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OCHN's Assessment Center Becomes a Sing. Say. Point. Play. Ambassador

OAKLAND COUNTY, MI (February 25, 2025) – Oakland Community Health Network (OCHN) has joined the Sing. Say. Point. Play. (SSPP) initiative as an SSPP Ambassador, reinforcing its commitment to supporting families and promoting early literacy. Through this partnership with the Great Start Collaborative-Oakland (GSC-O), OCHN's Assessment Center now features an additional reading space stocked with books for children to enjoy while waiting, along with take-home literacy flyers for parents and caregivers.

OCHN's Assessment Center, located at OCHN's Administrative Offices in Troy, MI, is a quiet environment where OCHN's Clinical Diagnosticians assess individuals for Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). ASD, or Autism, is a mental health condition that is present from early childhood and characterized by difficulty in communication, forming relationships with other people and in using language, with abstract concepts, as well as restricted repetitive behaviors, activities, and interests. Autism is a "spectrum condition" that affects individuals differently and to varying degrees.

SSPP Ambassadors play a vital role in the Sing. Say. Point. Play. initiative, an Oakland County early literacy campaign designed to help young children develop strong language and literacy skills through everyday interactions. Ambassadors help bring these principles into the community by:

- **Promoting Literacy in Everyday Spaces:** Creating reading corners in their locations—whether businesses, medical offices, or other community spaces—stocked with books and early literacy materials for families.
- **Engaging Families:** Encouraging parents and caregivers to incorporate simple, interactive literacy practices like Sing. Say. Point. Play. into daily routines.
- **Advocating for Early Literacy:** Raising awareness about the importance of early literacy and how easily it can be woven into everyday life.

As an SSPP Ambassador, OCHN's Assessment Center joins a growing network of community spaces—including pediatric offices, laundromats, and barbershops—where families can access books and literacy resources.

In addition to increasing book access, GSC-O is also working to connect families with free preschool opportunities through the Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP). High-quality pre-K helps prepare children for kindergarten and beyond by fostering essential early learning and social-emotional skills. Families interested in free pre-K can learn more at GreatStartOakland.org or by texting or calling 844-456-5437.

As the public behavioral health system for Oakland County, OCHN offers services and supports to individuals with intellectual / developmental disabilities, mental health challenges, and/or substance use disorders. To be connected with services such as ASD supports, reach out to OCHN's Access team at 248-464-6363. If you or someone you know needs immediate assistance, call or text the Suicide & Crisis Lifeline at 988. To learn more about OCHN, visit www.oaklandchn.org.

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 30,000 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.

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