Military Family Drive Through Resource and Food Distribution Event**. The event aimed to ensure Veterans, Military Families, and the community at large had behavioral health resources, food supplies, and Naloxone

education prior to the Holiday season. The event offered families/individuals free food supplies, behavioral health resources, and overdose prevention training.

On Tuesday, December 10, 2024, OCHN's CEO attended the Henry Ford Health and Acadia Healthcare – behavioral health hospital ribbon-cutting ceremony. In a state-of-the-art healing facility, located on the West Bloomfield campus. The new Henry Ford Behavioral Health Hospital will initially provide 184 inpatient beds, with a 192-bed capacity and the ability to meet increasing need.



Left to Right: Oakland County Township Representative, CMO, HFHS BH Hospital, Senior Vice President of Acadia Health, Emily Sexton as CEO of New Henry Ford Health Behavioral Health Hospital, Robert G. Riney, President & CEO, Denise Brooks-Williams, Executive Vice President & Chief Operating Officer.

2024 Fact Sheet

ACCESS

Year to date comparison shows call volume to Access **increased by 8%** compared to the same time last year.

Total Calls into OCHN Non- Emergency Access		
Jan. 1 – Dec. 1, 2024	38,631	
Jan. 1 – Dec. 1, 2023	35,651	
	Total Crisis Calls 2024	Answered in 30 sec.
MiCAL/988/Lifeline *	16,949	97%
OC Resource and Crisis Helpline	43,686	90%

Source: MiCAL/988/Lifeline, Common Ground

*Data for the entire state of Michigan from MiCALS yearly report

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH HOMES, CERTIFIED OR RECERTIFIED STATE PLAN AMENDMENT, HABILITATION SUPPORTS WAIVER

	2024 YTD
BHH (Behavioral Health Home)	895
Certified or Recertified iSPA (State Plan Amendment)	4,200
HSW (Habilitation Supports Waiver) –\$6m in monthly revenue	843

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT / OUTREACH

	2024 YTD
Community Events	75
Email Engagement (events, press releases, provider bulletins, trainings, etc.)	300,501 (duplicate recipients)
Press Releases	56
Website Views	425,000

CoRe REFERRALS FROM LAW ENFORCEMENTS

	2024 YTD
Referrals (January 1 – December 1, 2024)	2,269
Remained in the Community	47.5%
Arrests	2.9%

Voluntary transport to Emergency Departments or Resource and Crisis Center	20.5%
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RIGHTS, TRAINING AND UTILIZATION

	2024 YTD
Customer Services Call Responses	8,000
Rights Tri-Annual Assessment	99%+
Total Trainings	12,391
Utilization Reviews	20,932

Youth and Family Care Connections (YFCC) Outcomes

	Jan. 1 – Dec. 1,
Service Requests	1,563
Unique Persons Served	1,086
Inpatient Disposition	269
Diversions	1,294
Total Individuals Served Since SSU opened in 2017	9,836

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
- Attend an OCHN Board Meeting:
 - [Committee of the Whole](#) (COW): Monday, January 13th at 4:30 p.m.
 - [General Board](#): Tuesday, January 21st at 6 p.m.

Happy Holidays to all!