

Director's Report – July 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

July marks two significant observances at Oakland Community Health Network (OCHN) that highlight the importance of equity, inclusion, and visibility: **Minority Mental Health Awareness Month** and **Disability Pride Month**.

Minority Mental Health Awareness Month, established in honor of advocate Bebe Moore Campbell, draws attention to the unique mental health challenges faced by communities of color. Systemic inequalities, cultural stigma, and reduced access to care continue to impact mental well-being among Black, Indigenous, Latino/a/x, Asian American, Pacific Islander, and other marginalized groups. It is a call to action for more inclusive, culturally competent mental health care.

At the same time, **Disability Pride Month** recognizes the contributions, identities, and rights of people with disabilities. It is a celebration of diversity, and a reminder that disability is an important part of human experience. This month also commemorates the signing of the **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)** in July 1990 — a landmark moment for civil rights.

Both observances remind us that inclusion is not optional — it is essential. Mental health and disability justice must be integrated into our policies, programs, and everyday practices. By acknowledging these identities and addressing intersecting barriers, we move closer to a society where **every person can thrive with dignity and support**.

As part of our broader commitment to mental health and diversity, equity, and inclusion, we recognize the importance of creating spaces where everyone feels seen, heard, and supported — both emotionally and culturally.

This month, let's listen more deeply, speak more openly, and advocate more strongly. Mental health is health — and everyone deserves access to care, compassion, and culturally competent support. Together, we can build a future where every mind matters, and every voice is heard.

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	June 2025	FY25 YTD
Calls to Access	2,134	19,134
Screenings Completed	509	5,163
Total Crisis Calls		
OC Resource & Crisis Helpline	2,441	23,681

Advocacy & Collaboration

To continually raise awareness about the vital work being done every day, OCHN educates advocates and the community about the overall system. We want to reinforce the importance of the Prepaid Inpatient Health Plan (PIHP), which plays a crucial role in supporting children, adults, and families dealing with mental health issues, substance use, and developmental disabilities. These services are community-based, person-centered, and provided at no cost to qualifying individuals.

A Prepaid Inpatient Health Plan (PIHP) is a type of health insurance plan where an organization receives advance payment to manage and cover inpatient mental health or substance use services for those in need.

- **“Prepaid”** means the plan receives payment upfront, typically from Medicaid or the government.
- **“Inpatient”** refers to services where a person stays overnight in a hospital or treatment facility.
- The plan oversees care for a group of individuals, ensuring they receive the appropriate treatment when necessary.

A PIHP is a unique type of Medicaid plan that is pre-funded to facilitate inpatient mental health or addiction treatment for residents in a specific region. OCHN serves as the PIHP for Oakland County, managing behavioral and mental health care according to individuals' needs.

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.

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.

COLLABORATIVE STRATEGY TO ADDRESS SYSTEMIC THREATS

OCHN is actively engaged in addressing the following challenges impacting the public behavioral health system:

- **Potential Loss of Local Oversight**
- **Federal and MDHHS Budget Challenges** – a reduction in Medicaid funding and eligibility.
- **MDHHS Contractual Requirements**
- **Privatization Threats**

These collaborative efforts are essential to OCHN's mission to protect and advance accessible, equitable, and high-quality behavioral health services.

CRISIS SERVICES & SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER (SUD) SUPPORT

OCHN continues to support substance use disorder treatment through grant-funded initiatives. In June, 26 underinsured individuals received necessary SUD services, bringing the YTD total to 223 individuals.

Youth & Family Care Connections (YFCC) Outcomes

Metric	June 2025	FY25 YTD
Service Requests	82	1,327
Unique Persons Served	71	1,021
Inpatient Dispositions	21	273
Diversions	48	948
Mobile Crisis Unit Responses	15	187

CUSTOMER SERVICES & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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

Community Engagement & Outreach

Metric	June 2025	FY25 YTD
Customer Service Call Responses	658	5,616
Community Events	13	119
Email Engagements	29,929	225,968
Website Views	40,688	354,092

OCHN hosted its annual **Minority Mental Health Awareness Month event** on Thursday, July 10, 2025 focusing on generational and cultural wellness. The special event titled “Hope is My Superpower: A Look at Mental Wellness Across Generations and Cultures”, highlighted the intersection of culture, generational experiences, and mental wellness, aiming to break down stigma and encourage open conversations around mental health in diverse communities. The



Kene Oden, OCHN Support Specialist and
Amelia Jacobs, OCHN Ambassador

event featured a dynamic youth panel who shared personal stories and insights about how cultural backgrounds shape their views and experiences with mental health. An informative presentation about cognitive wellness empowering individuals to invest in themselves for the future. Resiliency and how culture influences emotional well-being and perceptions of mental health were another key topic. Attendees also participated in interactive identity chart

mapping, a guided activity that encourages reflection on the many aspects of identity and how they relate to mental wellness. This was truly an impactful event with amazing speakers, important resources, and rich conversations.



Student Panel at the Minority Mental Health Event on 7/10/25



Dana Lasenby, OCHN CEO and Glen Schwartz, Words of Hope 4 Life, Board President

ViewFest 2025 Mental Health Walk and Celebration was held on Sunday, July 13th at the Detroit Zoo. Almost 3,000 participants attended with over 200 sponsors and almost 300 community organizations represented. The Viewfest is the largest mental health festival in the world. OCHN was an event sponsor and vendor during the event and OCHN President CEO Dana Lasenby provided remarks during the festival. Attendees were able to connect to behavioral health resources, talk with experts, and receive informative and educational information from vendors.



Tiffany Devon, OCHN Lead Communications and Community Outreach Specialist

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	June 2025	FY25 YTD
Referrals	476	3,471
Remained in Community	258 (54%)	1,714 (49%)
Arrests	15 (3%)	114 (3%)
Voluntary Emergency Transports	81 (17%)	647 (19%)

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.

JUNE-JULY 2025 CEO COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & ADVOCACY

- Community Baby Shower (6/3)
 - Oakland University Advocacy Roundtable (6/12)
 - OCHN Staff Picnic (6/13)
 - Call to Solidarity Event (6/17)
 - 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)
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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, August 11th at 4:30 p.m.
- **General Board:** Tuesday, August 19th at 6 p.m.

Looking Ahead

As we continue into the second half of 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