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**Attn: Community Editors**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## OCHN Hosts Legislative Community Conversation

**OAKLAND COUNTY, MI (January 22, 2024)** – On Monday, January 22, 2024, Oakland Community Health Network (OCHN) hosted a Legislative Breakfast to facilitate a meaningful discussion about public behavioral health services.



Pictured Left to Right: (Back Row) Senator Michael Webber, OCHN Board Member Pastor Douglas Jones, OCHN Board Chair Dennis Cowan, (Front Row) OCHN Board Member Dr. Bijaya Hans, Representative Mike Harris, Senator Tom Kuhn, OCHN Executive Director & CEO Dana Lasenby, State Representative Sharon MacDonell, Madison Heights Mayor Roslyn Grafstein, OCHN Chief Clinical Officer Kimberly Flowers, District Liaison Shawnte Mosby, Oakland County Commissioner Yolanda Smith Charles.

The event celebrated the successes of 2023 and highlighted what's to come in 2024. In Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23), OCHN served 29,511 individuals with mental illness, substance use disorders, and/or intellectual/developmental disabilities. OCHN's School Mental Health Navigators (SMHN) connected 218 families to resources and the Youth & Family Care Connection (YFCC) diverted 1,185 youth from impatient hospitalization. FY23 also saw the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) train 147 law enforcement officers and the Co-Responder Clinicians made 1,622 referrals.

The event also featured a story of hope with community member and business owner Hannah R. of Hannah Joy Spectrum Designs and closed with a community discussion about public behavioral health services.

In 2024, OCHN looks forward to strengthening our community partnerships and putting OCHN's person-focused, strategic priorities into action. Positive change and outcomes for people are possible when we work together for the greater good of our community.

To reach non-emergency Access services, call (248) 464-6363. If you or someone you know needs immediate assistance, call or text 988. To learn more about OCHN visit [www.oaklandchn.org](http://www.oaklandchn.org).



*Pictured Left to Right: Hannah R of Hannah Joy Spectrum Designs and State Representative Natalie Price.*

### **About OCHN**

OCHN is contracted by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) to lead a provider service network and manage care for approximately 29,000 Oakland County residents at more than 400 service sites across the county. People who receive public behavioral health services through OCHN's provider network include those who have an intellectual or developmental disability, mental health concerns, or substance use disorder. Most of these individuals have Medicaid insurance coverage.

OCHN's goal is to ensure these individuals are aware of and have access to services and supports that will improve their health and quality of life, as well as ensure their engagement in full community participation. Its mission to "inspire hope, empower people, and strengthen communities" reflects an unyielding belief in a "Valuable System for Valued People." Programs and supports provided by OCHN's service network are available at [www.oaklandchn.org](http://www.oaklandchn.org).

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