

## Director's Report – March 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)

March is National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, a time to highlight the importance of inclusion, understanding, and support for individuals with developmental disabilities. For Oakland Community Health Network (OCHN), this is an excellent opportunity to raise awareness about developmental disabilities and reaffirm our unwavering commitment to providing quality care and support services, making a significant impact on the lives of those we serve.

At OCHN, we believe in the inherent value of all individuals, regardless of ability. This month, we joined the nation in recognizing Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, highlighting the importance of fostering inclusive communities for all. OCHN's Annual Abilities Awareness Celebration, held on Wednesday, March 5, 2025, was a resounding success, honoring the accomplishments of PJ Decuir and Lisa Barger. The event also featured guest speaker Alex Kimmel, who highlighted the importance of self-determination. Fox 2-morning anchor Josh Landon dazzled the crowd as he emceed this special event for OCHN. OCHN was also delighted to showcase numerous small business vendors selling their unique and exquisite items to attendees.

### **ACCESS & CRISIS SERVICES**

OCHN remains committed to connecting individuals to essential services. Our Access Team ensures timely service eligibility determinations and identifies critical community resources. Through our contracted provider network, OCHN offers crisis services for individuals with Medicaid, Medicare, Healthy Michigan Plan, private insurance, or those who are 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	February 2025	FY25 YTD
Calls to Access	2,908	15,042
Screenings Completed	556	2,952
<b>Total Crisis Calls</b>		
- MiCAL/988/Lifeline*	574	5,283
- OC Resource & Crisis Helpline	2,199	13,858

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

**CUSTOMER SERVICES & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

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

**Community Engagement & Outreach**

Metric	February 2025	FY25 YTD
Customer Service Call Responses	186	2,851
Community Events	7	26
Email Engagements	28,496	128,690
Website Views	37,031	178,803

Last month, OCHN hosted its quarterly All Provider Meeting, bringing together our network of providers to connect, share updates, and discuss significant developments in the behavioral health sector. This gathering provides an essential platform for strengthening relationships, exchanging knowledge, and ensuring we are all aligned in our mission to deliver quality, holistic care to the individuals and families we serve.

By working together as a unified network, we continue to drive positive change and enhance the well-being of our communities. We appreciate the dedication of all our providers and look forward to continued collaboration in the months ahead.

On Tuesday, March 11, 2025, OCHN hosted a follow-up Financial Management Service (FMS) / Self-Determination (SD) Forum. This event provided an opportunity to dive deeper into the key components of FMS/SD and address the processes involved in transitioning these services. The

forum was valuable for participants to share their questions, insights, and feedback. By actively engaging with our community, OCHN is committed to ensuring that individuals and families have the support and information they need to navigate these essential services effectively.

OCHN supports the Arc's Annual Dove Awards to recognize the efforts of individuals within the community who, through their dedication and commitment, have enhanced the lives of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. See the list of honorees recognized at the annual event to recognize these recipients. [Dove Awards Program | The Arc of Oakland County, MI](#)

The well attended Abilities Awareness event on March 5, 2025 as described above, celebrated the abilities of people living with intellectual or developmental disabilities. The program championed this year's theme by highlighting the numerous accomplishments of "Abilities Champions", which were individuals recognized for their outstanding achievements and pictured below.



Pictured (left to right): PJ DeCuir, Community Living Services; Josh Landon, Fox 2 News Detroit; Lisa Barger, Easterseals MORC; Alex Kimmel; Malkia Newman, OCHN Board Vice Chairperson

## ADVOCACY & COLLABORATION

OCHN is pleased to host the **Prepaid Inpatient Health Plan (PIHP) Metro Region Quarterly Meeting** at our Administrative Office in Troy on Thursday, March 27, 2025. This gathering brings together board members and staff from the behavioral health systems across the region, including Detroit Wayne Integrated Health Network, Macomb County Community Mental Health, and OCHN.

The OCHN Board of Director's presence and contributions are crucial to the success of this meeting. This collaborative meeting provides an invaluable opportunity to share best practices, discuss innovative solutions, and strengthen our collective efforts. Together, we can significantly enhance the quality of care and services provided to individuals and families in our communities.

The OCHN team looks forward to a productive discussion and your active participation in this meeting to support behavioral health services across the Metro Region.

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### STRATEGIC GOALS & PRIORITIES (FY23-25)

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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### COMMUNITY OUTREACH & FEEDBACK

OCHN recently completed its **Service Delivery Feedback Survey**, seeking input from community members, network employees, and contracted providers to enhance service delivery. The survey will inform OCHN’s annual planning and support our mission to **“inspire hope, empower people, and strengthen communities.”** To date, over 500 completed surveys have been received and are being calculated.

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

OCHN continues to support substance use disorder treatment through grant-funded initiatives. In January, the **Sober Support Unit (SSU)** served 109 individuals, totaling 375 YTD. Additionally, 19 underinsured individuals received necessary SUD services in January, bringing the YTD total to 76 individuals.

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

Metric	February 2025	FY25 YTD
Service Requests	127	722
Unique Persons Served	97	530
Inpatient Dispositions	25	118
Diversions	81	583
Mobile Crisis Unit Responses	21	94

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## MDHHS UPDATES & PROVIDER RELATIONS

### Michigan Department of Health & Human Services (MDHHS) Updates

MDHHS recently issued a press release announcing its plans to launch a Request for Proposals (RFP) for Michigan's Prepaid Inpatient Health Plans (PIHP). The message also included a survey about public behavioral health services delivery in Michigan. OCHN's leadership and legislative consultants are gathering more information to understand the intent better. The PIHP system is no stranger to recommended organizational changes, service delivery changes and threats of privatization.

As in the past, OCHN will remain responsive with effective advocacy initiatives that prioritize and protect services for people. I am currently engaging with stakeholders, including the Community Mental Health Association (CMHA) and legislators, to gather insights on [MDHHS's survey linked here](#) and the RFP process. Our leadership team is proactively gathering essential information and preparing for any changes, ensuring we are well-equipped to navigate the future.

MDHHS updated contract awards for nine health plans, including a new benefit plan, MI Coordinated Health, which will launch **on January 1, 2026**. MI Coordinated Health is designed to provide comprehensive and coordinated care to individuals enrolled in Medicare and Medicaid. It will be available in select counties in 2026 before expanding statewide in 2027, offering improved healthcare access and quality to a larger population. The OCHN team has begun to explore potential collaboratives to support and ensure seamless access to integrated care.

Region 10 – Detroit Metro Prosperity Region – *Oakland: Aetna Better Health of Michigan Inc.; AmeriHealth Michigan, Inc.; HAP CareSource; Humana Medical Plan of Michigan, Inc.; Meridian Health Plan of Michigan, Inc.; Molina Healthcare of Michigan, Inc.; Priority Health Choice, Inc.; UnitedHealthcare Community Plan, Inc.*

### Provider Relations & Stability

OCHN is committed to collaborating with provider leaders to enhance service sustainability through:

- Advocacy for equitable rates and workforce sustainability
- Rate standardization and equity assessments.
- Improved transportation services aligned with Medicaid-covered needs.

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## 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 Outcomes

Metric	February 2025	FY25 YTD
Referrals	406	1,674
Remained in Community (Jail Diversion)	197	788
Arrests	10	49
Voluntary Emergency Transports	74	332

Additionally, OCHN continues to provide **Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training, Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) services, and jail diversion programs** to support individuals with mental health and substance use challenges.

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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 Textline:** Text TALK to 741741
- **OCHN Access Line:** (248) 464-6363

Upcoming OCHN Board Meetings:

- **Committee of the Whole:** Monday, April 7th at 4:30 p.m.
- **General Board:** Tuesday, April 15th at 6 p.m.

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This Director’s Report reflects OCHN’s ongoing dedication to advancing public behavioral health services and enhancing community well-being. Thank you for your continued support and partnership.