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Contact: Suzanne Weinert
248-758-1991
weinerts@oaklandchn.org

Oakland Community Health Network to Directly Operate Adult Crisis Services for Oakland County Residents

Oakland County, MI — Nov. 18, 2025 — Oakland Community Health Network (OCHN) is announcing that it will transition to directly operate and manage adult crisis services for Oakland County beginning January 2026. These services, currently delegated to Common Ground and funded by OCHN, will continue without interruption at OCHN's Resource and Crisis Center (RCC) in Pontiac. This shift represents a significant milestone in OCHN's ongoing commitment to building a more coordinated, compassionate, and accessible crisis care system for all residents of Oakland County.

"Our mission has always been to ensure that individuals experiencing a behavioral health crisis receive the right care at the right time," said Dana Lasenby, CEO and Executive Director of OCHN. "By directly managing crisis services, OCHN can better align care, strengthen response coordination, and uphold the high standards of quality and compassion our community deserves."

OCHN's Leadership in Crisis Response

As a State-designated Community Mental Health Service Program (CMHSP), OCHN is responsible under Michigan law for ensuring access to crisis services. The organization has a proven track record of leadership in crisis response, having established and operated several nationally recognized programs, including:

- The Co-Responder (CoRe) Program partnership with 911 and law enforcement across 22 communities
- Crisis Intervention Teams (CIT) partnering with local law enforcement to train more than 1,330 first responders
- Crisis Intervention Stress Management (CISM) Team, responding to multiple targeted mass violence incidents
- The Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management (BTAM) Team
- The Oakland 360 Care Center offering urgent behavioral health walk-in services
- Crisis care oversight of programs provided at the RCC, including the Youth and Family Care Connection
- Hospital Liaisons connect with Emergency Departments to assist with crisis care coordination

Key Benefits of the Transition

- Streamlined coordination between crisis and clinical care teams
- Improved access to the appropriate level of care, 24 hours a day / 7 days a week (24/7)
- Reduced overall system costs through community-based services
- Enhanced collaboration with hospitals, law enforcement, and other emergency response partners
- Continued delivery of services by skilled and compassionate staff
- Additional employment opportunities within the county as overall comprehensive crisis continuum of care are expanded

Crisis Services to be provided by OCHN

- In-Person Customer Services for screenings
- Sober Support Unit (SSU)
- Adult Crisis Assessment and Stabilization Services
- Adult Mobile Crisis Services
- Crisis Residential Unit (CRU)
- 24/7 Crisis Hotline – this does not include 988

The OCHN transition plan will be implemented in phases throughout 2026 to ensure continuity of care. This phased approach is designed to provide a sense of security and keep our community well-informed about the process. OCHN will maintain close collaboration with Common Ground during and after the transition. Common Ground will continue to play a vital role in the crisis care system, and OCHN will follow all Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) standards to ensure quality and compliance during and after the transition.

“This is about strengthening the safety net for our community,” Lasenby added. “We’re grateful to our partners, providers, and residents for their continued trust as we build a more responsive, compassionate crisis care system for Oakland County.”

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.