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OCHN’s Chief Medical Officer Makes Global Connections

OAKLAND COUNTY, MI (June 12, 2024) – Oakland Community Health Network’s (OCHN) Chief Medical Officer, Vasilis K. Pozios, M.D., recently returned from Greece, where he participated in a mission of international cooperation sponsored by the American Psychiatric Association (APA).

Dr. Pozios is a board-certified physician in general and forensic psychiatry and is the Immediate Past Speaker of the Assembly of the APA, where he also served on the Board of Trustees. In addition, he is a past president of the Michigan Psychiatric Society.

As OCHN’s Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Pozios oversees the Justice Initiatives program and is an outspoken advocate for reducing the stigma associated with mental health and substance use disorders.

While in Greece, Dr. Pozios met in Athens with the Deputy Minister of Greece’s Ministry of Health, Dimitrios Vartzopoulos, to discuss areas of mutual concern and methods of collaboration with respect to mental health and climate change, the crisis continuum of care, and more. OCHN offers a wide variety of crisis prevention and intervention services, however, OCHN’s array of justice initiatives supporting the Sequential Intercept Model (SIM) particularly impressed the Deputy Minister.



Pictured (left to right): Philip Candilis, M.D. (Chair, American Psychiatric Association Ethics Committee); Dimitrios Vartzopoulos, M.D., Ph.D. (Greek Deputy Minister of Health); Vasilis K. Pozios, M.D. (OCHN Chief Medical Officer, Immediate Past Speaker, American Psychiatric Association Assembly); George Karampoutakis, M.D. (President, Hellenic American Psychiatric Association).

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OCHN uses the SIM to identify opportunities to implement strategies to divert individuals with mental health and substance use disorders from the justice system. When alternatives to incarceration are made available to youth or adults involved with the justice system, paths to recovery are created.

In addition to his meeting with the Ministry of Health, Dr. Pozios met with the Deputy Minister of Climate Crisis and Civil Protection and the President of the National Public Health Organization (NPHO) and served as a panelist at the NPHO's 3rd Conference of Public Health and Climate Change. Dr. Pozios also engaged with civic leaders of Volos and Riga Feraiou in central Greece, where he toured areas affected by historic flooding from last year's Storm Daniel.

To learn more about OCHN or its Justice Initiatives, visit www.oaklandchn.org. To learn more about the APA, visit www.apa.org. To read the press release from the Greek Ministry of Health, click [here](#). The Greek Ministry of Health press release can be translated to English or your preferred language by your web browser.

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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