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OCHN Recognizes Pride Month and Men's Health Month, *Emphasizing the Importance of Positive Mental Health*

OAKLAND COUNTY, MI (June 11, 2025) – Oakland Community Health Network (OCHN) joins the nation in honoring both Pride Month and Men's Health Month this June, recognizing the importance of mental health support and awareness for all individuals, particularly those who identify as LGBTQ+ and those navigating men's health challenges.

Pride Month commemorates the LGBTQ+ community's rich history, culture, and contributions, beginning with the 1969 Stonewall Inn uprising—a pivotal moment in the fight for LGBTQ+ equality. This annual celebration encourages communities to embrace acceptance, authenticity, and advocacy for individuals of all gender identities and sexual orientations.

According to Mental Health America (MHA), 4.5% of the U.S. population identifies as lesbian, gay, or bisexual, and over 39% of those individuals reported experiencing a mental illness in the past year—that's approximately 5.8 million people.

June also marks Men's Health Month, a national observance that raises awareness of health issues affecting men and boys, including the often-overlooked topic of mental health. Men are statistically less likely to seek help for mental health challenges due to stigma, cultural expectations, or lack of access to care. According to the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), men die by suicide at a rate nearly four times higher than women, highlighting a critical need for early intervention, open conversation, and comprehensive support systems.

"OCHN is committed to breaking down barriers to care and ensuring that all individuals, regardless of gender identity or sexual orientation, receive compassionate, equitable mental health support," said OCHN Chief Executive Officer and Executive Director Dana Lasenby. "As we celebrate Pride and recognize Men's Health Month, we reaffirm our mission to build stronger, healthier communities through inclusion and access."

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OCHN stands proudly with the LGBTQ+ community and champions all men in their journey toward emotional wellness, healthy living, and self-acceptance. We advocate for increased awareness, better resources, and continued conversations around the unique challenges these populations face.

For immediate help, call or text the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline at 988. Non-emergency Access services, call (248) 464-6363 or 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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