

Director's Report – May 2026



Dana Lasenby
OCHN Executive Director & CEO

OCHN MISSION:
Inspire Hope • Empower People •
Strengthen 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: 888-238-0611

www.oaklandchn.org

May is Mental Health Awareness Month, a time to recognize the importance of mental wellness and affirm that mental health is a vital part of overall health. This month offers an important opportunity to raise awareness, reduce stigma, and highlight the behavioral health resources available to residents across Oakland County.

In recognition of Mental Health Awareness Month, Oakland Community Health Network (OCHN) developed and shared a Mental Health Awareness Month proclamation with local municipalities for adoption. This effort helps to elevate mental health as a community-wide priority and reinforce a shared commitment to prevention, early intervention, and access to quality, person-centered behavioral health services.

These messages also serve to acknowledge the dedication of our provider network, community partners, peers, and first responders who support individuals and families across the lifespan. By strengthening the message that mental health is health, promotes help-seeking behaviors and reinforce that recovery is possible.

Mental Health Awareness Month is both a moment of recognition and a reminder of the ongoing work ahead. OCHN is committed to strengthening community partnerships, advancing equitable access to care, and ensuring that behavioral health remains a visible and sustained priority throughout the year.

ACCESS TO SERVICES

OCHN is committed to ensuring Oakland County residents have prompt access to essential 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	April 2026	2026 Fiscal Year to Date
Calls to Access	2,441	18,928
Screenings Completed	424	3,007

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 is scheduled to meet on Wednesday, May 20th (virtually). I appreciate the opportunity to share with CAC, share my directors report, and integrate member feedback into planning. Open communication with the Council and Board ensure community voices guide OCHN's work.
- **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.

CUSTOMER SERVICES, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & OUTREACH

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

Metric	April 2026	2026 Fiscal Year to Date
Customer Service Call Responses	775	5,721
Community Events	10	54
Email Engagements	37,878	194,189
Website Views	52,336	301,396



OCHN hosted its **Annual Veterans Event** on Saturday, May 9, 2026, at the OCHN Administration Building in Troy, bringing valuable information about veteran benefits, gun safety, and education on suicide prevention among veterans. The event drew 84 attendees and featured 15 vendor tables, offering resources, support, immunizations, and education tailored to veterans and their families.

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:

Resource & Crisis Center (RCC)

Offers 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 clinical assessment and connection to the appropriate levels of care, including hospitalization, withdrawal management, treatment referrals, and community-based services.

Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU)

Provides short-term, clinically supervised stabilization for individuals requiring a safe environment and intensive support to reduce acute symptoms. *(MDHHS Certification pending)*

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.

Crisis Residential Services *(in development/licensure)*

Expands the continuum with longer duration stabilization in a structured, therapeutic, homelike setting for individuals who need additional support beyond immediate crisis care.

Metric	April 2026	2026 Fiscal Year to Date
Crisis Services Requests	595	4,549
Unique Persons Served	477	3,605
Assessment	311	2,441
Triages	385	3,829
Sober Support Admissions	108	852

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 still 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	April 2026	2026 Fiscal Year to Date
Service Requests	151	1,018
Unique Persons Served	138	856
Inpatient Dispositions	50	275
Diversions	78	548
Mobile Crisis Unit Responses	21	123

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 currently 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	April 2026	2026 Fiscal Year to Date
Referrals	432	2,741
Remained in Community	269 / 62%	1,387 / 51%
Arrests	9 / 2%	62 / 2%
Voluntary Emergency Transports	54 / 13%	487 / 18%

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.

LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY UPDATE

OCHN and partners across the state continue to collaborate with MDHHS to improve access, quality, accountability, and data transparency within the public behavioral health system. On May 5, I attended the 2026 State of Reform Conference and participated as a panelist on *“The Impact of Programmatic Changes on Michigan’s Behavioral Health Industry.”* The discussion focused on ongoing behavioral health system transformation efforts, operational impacts across the provider network, and the importance of maintaining strong public behavioral health infrastructure to support access and continuity of care for Michigan residents.

Throughout May, OCHN leadership has continued legislative outreach efforts, meeting with seven members of the Michigan House of Representatives and/or their staff from both sides of the aisle to advocate for and educate policymakers on the value of Oakland County’s public behavioral health system. Discussions have centered on preserving local oversight, protecting access to specialty behavioral health services, and highlighting the role of the public system in serving individuals with complex behavioral health and intellectual/developmental disability needs. In addition, OCHN continues to engage with provider partners regarding Direct Care Worker (DCW) wage advocacy efforts. These conversations are focused on workforce stabilization challenges, recruitment and retention concerns, and the importance of sustainable investments in the behavioral health workforce.

The FY27 State Budget development process is ongoing, with final budget negotiations anticipated ahead of the July 1 statutory deadline. OCHN will continue monitoring budget proposals and legislative developments that may impact specialty behavioral health services, Medicaid funding, workforce investments, and system governance.

For board members, stakeholders, providers, and community partners interested in engaging in behavioral health advocacy efforts, additional advocacy resources and action opportunities are available through [Community Mental Health Association of Michigan Advocacy Resources](#) and [The Arc Advocacy Action Center](#).

RECOGNITIONS



Please join Oakland Community Health Network to congratulate Kim Flowers, recognize as one of Crain's Detroit 2026 Notable Leaders in Health Care.

Kim exemplifies leadership, integrity, and a strong commitment to advancing behavioral health services. Her work continues to make a meaningful impact on the individuals and communities we serve, while also inspiring excellence across our organization.

We are proud to recognize this well-deserved achievement and celebrate Kim's continued contributions to the field.

STRATEGIC GOALS & PRIORITIES (FY26-28)

- 1. Managed Care Administration and Operations** - This priority focuses on strategies that increase efficiency and strengthen administrative and operational services.
- 2. Advocacy, Partnership, and Outreach** - Under this focus area, our strong, trust-based partnerships power a responsive and inclusive behavioral health system.
- 3. 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.
- 4. 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, June 16th 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