Oakland Community Health Network

Developmental Disabilities • Mental Health • Substance Recovery

Attn: **Community Editors** **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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OCHN Observes Veterans Day and Encourages Veterans to Seek Support When Needed

OAKLAND COUNTY, MI (November 4, 2024) – Oakland Community Health Network (OCHN) is joining nation-wide efforts in honoring Veterans throughout November for National Veterans and Military Families Month and on November 11th for Veterans Day.

World War I officially ended when the Treaty of Versailles was signed on June 28, 1919, however, fighting ceased seven months earlier when an armistice, or temporary cessation of hostilities, between the Allied nations and Germany went into effect on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. Veterans Day continues to be observed on Nov. 11, regardless of the day of the week on which it falls. This day not only preserves the historical significance of the date but helps focus attention on the purpose of Veterans Day: A celebration to honor America's Veterans for their patriotism and willingness to serve for the common good. To learn more about the history of Veterans Day, click here.

Mental health and Veterans are closely linked, with Veterans experiencing a higher rate of mental health concerns than civilians. As Veterans transition from service to civilian life, many live with experiences that significantly impact their well-being. The 2023 National Veteran Suicide Prevention Annual Report by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs details an increase in suicide rates for Veterans and non-Veteran adults in the U.S. in 2021. Furthermore, the report indicates additional impact on women, American Indian or Alaskan Native, homeless, and justice involved Veterans.

This Veterans and Military Families Month, and all year long, OCHN is ready and available to support Veterans and military families in Oakland County. The Oakland County Veteran Navigator's Mission is to support Oakland County Veterans and their family members by helping them navigate state, federal, and community resources such as re-entry, employment, mental health, and more! This program supports all Veterans, regardless of discharge status or time in service.

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"This month, we honor our Veterans' service to this nation," said Chaka McDonald, OCHN's Veterans and Military Families Navigator. "Thank you to all service members and their families for the sacrifices made and the time given to serve our country."

Connect with your local Veteran Navigator today by calling 248-464-6363 or visit www.oaklandchn.org. If you or someone you know needs immediate help, call or text the Suicide & Crisis Lifeline (24/7) at 988. To connect with a Veterans Crisis Line responder, dial 988, then press 1.

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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