

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

Oakland Community Health Network (OCHN) proudly recognizes two significant health observances during June: Men's Health Month and Pride Month. These observances provide a meaningful opportunity to raise awareness about mental health and promote emotional well-being for all individuals, particularly those who identify as LGBTQ+ and those navigating men's health challenges.

**Pride Month** honors the rich history, culture, and contributions of the LGBTQ+ community. At OCHN, we celebrate individuals living as their authentic selves and recognize the importance of supporting mental health within this community. Like many, LGBTQ+ individuals may face mental health challenges throughout their lives, often compounded by discrimination, stigma, and lack of access to culturally competent care. We are committed to advocating for inclusive behavioral health resources that meet these unique needs.

**Men's Health Month** is a national observance that brings attention to the health issues affecting men and boys—especially the often-overlooked area of mental health. Research shows that men are statistically less likely to seek help for mental health concerns due to stigma, societal expectations, and barriers to accessing care. Raising awareness can help break down these barriers and encourage men to prioritize their emotional wellness.

OCHN stands in solidarity with the LGBTQ+ community and all men in their journeys toward self-acceptance, mental well-being, and healthier lives. We remain dedicated to increasing awareness, expanding access to behavioral health resources, and fostering open conversations around these populations' unique challenges.

**Juneteenth** is an important federal holiday commemorating the end of slavery in the United States, and OCHN recognizes it as such. It is a powerful reminder of the journey toward freedom, equality, and justice. It is a time for reflection, education, and celebrating our history and culture. OCHN honors this day by supporting efforts that promote diversity, equity, and inclusion in all aspects of behavioral health care and community service.

As part of this commitment, OCHN participates in **Oakland County's Juneteenth celebration**, which brings together community members to acknowledge this pivotal moment in American history and celebrate the progress made.

- For more information on the history and significance of Juneteenth, [click here](#).
- To learn more about Oakland County's Juneteenth events, visit [Juneteenth | Oakland County, MI](#).

### 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	May 2025	FY25 YTD
Calls to Access	2,128	17,475
Screenings Completed	577	4,652
<b>Total Crisis Calls</b>		
- 988*	747	7,406
- OC Resource & Crisis Helpline	2,543	21,240

*\*Source: MiCAL/988/Lifeline, Common Ground; Data reflects state-wide reporting from MiCAL's annual report.*

### Advocacy & Collaboration

To raise awareness about the vital work being done every day, OCHN is educating both its advocates and the community about the overall system. We start by defining 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.

### What is a PIHP?

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.

Here is a simple breakdown:

- **“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.

Thus, 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](http://www.oaklandchn.org/advocacy).

### Protect MI Care

The Community Mental Health Association of Michigan (CMHA) represents **Protect MI Care**, a robust coalition of over 200 organizations in Michigan. There is a shared commitment to protect the nation's and Michigan's Medicaid systems from the proposed cuts by Congress and the President. Amidst a wide range of urgent advocacy efforts, Protect MI Care currently hosts Roundtables in key Congressional districts across Michigan. The immediate threat to critical programs like Medicaid necessitates our collective action to protect millions in our state's health and economic security. The uniting voices of Michigan, Protect MI Care, aims to counter these detrimental cuts and ensure lawmakers comprehend the real-world implications of their decisions.





On June 12, 2025, I had the honor of speaking at the *Protect MI Care Oakland County Media Roundtable* at the request of CMHA's Robert Sheehan. [The Protect MI Care Coalition](#) comprises healthcare providers, patient advocates, and community leaders. We are all dedicated to preserving Michigan families' access to essential healthcare services. At this event, we were moved by the powerful stories shared by two peer recovery coaches and a home and community-based service program representative. These personal narratives underscored the human impact of our advocacy efforts.

### **BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICE DELIVERY INFRASTRUCTURE ENHANCEMENTS**

OCHN received a grant through the state for \$1 Million in FY25 thanks to the support of the Michigan Legislature and Governor for enhancements. 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, 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.

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### **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** – reduction to Medicaid eligibility and funding.
- **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.

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## CRISIS SERVICES & SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER (SUD) SUPPORT

OCHN continues to support substance use disorder treatment through grant-funded initiatives. In April, the **Sober Support Unit (SSU)** served 89 individuals, totaling 934 YTD. Additionally, 12 underinsured individuals received necessary SUD services in May, bringing the YTD total to 209 individuals.

### Youth & Family Care Connections (YFCC) Outcomes

Metric	May 2025	FY25 YTD
Service Requests	181	1,245
Unique Persons Served	145	950
Inpatient Dispositions	66	252
Diversions	84	900
Mobile Crisis Unit Responses	23	172

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## CUSTOMER SERVICES & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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

### Community Engagement & Outreach

Metric	May 2025	FY25 YTD
Customer Service Call Responses	619	4,321
Community Events	11	111
Email Engagements	18,826	196,039
Website Views	45,380	313,404

OCHN hosted its third annual **Community Baby Shower** on Wednesday, June 3, 2025. Pregnant women, mothers, and families gathered at Welcome Missionary Baptist Church in Pontiac for the event and provided important information on prenatal, pregnancy, and postpartum care services. The event featured an educational presentation on harm reduction by Joelle Puccio from the Academy of Perinatal Harm Reduction. Approximately 40 vendors from across Oakland County participated in providing over 50 pregnant women, new mothers, primary caregivers, mothers with young children, and their families with necessary information on available services. Additionally, OCHN gave 50 families packs and plays, breastfeeding kits, alcohol test strips, and other baby items through grant funding provided by the Southeast Michigan Perinatal Quality Improvement Coalition (SEMPQIC).



### 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	May 2025	FY25 YTD
Referrals	445	2,994
Remained in Community	222 (50%)	1,455 (49%)
Arrests	19 (4%)	99 (3%)
Voluntary Emergency Transports	82 (19%)	565 (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.

#### MAY – JUNE 2025 CEO COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & ADVOCACY

- NatCon Annual Conference 2025 - **National Council for Mental Wellbeing** (5/4-5/7)
- American Psychiatric Association (APA) Annual Meeting 2025 Lifestyle for Positive Mental and Physical Health (5/18-5/21)
- NAMI-MI Annual Conference 2025 Annual Conference - Averting Crisis (5/22-5/24)
- Mackinac Policy Conference (5/26-5/29)
- Community Baby Shower (6/3)
- Oakland University Advocacy Roundtable (6/12)
- OCHN Staff Picnic (6/13)
- Call to Solidarity Event (6/17)

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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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➤ **Staff Update:**

- **Welcome Dr. Lisa Walker, Director of Direct Clinical Services** – who oversees direct services as an integral part of OCHN's clinical continuum of care.
- **Welcome Sherri Ruza, Director of Clinical Quality and Utilization Strategy** - who oversees the development, integration, and execution of clinical quality assurance and utilization management functions across the OCHN system.

### **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, July 14th at 4:30 p.m.
- **General Board:** Tuesday, July 22nd 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**