

## Director's Report – March 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)

Oakland Community Health Network (OCHN) hosted its annual Abilities Awareness Event on Tuesday, March 5, 2024. The event celebrated the abilities of people with an intellectual or developmental disability in honor of March, Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month. Ability Champions Nichelle Marshall, supported by Community Living Services (CLS), and Jonathan Bowie, who is supported by Easterseals MORC, were honored at the event. Keynote speaker Paul Landry from Michigan United Cerebral Palsy (MI-UCP) highlighted the program by sharing his inspiring story and experiences. The program included a presentation by Team GUTS™, an organization committed to improving the health, fitness, and overall well-being of those in our community with special needs and disabilities. Team GUTS offers fitness classes at the Hunter Community Center in Clawson. Additionally, numerous microenterprise vendors were present to highlight their talents and sell merchandise.

OCHN launched its annual Service Delivery Feedback Survey last month. Outreach efforts to distribute the needs assessment are underway, with presentations at clubhouses, drop-in centers, residential treatment centers, workgroups, and more. OCHN is responsive to the needs of those we serve; which can be accomplished with input from individuals served, family members, and the community. The survey is available for input **through Friday, March 29, 2024**, and can be accessed on OCHN's website at [www.oaklandchn.org](http://www.oaklandchn.org). Other county data, statistics, and geo-mapping information will be used to identify gaps in services and supports for communities that are underserved or require additional engagement efforts.

### **ACCESS**

OCHN remains focused on ensuring that people needing public behavioral health services can connect with OCHN's Access Team when required. In February, OCHN's Access Team conducted 3,538 screenings and referrals for people requesting services.

Strategies to promote OCHN's success in linking people to support include investing in technology and expanding staffing recruitment efforts.

### **COLLABORATION**

OCHN launched the Community Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management (BTAM) initiative on Friday, March 15, 2024. Speakers included Senator Rosemary Bayer, Oakland County Executive Dave Coulter, FBI (Federal Bureau of Investigation) Special Agent in Charge Josh Hauxhurst, and Captain Todd Hill with the Oakland County Sheriff's Office. More than 60 individuals attended, including representatives of various elected officials and numerous community partners.

### **COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND EDUCATION**

OCHN implemented a comprehensive community outreach and advertising campaign. This grant-funded initiative includes marketing strategies that utilize various venues such as billboards, buses, print media, radio, and television promotion. The campaign centers around substance use disorder messaging that highlights Access Services for individuals to Join the Recovery Movement.

### **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:

- authorizing psychiatric hospitalization,
- determining network service eligibility,
- identifying follow-up resources, and
- managing the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline.

Using grant funds, OCHN supported substance use disorder (SUD) services to 27 underinsured individuals who would not otherwise receive treatment. In February, the Sober Support Unit (SSU) served 93 individuals and 511 people this fiscal year.

### **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 32 new people in BHHs in February, with 934 enrollees for the program.

### **SYSTEMS OF CARE**

OCHN recently expanded space in the Troy Administrative office for a new Assessment Center. This space provides a larger environment to conduct screening and assessment for children and youth with neurodevelopmental disabilities, intellectual/developmental disabilities, and other prevalent disorders.

I continue to be an active participant in the Michigan Autism Council. The council's mission is to coordinate and collaborate with state agencies to implement the Michigan Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) State Plan recommendations. Additionally, this group works to increase the accuracy of education, resources, and training for employees while maintaining best practice standards for all services and funding provided in Michigan. Last month, the council focused on expanding services and support for adults living with ASD.

On February 3, 2024, Commissioner Powell and I attended the grand opening of the Women in Business Working Center in Waterford, Michigan. Eisha Branner, the program creator and executive director, shared that the center's goal is to support aspiring female entrepreneurs by allowing them to network and work with mentors, community leaders, and businesswomen.

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

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

1. Operations: Integrated Urgent Behavioral Health Clinic services project with Honor Community Health, St. Joseph Mercy Oakland, and Oakland County Health Division. A soft launch is scheduled for April 2024.
2. Legal: Implementation of Cobblestone Contract management system implementation is 90 % complete.
3. Finance & Budget: Business Central software implementation, Fund Source Management, and rate standardization planning is ongoing.
4. Justice Initiatives: Collaboration and development of Threat Assessments Initiatives held on March 15, 2024.
5. Strategic Initiatives: Rate standardization, planning and development of transportation service line, and completing 2 Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) grants.
6. Information Technology & Data Analytics: Aligning Oakland Data Information Network (ODIN) with Power-BI for encounters/claims systems will improve data analytics and reporting and enhance the cost-settling project.

### **RECOGNITIONS**

OCHN is pleased to recognize Ashley Sansom, LMSW, for her selection in the Oakland Together 40 Under 40 program. Oakland County Executive Dave Coulter's Oakland Together 40 Under 40 program recognizes and spotlights dynamic leaders under 40 who are making a difference in Oakland County and beyond. Ashley is a Youth Mental Health Liaison for OCHN and is the clinical liaison for the Juvenile Mental Health Court (JMHC) and Juvenile Drug Court (JDC).

OCHN received an Honorable Mention as a Hometown Health Hero from the Michigan Public Health Week Partnership (MPHWP). The Partnership also officially informed the Oakland County

Health Division of this designation in recognition of OCHN's vital work to improve the health of our community.

OCHN recently received a grant from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) to host a community town hall meeting on substance use disorders. This program will be held with the upcoming annual Veterans Community Resources event on Saturday, May 11, 2024.

**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