

Citizens Advisory Committee Minutes

Meeting Date / Time: February 18, 2026, 9:30-11:30am

Location: Teams Virtual /Call-In

Facilitator: Matthew Fritzen, Chairperson

Liaison: Linda Bartaloni-Till, OCHN Customer Services Manager

Scribe: Jessica Space, OCHN Customer Service Support Specialist

Desired Results: ***Teamwork toward achieving committee goals.***



Present: **Adrienne Gasperoni**, Community Housing Network; **Amelia Jacobs**, CLS-OC; **Chakusola Guinn**, Easterseals; **Cheryl Patel**, OCHN CAC Member At-Large; **Christie Kay**, ARC Oakland County; **Christina Root**, OCHN Board; **Diane Sansalone**, Common Ground; **James Helstowski**, FAIR Drop-In Center; **Lloyd Austin**, Member At-Large; **Lois Shulman**, Member At-Large; **Matthew Fritzen**, Easterseals MORC; **Nancy Diane Carter**, OCHN CEEC; **Pam Casper**, CNS Healthcare; **Paulette Howell**, New Horizons; **Steve Ludwig**, JARC; **Suzanne Serlin-Resnick**, Member At-Large; **Shari Stewart**; Oakland Family Services; **Verdrina Mathews**, Member At-Large

Absent: **Chris Wright**, My Place Center for Wellness; **Renee Bacci**, Clubhouse Inspiration; **Tammy Wallace**, Our House Clubhouse; **Victoria Peterson**, Member At-Large; **Zach Cardinell**, Member At-Large

Guests: **Christine Austin**

	Agenda Item	Presented By	Discussion
I	<p>Welcome to Members, Guests</p> <p>Approval of Agenda and Minutes</p>	<p><i>Matthew Fritzen, CAC Chair</i></p>	<p>The meeting was called to order at 9:31 am. Roll call attendance was taken by J. Space. D. Sansalone motioned to approve the February 2026 agenda, and A. Jacobs seconded the agenda. P. Casper motioned to approve the minutes as amended by adding Christine Austin to the guests from the January 2026 meeting and was seconded by D. Sansalone.</p>
II	<p>Public Comment / Announcements</p>	<p>Members & Guests</p>	<p>D. Sansalone stated that this will be her last meeting as the Common Ground representative. She would like to stay as a CAC member, if there are any open positions.</p>

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III	<p>New Business</p> <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home and Community Based Services Overview 	<p>LaToya McGlaun, OCHN Quality Analyst HCBS</p>	<p>Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) are person centered care services designed to support individuals with functional limitations, making it possible for them to live independently in their homes and communities of their choosing, rather than in institutional settings. Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) brings about a variety of health and human services aimed at assisting individuals with disabilities, chronic health conditions, or aging related needs. These services are tailored to meet the unique needs of each person, allowing them to maintain their independence and quality of life while receiving necessary support. The purpose of HCBS are to: Provide opportunities for Medicaid beneficiaries to receive services in their own home or communities rather than in institutions, protects individual rights, increase access to the community, require services be provided in the most humane and integrated settings, and requires the use of Person-Centered Planning to support the individual’s independence in making life decisions. Services aim to enhance the quality of life, functional independence and well-being of participants through various programs and resources such as: Health Services: Medical Care, Nursing services, and therapy; Personal Care Services: Assistance with daily living such as bathing, dressing, meal prep; Case Management: Coordination of services and support to ensure individuals receive comprehensive care; and Adult Day Programs/Caregivers: Social and recreational activities for individuals who need supervision during the day. HCBS allows individuals to live in their own homes and communities, which can lead to improved quality of life, greater independence and reduced reliance on institutional care. HCBS enhances social connections and</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Request for Ideas for OCHN Future Trainings 	<p>Vicki Suder, OCHN Director of Rights and Advocacy</p>	<p>overall well-being, it promotes community inclusion while protecting the rights of the people served, and HCBS identifies and addresses strengths, preferences, needs and desired outcomes for the participants. L. Shulman asked if people with substance use disorders would qualify. LaToya stated that yes it would.</p> <p>Sheri Rushman retired and she was the lead for a lot of training that we offer for individuals that we provide services for. Our Training Team really wants to look at the training we provide individuals and would like some ideas on additional training would be beneficial to people receiving services. C. Guinn stated that people are concerned about social security cuts and having to go back to work and losing benefits and how to take records and know the limits to avoid losing benefits. L. Shulman would like for a 101 course on mental health and resources available to people in the network and having the Community Mental Health Association of Michigan interact with us twice a year providing updates on what is going on in the Government. P. Casper stated there is the Freedom to Work for Individuals with Disabilities Medicaid Program and they have Work Incentive Planning and people that can explain benefits and work. She also stated Sheri used to do a person-centered planning training that also included how to do the planning. L. Austin would like a seminar on all the changes that might be coming to OCHN.</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Credentialing Update 	<p>Kayla Gerhardt, OCHN Quality Analyst</p>	<p>They have brought on STAR EMS and Pontiac General for Crisis and Array Staffing that will staff the Psychiatrists and Social Workers for Crisis. Our Network is now open for Speech Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy and Private Duty Nursing. We have two new providers approved and are working on credentialing. We are continuing to add self-determination providers and have not gotten as many but still continue to get them. We are still working on re-credentialing.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amendments Review and Vote for OCHN CAC Bylaws 	<p>Linda Bartaloni-Till, OCHN Manager Customer Service</p>	<p>Linda reviewed the changes to the OCHN CAC Bylaws. We did not change much but mainly tried to make the language clearer. We do have one opening for a Community Stakeholder or Advocate. We determined that she could qualify as an Advocate. L. Shulman motioned to add D. Sansalone to the CAC Members as an advocate and J. Jacobs seconded the motion. M. Fritzen opened this to discussion and then called for a vote. The motion to add D. Sansalone to the CAC members as an Advocate was passed unanimously. The CAC Members decided to change the 2-minute limit for speaking to allow for an exception based on individual need for accommodation and to add the Chairperson to maintain the speaker’s queue. L. Shulman revised her motion to include the two items discussed and approve the changes to the Bylaws and L. Austin seconded the motion.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communications Report 	<p>Suzanne Weinert, Director, Communications & Community Outreach</p>	<p>We hosted the Call to Solidarity Event earlier this month and we had a good turn out of almost a hundred people, maybe more. And we partnered with multiple community organizations to bring a community voice and meet to talk about some of the issues in the</p>

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			<p>community related to behavioral health like food insecurities, housing issues, different social issues, and transportation. The Abilities Awareness Event is coming up on March 31st. Our small businesses will be able to showcase themselves and sell their items and you can register on our OCHN website. We are working with our SUD team to host a Behavioral Health Resource and Job Expo and that will be on March 24 FROM 2-6 pm at Oakland University. This is to recruit our behavioral health workforce and to show new graduates what is available to them.</p>
IV	<p>Old Business – Provider & Committee Reports</p>	<p>Christina Root, OCHN Board</p> <p>Adrienne Gasperoni, Community Housing Network</p>	<p>They had The Stories that Inspire Hope – Officer Amy Drummer, she is a high school resource officer, and they got to hear about what she does. They are hoping to vote on who the new CAC Liaison will be in March so there will be a new Board representative for the April CAC meeting.</p> <p>There is a Housing Counseling Resource center. If you know anyone whose housing situation is in crisis or if they do not have somewhere to stay, please pass on the information. The person does need to call for themselves. The website is communityhousingnetwork.org - select the red button that says get help. Or they can leave a message at 248-269-1335. In the next 2-3 days someone will get back to you. Email hrc@chninc.net . They also have walk in hours in OCHN in Troy on the 3rd floor from 9 am – 3:30 on Tues and Wed. They provide</p>

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			MORC is also hosting an All-Abilities Market at its Waterford location. They are also exploring a partnership with Thrive to help people develop their own micro businesses. The board will be holding its election next month.
		Cheryl Patel , Member At-Large	No Report
		Chris Wright , My Place Center for Wellness	No Report (absent)
		Christie Kay , ARC of Oakland County	No Report
		Diane Sansalone , Common Ground	No Report
		James Helstowski , F.A.I.R., Drop-In	No Report
		Lloyd Austin , Member At-Large	No Report
		Lois Shulman , Member At-Large	No Report
		Matthew Fritzen , Easterseals MORC	No Report

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		Nancy Diane Carter, CEEC	No Report
		Pam Casper, CNS Healthcare	A guest speaker presented the findings and recommendations from a survey-based Community Needs Assessment for the CNS Healthcare service area -based Community Needs Assessment for the CNS Healthcare service area.
		Paulette Howell, New Horizons	No Report
		Renee Bacci, Clubhouse Inspiration	No Report
		Shari Stewart, Oakland Family Services	Patch will now be moved from 5 pm to now being held at 6:30 next month. Patch meetings are held the first Monday of every month via zoom.
		Suzanne Serlin-Resnick, Member At-Large	No Report
		Tammy Wallace, Our House Clubhouse	No Report (absent)
		Verdrina Mathews, Member At-Large	No Report

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		Victoria Peterson , Member At Large	No Report (absent)
		Zach Cardinell , Member At-Large	No Report (absent)
V	Public Comment / Announcements		
VI	Adjournment		The Meeting was adjourned at 11:45am
VII	Next Meeting		March 18, 2026, Virtual/Call In

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Space

Jessica Space, OCHN – Customer Service Support Specialist

3/10/2026