Oakland Community Health Network

Developmental Disabilities • Mental Health • Substance Recovery

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OCHN Recognizes September as National Recovery and Suicide Prevention Awareness Month

OAKLAND COUNTY, MI (September 3, 2024) – In recognition of September being National Recovery and Suicide Prevention Awareness Month, Oakland Community Health Network (OCHN) is joining nation-wide efforts in raising awareness of these two observances.

Since 2022, a record high of 49,476 people died by suicide in the U.S. according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Suicide Prevention Awareness Month helps to cultivate a community of understanding and vigilance concerning this public health issue, while publicizing valuable resources for suicide prevention. Anyone can experience suicidal thoughts, knowing the warning signs can prevent suicide from occurring. Throughout September, OCHN is using its social media sites and community connections to educate the public on available behavioral health resources.

OCHN is also recognizing September as National Recovery Month. This includes OCHN hosting its 16th Annual Recovery Month Celebration on September 20th at its administrative offices in Troy. (For more information on this event, please visit www.oaklandchn.org under the Calendar).

Recovery Month educates communities about substance use treatment and substance use disorder (SUD) services, including supports provided by OCHN. OCHN utilizes data to continually improve services for the individuals we serve.

In January 2023 one of the most comprehensive reports on substance use and mental illness was released by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). Key findings from the 2021 data showed that nearly 1 in 4 adults 18 and older, and 1 in 3 adults 18 to 25 had mental illness in the past year. In addition, 46.3 million people aged 12 or older (16.5 percent of the population) met the DSM-5 criteria for having a substance use disorder. (SAMHSA Announces National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) Results Detailing Mental Illness and Substance Use Levels in 2021 | HHS.gov).

Individuals experiencing an immediate crisis, please call the Suicide and Crisis Helpline at 988. Please call OCHN's non-emergency access at 248-464-6363 if you or someone you know is struggling with a substance use disorder or a mental health challenge.

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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