Director's Report



As we move through July, we reflect on the values that unite us as a nation. This month, we celebrated Independence Day, our nation's 250th anniversary, a historic milestone honoring two and a half centuries of resilience, progress, and the pursuit of freedom, opportunity, and justice for all. That celebration also served as a reminder of our shared responsibility to build stronger, healthier communities where every individual is valued, supported, and has the opportunity to thrive.

Also of major significance is the anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) on July 26th, a landmark civil rights law that transformed opportunities and protections for millions of Americans with disabilities. The ADA reflects the fundamental belief that every person deserves dignity, inclusion, and equal access to their community. At OCHN, this commitment is reflected every day through our work supporting individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, mental health needs, and substance use The ADA reflects the fundamental belief that every person deserves dignity, inclusion, and equal access to their community. At OCHN, this commitment is reflected every day through our work supporting individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, mental health needs, and substance use disorders, empowering them to live meaningful, self-directed lives with the services and supports they deserve.

July also marks Bebe Moore Campbell's National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month, a time to honor the legacy of author, teacher, journalist, and mental health advocate Bebe Moore Campbell. It's also a time to recognize the unique mental health challenges faced by many communities and to reaffirm our commitment to advancing equitable, culturally responsive behavioral health care. This year, OCHN holds its annual Minority Mental Health awareness event on Monday, July 27th at 10:30am at the OCHN offices, celebrating our beloved former Board member Malkia Newman. Be sure to register for the event.

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	June 2026	2026 Fiscal Year to Date
Calls to Access	3,115	24, 324
Screenings Completed	425	3, 591

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) – The CAC meeting was last week and part of the discussion focused on voter accessibility. Many are concerned that voter polling site employees are not educated on the needs of the disability community. OCHN has committed to reaching out to the county clerk to discuss voter accessibility concerns.

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

OCHN is dedicated to community engagement through outreach initiatives and transparent communication.

Metric	June 2026	2026 Fiscal Year to Date
Customer Service Call Responses	991	7,416
Community Events	7	68
Email Engagements	43,618	241,692
Website Views	50,190	158,626

COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS

OCHN hosted its annual Recovery Celebration on Wednesday, July 15, 2026, at a new location in partnership with the Oakland County Fair. Hundreds of individuals gathered across the fairgrounds to take part in this historic event, which brought together members of the recovery community, service providers, advocates, and supporters.

The program featured recognition of two deserving recipients of the prestigious “Be the Voice” Awards, a return performance by Bryce the Third for the second consecutive year, and an informative panel discussion highlighting recovery journeys and available community resources.

Attendees had the opportunity to connect with local organizations through vendor resource tables while also enjoying the many attractions and activities offered at the Oakland County Fair. Despite record-breaking heat, the event was a tremendous success and provided a memorable opportunity to celebrate recovery, foster community connections, and share valuable information and support services with individuals and families throughout Oakland County.



On Sunday, July 12th OCHN participated in ViewFest 2026, the largest mental health event in the world, engaging community members and strengthening partnerships with local organizations. The event attracted nearly 8,000 participants and featured more than 300 vendor tables, providing a valuable opportunity for outreach, resource sharing, and raising awareness of behavioral health services and supports available in the community.

OCHN hosted two virtual Voting webinars on July 7 and July 14, 2026, with approximately 30 participants in attendance. During the session, participants learned about advocacy, important voting dates, how to navigate the voting process, locate trusted election information, and identify accommodations that promote equal access to voting. The webinar provided practical information, tools, and resources to help individuals participate confidently and effectively in the electoral process while understanding their voting rights and available supports.

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.

Key Service Components:

Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU) Provides short-term, clinically supervised stabilization for individuals requiring a safe environment and intensive support to reduce acute symptoms. Opening this summer pending certification.

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. Opening this summer pending certification.

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	June 2026	2026 Fiscal Year to Date
Crisis Services Requests	607	5,711
Unique Persons Served	494	4,548
Assessment	338	3,099
Triages	414	4,612

Sober Support Admissions	147	1,140

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.

Youth & Family Care Connections (YFCC) Outcomes

Metric	June 2026	2026 Fiscal Year to Date
Service Requests	103	1,270
Unique Persons Served	80	1,059
Inpatient Dispositions	28	351
Diversions	62	680
Mobile Crisis Unit Responses	11	151

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	June 2026	2026 Fiscal Year to Date
Referrals	443	3569
Remained in Community	55.98%	51.91%
Arrests	3.39%	2.22%
Voluntary Emergency Transports	15.8%	17.72%

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. Take a look at our most recent video about AOT on our YouTube channel:

Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) Services through Oakland Community Health Network (OCHN)

FY27 State Budget

The Legislature approved the FY27 State Budget, maintaining funding for core behavioral health programs while adopting a more constrained spending plan than proposed in the Governor's recommendation. The table below highlights several of the most significant behavioral health funding changes.

Program	Governor's Recommendation	FY27 Final Budget	Difference
Medicaid Mental Health Services	$3.668B	$3.430B	-$237.7M
Healthy Michigan Behavioral Health	$525.3M	$329.9M	-$132.4M
Health Homes	$50.2M	34.2M	-$16M
Autism Services	$560.7M	$552.2M	-$8.5M
Community SUD Prevention, Education & Treatment	$79.2M	$77.1M	-$2.1M

The budget also provides $5 million in one-time funding to expand Crisis Stabilization Units, strengthens protections to ensure direct care worker wage increases are passed through to the workforce, and requires PIHP rate setting to account for future wage increases. Notably, the final budget did not include boilerplate language that would have prohibited implementation of the Mental Health Framework or restricted a future PIHP Request for Proposal.

House Bill 6022

House Bill 6022 continues to move through the legislative process and would codify key components of the proposed Mental Health Framework, significantly changing how Michigan's public behavioral health system is administered. OCHN, along with other behavioral health partners, remain concerned that the legislation could fragment care, increase administrative complexity, and weaken the public behavioral health safety net. CMHA has issued an advocacy alert encouraging stakeholders to contact their legislators in opposition to the bill. Staff and community members interested in participating can access the action alert here.

H.R. 1

Implementation of H.R. 1 continues at the federal level, including new Medicaid community engagement (work requirement) provisions that states must implement by January 2027. OCHN has established an internal workgroup to coordinate implementation planning, monitor state guidance, and prepare for operational changes. Last week, Michigan joined a coalition of 25 states and Washington, D.C., in filing a lawsuit challenging the federal rule, arguing that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) adopted an overly restrictive definition of who qualifies for an exemption. While many individuals served by OCHN are expected to qualify for exemptions, concerns remain that increased eligibility verification and administrative paperwork could result in eligible individuals losing coverage or experiencing disruptions in care. OCHN will continue to monitor the litigation and implementation of H.R. 1 and work with state and national advocacy partners to assess the impact on 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, July 21st at 6 p.m.

Looking Ahead

As Fiscal Year 2026 continues, OCHN is committed to promoting stability, wellness, and opportunity across our community, guided by fiscal responsibility, workforce engagement, advocacy, and person-centered care. Working with community partners, we are strengthening Oakland County's behavioral health system and expanding access to quality services.

Respectfully,

Dana Lasenby

Chief Executive Officer & Executive Director