

## Director's Report – June 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](http://www.oaklandchn.org)

Tragically, our community is once again wrestling with another senseless act of gun violence. We are saddened by the mass shooting event in Rochester Hills and are committed to providing the necessary behavioral health support to the residents of Rochester Hills and all Oakland County residents impacted by gun violence. After hearing of the tragedy on Saturday, OCHN's Critical Incident Response Management (CISM) team responded and was onsite Sunday morning to support the community. I also want to thank the County Executive Office and Oakland County Emergency Management for collaborating with OCHN's CISM team in response to this crisis.

Oakland Community Health Network (OCHN) also recognizes June as Pride Month and celebrates the contributions the LGBTQ+ community adds to the fabric of society. Many people experience mental health concerns throughout their lifetime, and the LGBTQ+ community is no exception. We champion those who identify as their authentic selves and advocate for improved resources to address behavioral health needs for all.

OCHN also recognizes the federal holiday, Juneteenth, to commemorate the end of slavery in the United States. Select this [link](#) for more information on Juneteenth's history.

### **ACCESS**

OCHN remains focused on ensuring that people needing public behavioral health services can connect with OCHN's Access Team. Last month, OCHN's Access Team conducted 5,341 screenings and 666 referrals for people. OCHN continues to prioritize linking people to support and services when and where needed, including determining network service eligibility, and identifying follow-up resources.

### **ADVOCACY**

Public mental health providers receive funding through capitation payments, fixed monthly allocations determined by Medicaid eligibility. After the Public Health Emergency (PHE) ended, Medicaid eligibility decreased, resulting in reduced funding and stress on the system. The need for public mental health services continues to increase, yet funding declines. Community needs for public mental health services and funding

for the public mental health system require a call to action for advocating to the state to invest the remaining **\$94 million** or more in public behavioral health services for people.

### **COLLABORATION**

OCHN's Chief Medical Officer, Vasilis K. Pozios, M.D., recently returned from Greece, where he participated in an international cooperation mission sponsored by the American Psychiatric Association (APA). Dr. Pozios met with the Deputy Minister of Greece's Ministry of Health to discuss areas of mutual concern and methods of collaboration regarding mental health and climate change, the crisis continuum of care, and more.

Dr. Pozios, Trisha Zizumbo, Chief Operating Officer, and the team participated in the Oakland County Prosecutor's Gun Violence Commission's Threat Assessment Workgroup. As part of this collaboration, the Prosecutor recently launched a public action campaign, including a toolkit to combat gun violence.

### **COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND EDUCATION**

OCHN hosted the 2nd annual Community Baby Shower on June 6, 2024. The event welcomed pregnant women, mothers, and families at the Welcome Missionary Baptist Church in Pontiac and provided essential information on prenatal, pregnancy, and postpartum care services.

OCHN is hosting its annual Minority Mental Health Awareness Month event next month **on Tuesday, July 9, 2024, from 9 am to 12 pm**. The event will include speakers, art, and drama therapy activities. Lunch will be provided. More information is available at this [link](#).

### **CRISIS SERVICES**

OCHN's crisis services through its contracted provider network include supporting those with Medicaid, Medicare, Healthy Michigan Plan, private insurance, or underinsured insurance. Crisis services include:

- Crisis Intervention
- Crisis Stabilization
- Crisis Residential services
- Mobile Crisis Response
- Authorizing psychiatric hospitalization
- Local management of Common Ground (the vendor for the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline) and Youth Family Care Connect (YFCC)

Using grant funds, OCHN supported substance use disorder (SUD) services to 38 underinsured individuals who would not otherwise receive treatment. Last month, the Sober Support Unit (SSU) served 30 individuals and 802 people this fiscal year.

To reiterate, OCHN is working closely with the Oakland County Executive Office and Oakland County Emergency Management (OCEM) to support the victims of Saturday's splash pad shooting in Rochester Hills, their families, those who were present at the tragic event, and the community at large with mental health resources. OCHN and OCEM have opened a Family Assistance Center

at the Rochester Hills Department of Public Services, 511 E. Auburn Road, where CISM-trained OCHN staff were available on Sunday, 6/16/24 from 10 am – 4 pm and will continue to be available from 4–8 pm Monday through Friday this week. OCHN also distributed resources to the approximately 200 people who attended a vigil at Woodside Bible Church on Sunday. Additionally, mental health support information is provided for 988 (24 hours / 7 days) and OCHN's non-emergency behavioral health access department at 248-464-6363, Monday through Friday from 8 am - 8 pm.

### **INTEGRATED HEALTHCARE**

OCHN manages Behavioral Health Homes (BHHs) 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. Last month, OCHN enrolled 41 new people in BHHs and now has 917 individuals in the program.

### **SYSTEMS OF CARE**

I recently attended the Detroit Regional Chamber Mackinac Policy Conference (MPC) where there were exceptional opportunities to connect with colleagues across the state and gain critical insight regarding the intersection of behavioral health in the current healthcare landscape. The team's goal was to advocate for funding and support to expand OCHN's crisis continuum of care.

In June, our team along with board members, Ms. Sarah May and Ms. Yvette Woodruff attended the Community Mental Health Association of Michigan (CMHA) Annual Summer conference in Traverse City. This year's theme: the importance of belonging and highlighted keynote speakers:

- Tonya C. Bailey, PhD. - *Creating Cultures of Belonging Where Everyone Can Thrive*
- Mark Lundholm, Recovery Expert, Author, and Comedian - *From the Streets to the Stage*
- Angela Rose, Survivor and Author – *Hope, Healing and Happiness*

The CMHA Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Advisory Council meeting was held on Monday, June 10<sup>th</sup> and other highlights include:

- Purpose and roles within Michigan's public mental health system: State of Michigan and the state's CMHSP and PIHPs (Prepaid Inpatient Health Plans).
- Public Policy Update presented by Alan Bolter, CMHA Associate Director
- FY25 Senate & House Budget Proposals
- CEO Update by Bod Sheehan: Waskul Settlement and Conflict Free Access and Planning
- CMHA Board Association passed a resolution opposing the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) proposed language for FY25 Limiting the Funding and Use of the Internal Service Fund (ISF).

MDHHS approved eight pre-paid inpatient health plans (PIHPs) to participate in the Recovery Incentives Pilot. OCHN is participating in this pilot beginning October 1, 2024. This pilot, supported by \$6 million in opioid settlement funds over the next three years, will expand access to evidence-based treatment for Medicaid and Healthy Michigan Plan enrollees who are living

with certain substance use disorders. More details regarding the Recovery Incentives Pilot are at this [link](#).

### **VALUE-BASED CARE & OUTCOMES**

In line with our commitment to improve and ensure quality care, services, and support, our current leadership-led projects are:

- Finance & Budget: Financial Status Reports (FSR) for FY23 – approved resubmission to MDHHS, Audit in process, awaiting staffing proposals from Health Management Systems and Rehmann Group, and secured additional staff support from Robert Haith
- Information Technology & Data Analytics: Aligning Oakland Data Information Network (ODIN) with Power-BI for encounters/claims systems to improve data analytics and reporting and enhance the cost-settling project. A Claims Director has been hired, and a Claims Department is in development.
- Operations: Integrated Urgent Behavioral Health Clinic services project referenced a walk-in center with Honor Community Health and Oakland County Health Division soft launch opening May 20<sup>th</sup>.
- Strategic Initiatives: Rate standardization, planning and development of transportation service line, and completing grants for potential provision of Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) services and supports.

### **RECOGNITION**

OCHN is seeking nominations for its 2024 Peer and Achievement Recognition Awards. These awards celebrate the contributions made by peers and the achievements of individuals receiving services. Please help acknowledge these achievements by nominating someone you know for an award using this [link](#).

### **WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**

- OCHN is committed to increasing staff recruitment and retainment to support our reputation as a competitive employer with an appealing work culture. Human Resources continues to participate in college-sponsored career fairs.
- Ongoing search and interviews for the Chief Financial Officer (CFO).
- Two internal candidates for Chief Operating Officer (COO) were interviewed.
  - I am pleased to announce that Trisha Zizumbo has accepted the position of Chief Operating Officer (COO). While serving as interim COO for the last six weeks, Trisha continues to provide leadership oversight to the Training and Justice Initiatives. Given her experience as a director for more than five years at OCHN, her role in building collaborative partnerships, and her prior 13 years of experience with local county government, she brings considerable expertise to the Executive Team.

### **SPECIAL NOTE:**

*As the behavioral health system continues to recover from the end of the Public Health Emergency and work through challenges related to Medicaid Redetermination, OCHN is committed to improving access to services and support. OCHN is standardizing business processes, which include equitable rate setting, fee for service (FFS) payments, and published rate schedules.*

*Creating provider rate equity and transitioning from monthly FSRC to a claims adjudication process will reduce administrative burden and allow funds for direct service reimbursement.*

There has been recent correspondence with MDHHS and Milliman regarding the revenue gap many of the state's PIHPs are experiencing this year despite the recent Medicaid rate increase. Over the past several weeks, since the implementation of the new Medicaid Behavioral Health rates, PIHPs, including OCHN, indicated that the Medicaid revenues coming to the state's PIHPs since April 2024 have not been sufficient for most of the state's PIHPs to close the revenue gap that they projected before the rate increase. There is approximately \$94 Million allocated by MDHHS to supplement the current revenue paid to PIHPs. Collectively, the PIHP leadership has agreed upon the need for an additional \$116 million to close the projected revenue gap.

#### **CALL TO ACTION -**

**We strongly encourage our stakeholders, providers, and board members to join the OCHN team in advocating with legislators for appropriate funding to supplement the FY24 budget for the PIHPs.**

**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