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OCHN Joins the Celebration of Pride Month

OAKLAND COUNTY, MI (June 4, 2024) – Oakland Community Health Network (OCHN) joins the nation in celebrating Pride Month which occurs every June to celebrate LGBTQ+ voices and culture. The uprising at Stonewall Inn in 1969, spearheaded a global movement toward LGBTQ+ equality and was a pivotal event in history. The celebration encourages communities to embrace acceptance and advocacy for persons who identify as LGBTQ+.

Many people experience mental health concerns throughout their lifetime, and the LGBTQ+ community is no exception. According to Mental Health America (MHA) 4.5% of the U.S. population identifies as lesbian, gay or bisexual; of those over 39% reported having a mental illness in the past year which accounts for 5.8 million people. To learn more about LGBTQ+ mental health, visit: [Mental Health America \(mhanational.org\)](https://mhanational.org)

The bisexual and transgender communities have the highest rate of mental health concerns within the LGBTQ+ population. In addition, many individuals who identify as LGBTQ+ also belong to another marginalized community. The secondary communities of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC), persons with disabilities, and individuals who practice different religions than their counterparts all share similar challenges as it relates to stigma and discrimination.

OCHN stands with the LGBTQ+ community in celebration of the countless contributions and value this population adds to the fabric of society. OCHN champions those who identify to be their authentic self and advocate for improved resources to address the unique concerns that the LGBTQ+ community faces.

For non-emergency Access services, call (248) 464-6363. If you or someone you know needs immediate assistance, call or text the Suicide & Crisis Lifeline at 988. For more information on 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 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.

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