

Director's Report – September 2025



Dana Lasenby
OCHN Executive Director & CEO

OCHN MISSION:
Inspire Hope • Empower
People • Communities.

OCHN VISION:

OCHN will be a champion for the empowerment of persons seeking quality integration of physical and mental health supports and services. This includes youth and adults with developmental or intellectual disabilities, mental health concerns, and substance use disorders. We listen and respond to our community's needs, providing support and opportunities for people to lead independent and self-directed lives.

OCHN Access: 248-464-6363

Crisis Line: 988

www.oaklandchn.org

Oakland Community Health Network (OCHN) proudly recognizes **September as Suicide Prevention and Recovery Month**, a time to unite as a community to raise awareness, promote healing, and reaffirm our commitment to mental well-being. Suicide impacts countless lives, and this month, we honor those we have lost, support survivors, and celebrate the strength in seeking help. OCHN is committed to reducing stigma, increasing access to mental health resources, and fostering open conversations. As part of this effort, we invite the community to our **annual Recovery Celebration on Friday, September 19th at our Troy office**.

Our collective goal is to reduce stigma, increase access to support services, and encourage open, honest conversations about mental health. Local organizations, schools, health providers, and community leaders are all working together to ensure that resources, education, and compassionate support are within reach for anyone who needs them. Please see proclamations recognizing these important observances at this [link](#).

This month and every month, let us stand together in hope and healing. We all play a role in prevention, and even a small gesture—listening without judgment, checking in on a friend, sharing a resource—can save a life.

Remember, you are not alone—**help is available by calling 988**. Together, we can create a future filled with hope, compassion, and recovery for all.

Thank you for being a part of a caring and resilient community.

OCHN FOCUS PRIORITIES:

- Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) – Pre-paid Inpatient Health Plan (PIHP) Request for Proposals (RFP)
- Managed Care Process Improvement
 - Standardized Rates & Fee for Services
 - Self-Determined & Fiscal Management Services
 - Medicaid Redeterminations & General Fund Benefit Plan
 - Certified Community Behavior Health Clinics & MDHHS Direct Pay as of 10/1/2025
- Comprehensive Crisis Services System & Transition
- Direct Services
 - Assessment Center (Troy)
 - Walk-in Center – Behavioral Health Urgent Care
 - CoRE-Mental Health Co-responders with Oakland County Law Enforcement
 - Veterans & School Mental Health Navigators
 - Integrated Care Nurse Managers

UPDATE ON THE PIHP REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)*

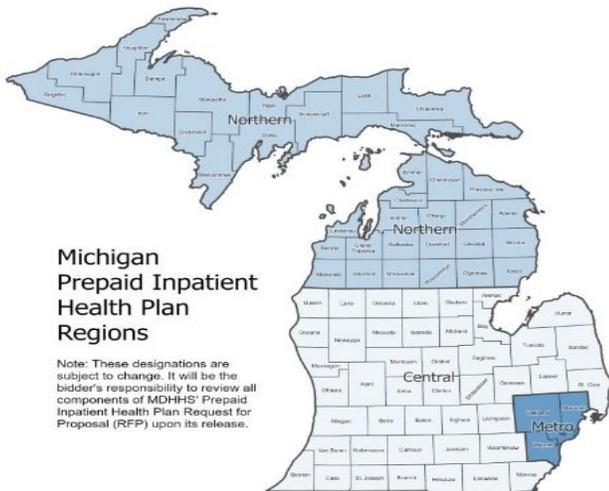
Last month, I shared that the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) released a Request for Proposals (RFP) on **August 4, 2025**, to determine which organizations will oversee Medicaid specialty behavioral health services. Since then, MDHHS has made **three updates to the RFP**, and all proposals are due by **October 6, 2025**.

Here are a few key details:

- The RFP outlines **three new service regions** across the state (see map on the next page).
- The new system is expected to start on **October 1, 2026**.
- Groups that can apply include **public organizations, nonprofit agencies, and public universities**.
- Responses to potential bidders' questions (365) received on Friday September 12, 2025

**Note that the application due date has been changed to October 13, 2025.*

OCHN is carefully reviewing the RFP to understand what these changes could mean for our community. No matter what the outcome, our priority will remain the same: making sure people and families in Oakland County continue to have access to the high-quality mental health and substance use services they need.



OCHN AS A CMHSP AND PIHP

Oakland Community Health Network (OCHN) serves a dual role in Michigan's public behavioral health system, functioning both as a **Community Mental Health Services Program (CMHSP)** and a **Prepaid Inpatient Health Plan (PIHP)**.

As a **CMHSP**, OCHN is a governmental entity responsible for delivering a comprehensive array of mental health services to individuals with serious mental illness, intellectual and developmental disabilities, and substance use disorders. CMHSPs are the single point of entry into the public behavioral health system, tasked with managing resources, ensuring compliance with standards of care, and responding to community needs. OCHN remains accountable to local citizens and is required to provide all medically necessary services for individuals enrolled in Medicaid and other waiver benefit programs.

As a **PIHP**, OCHN serves as a regional Medicaid managed care entity under contract with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS). In this role, OCHN is responsible for overseeing provider networks, including CMHSPs and behavioral health providers, to ensure individuals receive appropriate support and services. PIHPs must also ensure Medicaid funds are managed in full compliance with applicable laws, regulations, and contract provisions.

OCHN continues to navigate key challenges impacting the public behavioral health system, including:

- **Federal and State Budget Pressures:** Reductions in Medicaid funding and eligibility that may affect access to services.
- **MDHHS Contractual Requirements:** Increasing administrative, reporting, and compliance expectations for PIHPs and CMHSPs.

Despite these challenges, OCHN remains steadfast in its mission to ensure that the individuals and families we serve have access to high-quality, person-centered care.

PRESERVING MICHIGAN'S PUBLIC COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH SYSTEM

Oakland Community Health Network (OCHN) continues to express significant concerns regarding current policy proposals and funding realities, which many stakeholders view as another attempt to privatize Michigan's public community mental health system. Key challenges we face include:

- **Federal Medicaid Cuts**
- **A Chronically Underfunded System**
- **Incorrect Medicaid Redeterminations**
- **Persistent Workforce Shortages**

OCHN remains committed to engaging individuals and families in the design and delivery of behavioral health services to ensure the system reflects the needs of those it serves. As part of this work, we are assessing:

- The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services' (MDHHS) vision and plan for the system.
- How proposed changes will affect access to services, quality of care, and overall support for individuals and families.

MDHHS has expressed its commitment to transparency and preserving the public foundation of behavioral health care in Michigan. OCHN's priorities align with MDHHS's goals to:

- Maintain low system-wide administrative rates.
- Improve access and provider availability.
- Ensure integrated care, including wraparound services.
- Enhance accountability and provider relations while achieving measurable outcomes.
- Recruit and retain a highly qualified and stable workforce.

Additionally, OCHN is accredited by the **National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA)** as a Managed Behavioral Healthcare Organization (MBHO), underscoring our commitment to evidence-based practices, accountability, and high-quality care. This includes:

- Delivering timely, person-centered services.
- Increasing choice and consistency across regions.
- Ensuring accountability and transparency.
- Reducing bureaucracy and redundancy within the system.

As a nonprofit public organization, OCHN is governed by the Open Meetings Act and the Freedom of Information Act. Our governance structure ensures accountability to the community we serve and includes one-third representation from individuals with lived experience in Michigan's specialty behavioral health system. This model elevates the voice of individuals and families at the highest level of decision-making.

OCHN continues to advocate strongly for the preservation of the public community mental health system. We are grateful for the broad support received through letters and resolutions from:

- **Oakland County Association of Chiefs of Police**
- **Oakland County Sheriff Michael Bouchard**

- **Oakland County Executive Dave Coulter and Commissioner Dave Woodward**
- **52nd District Court**
- **Oakland County Board of Commissioners**
- **OCHN Board of Directors**

In addition, statewide partners have demonstrated support, including:

- **Michigan Association of Counties (MAC)**
- **Macomb County Executive Mark Hackel and Commissioner Joe Sabatini**

This collective advocacy reflects the urgent need to preserve a public, accountable, and person-centered system of care.

ADVOCACY & COLLABORATION

OCHN is a long-time participant and organizer of the annual **Walk a Mile Rally** in partnership with the Community Mental Health Association of Michigan (CMHAM) and other counterparts across the state. The Association announced that former U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow is this year’s keynote speaker at the event to be held at the Michigan State Capitol in Lansing on **Wednesday, September 17th**. The rally highlights the importance of accessible mental and behavioral health care for all Michiganders and strong opposition to the planned bid-out to manage the state’s public mental health system.

Immediately preceding the rally, Sen. Stabenow along with Michigan legislators, advocacy agencies, municipal and labor leaders, and families will hold a press conference at 12 p.m. at the Capitol Tower, Suite 200, 110 W. Michigan Ave. in Lansing. Sen. Stabenow and other leaders will voice their opposition to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services’ competitive proposal process for prepaid inpatient health plans (PIHPs) at the press conference.

Legislators will also present a new package of bills recognizing and reinforcing the value and importance of the current public PIHP system.

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) has shared a new plan. This plan could take apart from the public mental health system in Michigan. If this happens, more than 300,000 children and adults could lose the care they need. These services help people with mental health needs, substance use problems, and those with disabilities.

OCHN reminds the community that your voice matters! Stay informed, share your stories, and support efforts to maintain strong, localized PIHP services focused on people. For more information, visit OCHN's Advocacy page at www.oaklandchn.org/advocacy.

ACCESS TO SERVICES

OCHN remains committed to connecting individuals with essential behavioral health services. Our Access Team makes timely service eligibility determinations and links individuals to critical community resources.

Metric	August 2025	FY25 YTD
Calls to Access	1,695	22,941
Screenings Completed	423	6,040

Customer Services, Community Engagement & Outreach

OCHN remains dedicated to engaging with our community through outreach initiatives and transparent communication.

Metric	August 2025	FY25 YTD
Customer Service Call Responses	619	7,071
Community Events	23	155
Email Engagements	40,264	291,147
Website Views	46,022	442,770



Pictured above: Chaka McDonald kicking off the Veterans Event at the Madison Heights City Hall.

OCHN hosted its annual fall **Veterans Event** on Monday, September 15, 2025, in partnership with the city of Madison Heights. The event began with highlights about accessing behavioral health services and OCHN justice initiatives. Individuals in attendance also participated in a Narcan training and learned about important Veterans Administration services. Numerous resources tables provided valuable information to participants. Gift cards and lunch were provided to all.

Suicide Prevention Community Discussion - On Tuesday, September 16, 2025, OCHN hosted this event in partnership with the Oakland County Health Division led Suicide Prevention Task Force at its office in Troy. The program focused on understanding the law and mental health as it pertains to suicide awareness. A clinician training opportunity related to Self-Care & Secondary Trauma: Strategies for Clinician Wellness & Resilience followed in the afternoon.

17th Annual Recovery Celebration - OCHN is excited for its on Friday, September 19th at our office in Troy, 5505 Corporate Drive. The event will be held from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and feature Bryce the Third, a Detroit-based, nationally recognized recording artist and storyteller who blends hip-hop with messages of growth and resilience. A father from 15 and over 12 years since he uses his journey to inspire communities all over the country through music, speaking, and storytelling. Learn more at this [link](#).

NAMI Walks Michigan 2025 - OCHN is pleased to have a team participating in the event. It is a community walk dedicated to raising awareness and supporting mental health. The walk takes place on Saturday, September 20th at the University of Detroit Mercy and brings together individuals, families, and organizations to promote mental health advocacy, eliminate stigma, and raise funds for the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) of Michigan. The event kicks off with registration at 8:00 a.m., followed by an opening ceremony at 9:00 a.m., and the 5K walk begins at 10:00 a.m. It is a powerful day of unity, support, and hope for a better future in mental health care across Michigan.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICE DELIVERY INFRASTRUCTURE ENHANCEMENTS

OCHN received a grant through the State of Michigan for \$1 Million in FY25 thanks to the support of the Michigan Legislature and Governor. The enhancements to services on the crisis continuum and assessments, are designed to strengthen access and improve care coordination. To achieve this, OCHN plans for significant infrastructure improvements in:

- **OCHN Assessment Center – Troy:** This site will enhance access to screenings and early intervention services, streamlining entry into the behavioral health system.
- **Resource & Crisis Center (RCC):** Focused on urgent and walk-in behavioral health needs, this facility ensures timely support and reduces reliance on emergency departments. The RCC supports the crisis continuum and, more importantly, reinforces our unwavering commitment to trauma-informed care.

These centers support our broader strategy to build a responsive, person-centered service delivery infrastructure that adapts to community needs in real time.

CRISIS CONTINUUM SERVICES

Through a robust network of contracted providers, OCHN offers crisis and support services for individuals with Medicaid, Medicare, the Healthy Michigan Plan, private insurance, or underinsured. These services include:

- Crisis Intervention
- Crisis Stabilization
- Crisis Residential Services
- Pre-Admission Review for Psychiatric Hospitalization Authorization
- Local management of Common Ground (988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline)

Total Crisis Calls	August 2025	FY25 YTD
OC Resource & Crisis Helpline	2,239	28,592

Youth & Family Care Connections (YFCC) Outcomes

Metric	August 2025	FY25 YTD
Service Requests	89	1,498
Unique Persons Served	70	1,210
Inpatient Dispositions	22	351
Diversions	51	873
Mobile Crisis Unit Responses	12	222

Substance Abuse Disorder Services & Supports

OCHN continues to support substance use disorder treatment through grant-funded initiatives. In July, the **Sober Support Unit (SSU)** served 116 individuals, totaling 1,324 YTD. Additionally, 22 underinsured individuals received necessary SUD services, bringing the YTD total to 276 individuals.

MANAGED CARE

CCBHC Direct Payment Update

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) has released updated guidance on the transition to a **direct payment model for Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs)** beginning **FY2026**. Beginning FY2026, OCHN and other PIHPs will **no longer oversee or administer the CCBHC demonstration**.

MDHHS' Goals

- Addresses **inconsistent implementation** across PIHP regions by MDHHS.
- Reduces **conflicts of interest** with CCBHC requirements.

Payment will

- Payments will flow **directly from MDHHS to CCBHCs** using the CHAMPS system by **October 1, 2025**.
- **Quality Bonus Payments** will remain part of the model.

PIHP Role

- PIHPs will still coordinate with CCBHCs to connect individuals to services outside the CCBHC scope.
- PIHP administration funding for CCBHCs has been removed from OCHN Budget for FY26

Additional Key Points

- **Recipient Rights oversight will continue through the local CMHSP.**
- The direct payment model will remain in place until the end of the demonstration in **September 2027**.

OCHN will continue to collaborate with MDHHS, CCBHCs, and community partners to ensure that:

- **Service coordination remains seamless** for individuals and families.

- Recipient rights, grievance, and appeal protections remain strong.
- Feedback from providers and people served informs the implementation process.

Fiscal Management Services Transition Update

Over the past year, under the direction of the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), Oakland Community Health Network (OCHN) has been engaged in the transition to assume oversight of Fiscal Management Services (FMS). This transition is a critical step in strengthening accountability, ensuring regulatory compliance, and achieving greater consistency across service delivery.

As OCHN continues to implement the technical requirements established by MDHHS, we remain committed to maintaining program fidelity and adherence to established standards. Importantly, rates for Community Living Supports (CLS) have not been altered or reduced under OCHN’s oversight.

To align fully with MDHHS guidelines and safeguard program integrity, adjustments to budget allocations have been implemented. These adjustments do not constitute reductions in CLS rates but represent necessary measures to ensure long-term sustainability and compliance with state-mandated requirements.

OCHN will continue to prioritize transparency and accountability in all aspects of this process and will maintain ongoing collaboration with providers, partners, and stakeholders to support the continuity and quality of services for the individuals and families we serve.

Value Based Care

OCHN has transitioned from Service Models to a Value-Based Care model. This transition is using standardized rates to promote equity and a fee-for-service reimbursement model to support service sustainability which aligns with MDHHS reimbursement models. The goal is to improve measurable and sustainable outcomes for people served.

OCHN moved to a standardized and improved reimbursement process by utilizing fund source management with Value-Based Care. The value-based care model brings tangible benefits by using standardized service rates to ensure provider network equity and prioritize quality life outcomes for people served.

Justice-Related Initiatives & Training

OCHN’s **Co-Responder (CoRe) Program** strengthens partnerships with law enforcement, policymakers, and the judiciary to divert individuals from incarceration to behavioral health services.

CoRe Program Data

Metric	August 2025	FY25 YTD
Referrals	464	4,414
Remained in Community	225 / 48.8%	2,185 / 49.5%
Arrests	11 / 2.4%	141 / 3.2%
Voluntary Emergency Transports	73 / 15.8%	797 / 18.1%

Additionally, OCHN continues to provide **Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training** to law enforcement, **Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) services**, and **jail diversion programs** to support individuals with mental health and substance use challenges.

AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2025 CEO COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & ADVOCACY

- Your Voice, Your Value Event (8/5)
- CIT Conference (8/11 – 8/15)
- OCHN Town Hall (8/18)
- Metro Region Meeting (8/21)

- Walk a Mile Rally (9/17)
 - Recovery Celebration (9/19)
 - NAMI Walk (9/20)
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STRATEGIC GOALS & PRIORITIES (FY23-25)

CEO Semi-Annual Report provided for Board of Directors review. OCHN remains focused on achieving key objectives aligned with our mission:

1. **Staffing & Retention** – Cultivate a positive work environment to enhance recruitment and retention.
2. **Quality Systems of Care** – Expand direct service options for adults and children.
3. **Administration & Service Delivery** – Streamline payment structures and processes.
4. **Integrated Healthcare** – Strengthen the crisis continuum of care.
5. **Partnerships, Advocacy & Outreach** – Strengthen collaborations with county officials, community leaders, law enforcement, and healthcare providers.

Please see OCHN' FY 24 Annual Impact Report and FY26-28 Strategic Plan for more detail.

CALL TO ACTION

If you or someone you know needs immediate support, contact:

- **National Suicide Prevention Lifeline:** Call 988, Text 988, or visit online.
- **Crisis Text line:** Text TALK to 741741
- **OCHN Access Line:** (248) 464-6363

Upcoming OCHN Board Meetings:

- **Committee of the Whole:** Monday, October 8th at 4:30 p.m.
- **General Board:** Tuesday, October 14th at 6 p.m.

Looking Ahead

As FY2025 ends of this month, OCHN remains committed to fiscal responsibility, workforce engagement, advocacy leadership, and compassionate care delivery. With our partners, we will continue to strengthen public behavioral health services in Oakland County.

Respectfully,

Dana Lasenby
Chief Executive Officer & Executive Director