

Director's Report – January 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

The new year is already off to an exciting start at Oakland Community Health Network (OCHN), as we hosted the annual Law Enforcement Appreciation Breakfast on January 9. This fantastic event highlighted essential partnerships between OCHN's Co-Responder program, Crisis Intervention Team (CIT), Oakland County's Crisis Response Unit (CRU), and substance use disorder (SUD) prevention. I sincerely appreciate the tremendous efforts of OCHN's Justice and SUD Teams in spearheading these critical community efforts.

Additionally, I am grateful to the Greater Pontiac Community Coalition/Committee of 50 for recognizing me with the Drum Beater Award in honor of Dr. Martin Luther Jr. This is an essential reminder of all we have accomplished in building equality in the community and reinforces the OCHN team commitment to improving access to quality healthcare services. Our goals and objectives include aligning with the American Psychiatric Association Foundation (APAF) to have "a mentally healthy nation for all - where we live, learn, work, worship, and play."

OCHN is excited about all we accomplished in 2023 and looks forward to sharing more details about our threat assessment initiatives, SUD Housing pilot, OCHN Assessment Center (Autism), and Violence Reduction Grant in the coming months.

ACCESS

OCHN remains focused on ensuring that people needing public behavioral health services can connect with OCHN's Access Team whenever required. Our Access Team conducted 485 screenings and referrals for people requesting services in December. Strategies to promote OCHN's success in linking people to support include investing in technology and staffing recruitment efforts.

The OCHN has taken the initiative to reach out to the Oakland County Executive team, the Oakland Health Department, and the community to support local warming centers. The OCHN team will visit Oakland County warming centers and provide

behavioral resources to individuals in need of mental health and substance use disorder services while seeking shelter from the bitterly cold and dangerous weather conditions.

COLLABORATION

OCHN hosted the Annual Legislative Breakfast on Monday, January 22, 2024. The luncheon was a unique opportunity to connect with legislators and share vital information about OCHN's critical role as a community safety net and initiatives. It also provides an opportunity to gain insight into legislators' understanding and advocacy for public behavioral health services.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

Meridian Health Services hosted a showing of the documentary "We Can Be Heroes" on Tuesday, January 16, 2024. I participated in the panel discussions following the viewing, along with OCHN Director of SUD Services Megan Phillips, Oversight Policy Board Chairperson Kelly Daly Flynn, and other distinguished community members. The documentary follows the story of Detroit's Taylor "Machine Gun" Duerr as he earns a national boxing title while fighting his addiction and battles with recovery and stigma outside the ring.

CRISIS SERVICES

OCHN's crisis services through its contracted provider network include, but are not limited to, supporting those who have Medicaid, Medicare, Healthy Michigan, private insurance, or no insurance; authorizing psychiatric hospitalization; determining network service eligibility; identifying follow-up resources, and managing the 988 Crisis Helpline. Using grant funds, OCHN supported substance use disorder (SUD) to 6 underinsured individuals who would not otherwise receive treatment. The Sober Support Unit (SSU) served 90 individuals in December.

INTEGRATED HEALTHCARE

OCHN manages Behavioral Health Homes (BHH) in Oakland County. Health Homes prioritize a "whole person" philosophy, paving the way for integrating physical and behavioral health services. The BHHs provide comprehensive care management and service coordination to individuals with serious mental illness. OCHN enrolled 14 new people in the BHHs in December, with 916 enrollees.

VALUE-BASED CARE & OUTCOMES

In our commitment to improve and ensure quality care, services, and support, the following chief-led projects are **UNDERDEVELOPMENT, ONGOING OR IN PROCESS OR COMPLETE**:

1. Operations: Integrated - Urgent Behavioral Health Clinic services project with Honor Community Health, St. Joseph, and Oakland County Health Division (UNDERDEVELOPMENT)
2. Legal: Contract management system (IN-PROCESS)
3. Finance & Budget: Business Central software implementation, Fund Source Management, and rate standardization (IN-PROCESS).

4. Collaboration and development of Threat Assessments Initiatives (IN-PROCESS)
5. Strategic planning and development of transportation service line (IN-PROCESS)
6. Information Technology & Data Analytics: aligning ODIN for encounters/claims system with Power-BI to improve data analytics and reporting (ONGOING)
7. Compliance and Quality: incorporation of new standard and policy changes (ONGOING)
8. Staff Engagement: activities and initiatives to encourage and support staff engagement (ONGOING)
9. Clinical: Expand access to clinical assessments, services, and supports – OCHN Assessment Center (COMPLETE)

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

A Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) program is an innovative, community-based approach to improve the outcomes of law enforcement encounters. CIT programs create connections between law enforcement, mental health providers, hospital emergency services, and individuals with mental illness and their families.

Beginning in June, OCHN participated in a research project with Columbia University that looks at the efficacy of the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training scenarios. This national research project, with Oakland County being the first site in partnership with OCHN and the Oakland County Sheriff's Office. Last month, OCHN hosted approximately 45 deputies from OCSO who participated in the study.

STAFF RECOGNITION

OCHN's Clinical Director, Adam Hamilton, was featured in a Metro Parent advertorial highlighting Seasonal Affective Disorder and concerns with substance use disorders during this time of the year.

Nancy Helper is an OCHN Support Specialist in the Office of Recipient Rights and has been a dedicated employee working with Oakland County's public behavioral health system for 45 years. Nancy's years of service include working under the county government and the transition as an authority to what is now OCHN.

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