Director's Report

Oakland Community Health Network

AUGUST 2026



As summer begins to wind down, August offers an opportunity to reflect on the work ahead and the impact we can make together. Whether supporting students and families as they prepare for a new school year, encouraging our community to make their voices heard through the August Primary Election, or bringing people together for our popular Your Voice, Your Value event on August 13, our focus remains on improving the health and well-being of those we serve. As we also recognize International Overdose Awareness Day, we reaffirm our commitment to prevention, treatment and recovery for individuals and families affected by substance use disorders. Behind the scenes, OCHN continues preparing for several significant milestones, including implementation planning for H.R. 1, the opening of our Crisis Stabilization and Crisis Residential Units, and the expansion of OCHN's Adult Mobile Crisis Services. Thank you for your continued partnership as we work together to inspire hope, empower people and strengthen communities.

ACCESS TO SERVICES

OCHN is committed to ensuring Oakland County residents have prompt access to exceptional behavioral health services. In response to temporary referral pauses by several case management providers, due to workforce and capacity challenges including delays in care, OCHN has stepped in to offer direct Case Management services. This approach helps stabilize the system, prevent service gaps, and ensure individuals continue to receive the support they need without interruption.

At the same time, OCHN is actively expanding its provider network by welcoming new qualified case management partners to strengthen long-term capacity. This effort is to supplement our valued provider partners and reinforce a strong, collaborative system of care.

OCHN's Access Team continues to play a critical role by screening and determining eligibility and connecting individuals to essential community resources. Together, these efforts reflect OCHN's ongoing commitment to responsiveness, partnership, and ensuring every resident has and can access high-quality, person-centered behavioral health services when they need them most.

Metric	July 2026	2026 Fiscal Year to Date
Calls to Access	2, 981	27, 305
Screenings Completed	407	4, 738

ADVOCACY & COLLABORATION

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.

CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL (CAC) – At the request of OCHN's Citizens Advisory Council, I sent a letter to Oakland County election officials encouraging continued training and awareness to help ensure voting locations remain accessible for people with disabilities. This effort highlights the meaningful impact of the CAC's advocacy and OCHN's continued commitment to promoting accessibility and inclusion. The letter is included with this report for your reference.

RECIPIENT RIGHTS ADVISORY COUNCIL (RRAC) - As CEO & Executive Director, I support the RRAC's independence, ensure it has the necessary resources, and promote the integration of its recommendations into OCHN's quality and compliance activities. The RRAC meetings are the first Thursday of the month from 4-5:30p.m.

CUSTOMER SERVICES, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & OUTREACH

Metric	July 2026	2026 Fiscal Year to Date
Customer Service Call Responses	1,004	8,420
Community Events	8	76
Email Engagements	33,061	269,739
Website Views	75,595	445,952

COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS

OCHN Celebrates Annual Minority Mental Health Event Honoring Legacy of Malkia Newman



More than 60 community members representing diverse cultures attended OCHN's Minority Mental Health Event on July 27, celebrating mental wellness, connection, and cultural understanding. The event honored the legacy of longtime OCHN Board Member Malkia Newman, whose leadership and advocacy helped advance anti-stigma efforts and mental health awareness in diverse communities.

Highlights included participation from the CNS Healthcare Anti-Stigma Team, a special Kanun performance by Ara Topouzian, and an inspiring keynote from Dr. Portia Lockett, founder of the Azal Benne Lockett Foundation, who shared a message of hope, healing, and resilience.

Your Voice, Your Value Awards Ceremony Shines Spotlight on Reducing Stigma and Advancing Mental Health Awareness



Your Voice, Your Value Awards Ceremony: OCHN recognized five Achievement Award winners and four Peer Award winners during the 2026 Your Voice, Your Value event on Aug. 13. The event featured motivational speaker Spencer Kelly, was emceed by former Peer Award recipient Krista Koppen, and included a tribute to OCHN board member Malkia Newman. OCHN also presented the inaugural Malkia Newman Anti-Stigma Achievement Award, honoring Newman's legacy of reducing stigma and advancing mental health awareness. Achievement Award recipients were Emily V., Max E., Steven S., Diane S. and Omari B. Peer Award recipients were Megian J., Tammie L., Donna M. and Laura G**.**

OCHN CRISIS SERVICES CONTINUUM

OCHN's Crisis Services continues to provide a comprehensive, 24/7 response to individuals experiencing behavioral health emergencies. Services designed to deliver immediate assessment, stabilization, and connection to ongoing care in a safe and supportive environment.

Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU) Provides short-term, clinically supervised stabilization for individuals requiring a safe environment and intensive support to reduce acute symptoms. Tentatively set to open in the fall.

Crisis Residential Services (CRU) Voluntary program expanding the continuum of care with longer duration stabilization in a structured, therapeutic, homelike setting for individuals who need additional support beyond immediate crisis care. Tentatively set to open in the fall.

Resource & Crisis Center (RCC) Round-the-clock -walk-in- access for individuals seeking urgent behavioral health support. The crisis line (888-238-0611) continues to provide 24/7 support. All adults presenting at the RCC receive a clinical assessment and connection to the appropriate levels of care, including hospitalization, withdrawal management, treatment referrals, and community-based services.

Sober Support Unit (SSU) Supports individuals needing observation and assistance related to substance use or intoxication, with a focus on safety and rapid engagement in treatment resources.

Metric	July 2026	2026 Fiscal Year to Date
Crisis Services Requests	658	6,369
Unique Persons Served	512	5,060
Assessments	340	3,439
Triages	408	5,020
Sober Support Admissions	167	1,534

Youth & Family Care Connections (YFCC) Outcomes

Metric	July 2026	2026 Fiscal Year to Date
Service Requests	83	1,353
Unique Persons Served	67	1,126
Inpatient Dispositions	32	383
Diversions	46	726
Mobile Crisis Unit Responses	29	180

Youth Priority Focus: Workforce stabilization, residential licensure completion, and strengthening the full crisis continuum to ensure timely, clinically responsive for Oakland County residents.

Youth crisis services are available onsite through the Youth and Family Care Connection (in partnership with New Oakland Family Centers), providing immediate, developmentally appropriate intervention for youth ages 17 and under.

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. OCHN has 10 co-responders in 21 communities, including Auburn Hills, Birmingham, Bloomfield Twp, Crisis Response Unit (OCSO/county-wide), Ferndale, Franklin / Bingham Farms, Hazel Park, Madison Heights, Pontiac (OCSO), Orchard Lake, Rochester, Royal Oak, Sylvan Lake, Troy, Walled Lake, Waterford, West Bloomfield, White Lake, Wixom, and Wolverine Lake.

CoRe Program Data

Metric	July 2026	2026 Fiscal Year to Date
Referrals	483	4,053
Remained in Community	262 / 54%	2,116 / 52%
Arrests	24 / 5%	119 / 3%
Voluntary Emergency Transports	61 / 13%	693 / 17%

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. OCHN recently completed a video explaining the AOT process, please click on the link to learn more. Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) Services through Oakland Community Health Network (OCHN)

LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY UPDATE

Michigan Primary Election

Michigan's August 5 Primary Election finalized the candidates who will appear on the November General Election ballot for Governor, U.S. Senate, and numerous state legislative races. The election concluded several closely contested primaries across both major parties and sets the stage for continued policy discussions on healthcare, Medicaid, behavioral health, and state budget priorities during the remainder of the election cycle. For Michigan's public behavioral health system, the outcome of the November election will help shape future policy discussions related to Medicaid financing, behavioral health system governance, workforce investments, and implementation of initiatives such as the proposed Mental Health Framework. OCHN will continue to monitor legislative and administrative developments throughout the election season and engage with policymakers to advocate for a strong, integrated public behavioral health system.

House Bill 6022

House Bill 6022 remains under consideration in the Michigan House of Representatives. If enacted, the legislation would codify key components of the proposed Mental Health Framework and significantly change how Michigan's public behavioral health system is administered. OCHN, together with the Community Mental Health Association of Michigan (CMHA) and behavioral health partners across the state, continues to express concerns that the legislation could fragment care, increase administrative complexity, and weaken the public behavioral health safety net. Staff will continue monitoring legislative activity and advocating for a coordinated, publicly accountable behavioral health system.

PIHP Request for Proposal (RFP)

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) is expected to release a new Prepaid Inpatient Health Plan (PIHP) Request for Proposal (RFP). While a release date has not yet been announced, the RFP is forecasted and OCHN continues to monitor developments closely and remains engaged with statewide partners. Staff are evaluating potential operational, financial, and strategic implications to ensure OCHN is well positioned to respond once additional information becomes available.

H.R. 1 Implementation

OCHN continues to closely monitor guidance from MDHHS as we prepare for the implementation of H.R. 1. An internal implementation workgroup, comprised of OCHN and MDHHS staff, has been established to assess the operational and financial impacts of the new requirements, streamline internal processes, and coordinate implementation efforts.

Education and outreach remain top priorities. OCHN will provide an H.R. 1 update at the August 11 Provider meeting and is collaborating with community partners, including The Arc Oakland County, to help ensure individuals, families, providers, and other stakeholders understand the upcoming work requirements. This month, OCHN is launching a dedicated H.R. 1 webpage featuring frequently asked questions, continuing to share updates through social media, and planning several informational sessions to educate stakeholders and answer questions.

In July, Michigan joined a coalition of 25 states and the District of Columbia in filing a lawsuit challenging the federal rule, arguing that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' (CMS) definition of exemption eligibility is overly restrictive. While many of the individuals served by OCHN are expected to qualify for exemptions, concerns remain that increased eligibility verification and administrative requirements could lead to coverage disruptions

for eligible individuals. OCHN will continue to monitor both the litigation and implementation of H.R. 1 while working alongside state and national advocacy partners to minimize barriers to care and protect access to behavioral health services and Medicaid benefits.

STRATEGIC GOALS & PRIORITIES (FY26-28)

Managed Care Administration and Operations-This priority focuses on strategies that increase efficiency and strengthen administrative and operational services.

Advocacy, Partnership and Outreach- Under this focus area, our strong, trust-based partnerships power a responsive and inclusive behavioral health system.

Comprehensive Systems of Care - This priority demonstrates OCHN's commitment to establishing and reaching key milestones to ensure optimal whole-health outcomes for individuals receiving services. Crisis Continuum of Care - This priority focuses on enhancing access to a full continuum of crisis services that ensures timely, clinically driven assessment and stabilization for individuals during their most vulnerable moments.

Please see OCHN's FY 26 Annual Plan and FY26-28 Strategic Plan for more details.

CALL TO ACTION

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

OCHN Crisis Line: 888-238-0611

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: Call or text 988, or visit online. Crisis Text line: Text TALK to 741741

OCHN Access Line: 248- 464-6363

Upcoming OCHN Board Meetings:

General Board: Tuesday, September 22nd at 6 p.m.

Looking Ahead

As we look ahead, our focus remains clear: ensuring the people we serve continue to receive timely access to the highest quality behavioral health care while preparing for the opportunities and challenges of the year ahead. We will work closely with our state and local partners to successfully implement the requirements of H.R. 1, advance sustainable solutions for Michigan's direct care workforce, and build strong relationships with the new administration in Lansing. Through collaboration, innovation and an unwavering commitment to our mission, OCHN will continue to inspire hope, empower people and strengthen communities.

Respectfully,

Dana Lasenby
Chief Executive Officer & Executive Director