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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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OCHN Participates in The Call to Solidarity

OAKLAND COUNTY, MI (October 24, 2024) – Oakland Community Health Network (OCHN) participates in the Call to Solidarity, a meeting series hosted by multiple agencies across Oakland County in a joint effort to address the needs of our community. The event was held on Tuesday, October 21, 2024, on the Oakland Schools campus and marked the third event in the meeting series.

The Call to Solidarity meeting purpose is to convene individuals and organizations in Oakland County with a shared interest to identify solutions for the mental health needs of our community members. This includes increasing knowledge of services, breaking down the stigma surrounding mental health, substance use disorders, and homelessness.



The event was formally convened by the Superintendent of Oakland Schools, Kenneth Gutman and focused on an intended outcome of “coming together with an open mind, making connections, and to be reinvigorated about the work we do.” Individuals from the education, behavioral health, housing sector, and beyond, came together for the event, and four Social Work Continuing Education Units (CEUs) and State Continuing Education Clock Hours (SCECHs) were offered to participants.

Pastor Douglas Jones of Welcome Missionary Baptist Church and the Greater Pontiac Community Coalition (GPCC) provided a history of the Call to Solidarity meeting series alongside Caitlin Toth, OCHN’s Lead Communications and Community Outreach Specialist. In addition, GPCC sponsored the event. Dr. Amber Zarb and Kelly Phillips of Oakland Schools facilitated a discussion on recent Michigan Profile for Healthy Youth (MiPHY) data and McKinney-Vento, a program that aids unhoused students. The event also featured a presentation by Dr. Rebecca Cheezum, an Associate Professor with Oakland University on the basics of coalition building, and a discussion on preventing and addressing burnout by OCHN’s Director of Training, Jean Pfaendtner.

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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