

Director's Report – June 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

As we recognize **Men's Health Month in June**, it is important to acknowledge the significant impact mental health and substance use disorders have on men across the United States.

According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), approximately **20%** of U.S. men experience a mental illness each year, yet men are significantly less likely than women to seek treatment for depression, anxiety, or other behavioral health concerns. Men account for nearly **79%** of all suicide deaths in the United States, and suicide rates among males is nearly four times higher than among females. In addition, millions of men struggle with substance use disorders, including alcohol and opioid misuse, often without accessing formal treatment or support services.

These statistics reinforce the importance of what OCHN does every day. Our highly trained and experienced workforce works to reduce stigma, encourage early intervention, and ensure men feel comfortable accessing behavioral health care when needed.

Let us not forget **Juneteenth**, observed annually on June 19, which commemorates the day in 1865 when the last enslaved African Americans in Galveston, Texas, learned they were free, more than two years after the Emancipation Proclamation was issued. The holiday serves as an opportunity to reflect on our nation's history, celebrate freedom and resilience, and reaffirm OCHN's commitment to advancing equity, inclusion, and opportunity for all members of our community.

During the reporting period, I had the opportunity to attend the Mackinac Policy Conference and met with state legislators to advocate for increased funding for mental health, intellectual and developmental disability, and substance use disorder services.

In early June, I attended the Community Mental Health Association (CMHA) of Michigan's Summer Conference in Traverse City, joined by Board Members Christine Burk, Dr. Cyril Davis, Dr. Jennifer Korenchuk, and OCHN team members. During the conference, Dr. Cyril Davis was elected as a regional appointee to represent the Metro Region on the CMHA Board of Directors.



Additionally, Chief Operating Officer Trisha Zizumbo, and Co-Responder Supervisor Hillary Nusbaum and other members of OCHN's Co-Response Team attended CORECon in Dallas, where they were videotaped for a national public safety and law enforcement training that is scheduled to debut later this year.



LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY UPDATE

The FY27 State Budget development process remains ongoing, with final negotiations expected ahead of the July 1 statutory deadline. OCHN continues to monitor advocacy efforts that remain focused on ensuring adequate funding to address increasing service demand, workforce shortages, and rising operational costs. One advocacy priority during the FY27 budget process is Direct Care Worker (DCW) wages. OCHN has been meeting with provider agencies to support their efforts to educate state legislators on the workforce challenges facing Michigan's public behavioral health system. While providers have taken the lead in sharing their experiences and workforce realities, OCHN has supported these advocacy efforts through coordination, information sharing, and engagement with key stakeholders.

Sustained investment in the direct care workforce is critical to strengthening the quality, continuity, and accessibility of community-based services across Michigan. OCHN continues to support advocacy initiatives, including the Direct Care Worker Wage Coalition's [One-Click Action Alert campaign](#), which encourages stakeholders to communicate with state legislators about the importance of increased funding and long-term support for Michigan's direct care workforce.

At the federal level, implementation of H.R. 1 continues to advance. On June 1, 2026, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued an interim final rule outlining requirement for the new Medicaid community engagement (work requirement) provisions applicable to certain Medicaid expansion beneficiaries. States are required to implement these requirements by January 1, 2027.

Michigan Medicaid H.R. 1 Update

MDHHS has updated the implementation timeline for federal H.R. 1 Medicaid requirements, which will significantly impact Healthy Michigan Plan (HMP) beneficiaries starting in FY27. Key changes include new work requirements, six-month eligibility renewals, reduced retroactive coverage, and eligibility restrictions for certain non-citizen populations. Michigan must implement beneficiary outreach beginning in Fall 2026.

MDHHS estimates that over 200,000 Michiganders may lose Medicaid coverage due to increased administrative requirements, more complex renewals, and verification challenges. Although many may remain eligible, coverage interruptions are expected because of paperwork, reporting, and compliance barriers. Federal guidance identifies individuals with serious mental illness, substance use disorders, intellectual or developmental disabilities, and other medically frail conditions as potential exemptions from work requirements, which may reduce risk for some.

OCHN will:

- Establish an HR1 Task Force that includes persons served, providers, and other stakeholders.
- Implement auditable verification processes for these exemptions to ensure compliance with requirements.
- Identify key risks to continuity of care, behavioral health service access, provider reimbursement, and overall Medicaid enrollment stability.
- Continue monitoring federal and state guidance, assess potential impacts on individuals served, and collaborate with MDHHS, CMHAM, providers, and community partners to support beneficiary education, coverage retention, and compliance with new requirements.
- Continue evaluating operational, financial, and quality implications as CMS and MDHHS finalize implementation details and adjust response efforts as needed.

House Bill 6022

Several behavioral health policy initiatives remain under consideration at the state level. House Bill 6022 recently advanced from the House Health Policy Committee and would change authority over mental health prescreening, crisis assessment, and admission processes. OCHN continues to collaborate with advocacy partners and legislators to assess potential impacts on governance, service delivery, care coordination, and access to behavioral health services.

MDHHS has paused work on the proposed Mental Health Framework initiative. No immediate service changes are expected for individuals receiving services through the OCHN network. OCHN remains actively engaged in monitoring legislative and policy developments to ensure ongoing access to high-quality, coordinated, and person-centered behavioral health services for Oakland County residents.

OCHN CRISIS SERVICES CONTINUUM UPDATES

OCHN is preparing for a **June 17th** site visit by MDHHS as part of the licensing process to open a Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU), expected opening **summer 2026** pending final licensing. When properly licensed, the CSU will provide:

• Up to 72-hour stay
• Intensive assessment and stabilization
• Alternative to emergency department utilization
• Connection to ongoing treatment and supports

Crisis Residential Unit:

OCHN is actively pursuing licensure through the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA). Expected opening **summer 2026** pending final licensing. When properly licensed, the CRU will provide:

• Optional, short-term residential option, up to 14-day stay
• Crisis intervention and stabilization
• Education and recovery support
• Connection to community resources
• Least restrictive alternative to inpatient psychiatric hospitalization

Resource & Crisis Center (RCC)

Continues to offer round-the-clock -walk-in- access for people 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 appropriate levels of care, including hospitalization, withdrawal management, treatment referrals, and community-based services.

Metric	May 2026	2026 Fiscal Year to Date
Crisis Services Requests	555	5,104
Unique Persons Served	449	4,054

Assessment	320	2,761
Triages	369	4,198
Sober Support Admissions	141	993

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	May 2026	2026 Fiscal Year to Date
Service Requests	146	1,164
Unique Persons Served	122	978
Inpatient Dispositions	48	323
Diversions	68	616
Mobile Crisis Unit Responses	18	141

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.

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 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 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	May 2026	2026 Fiscal Year to Date
Calls to Access	2,281	21, 209
Screenings Completed	365	3,377

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 June meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 17th (virtually). I appreciate the opportunity to share my Director’s report and integrate member feedback into planning. Open communication with the Council and Board is vital to ensure community voices guide all of 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	May 2026	2026 Fiscal Year to Date
Customer Service Call Responses	704	6,425
Community Events	14	68
Website Views	38,995	320,167
Social Media Followers (Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram, YouTube)	9,102	9,102

On June 3, 2026, OCHN hosted its annual Community Baby Shower, engaging more than 50 families and advancing its commitment to improving maternal and infant health outcomes. The event brought together healthcare professionals, community partners, and families to increase awareness of available resources, provide education, and strengthen connections to support services across Oakland County. Participants accessed community-based resources, received educational materials, and built relationships with providers to support healthy pregnancies and overall family well-being.



A key focus was education on cannabis use among women of childbearing age, including during pregnancy and breastfeeding. Featured presenters delivered evidence-informed guidance on cannabis and CBD use, maternal and infant health outcomes, and relevant public health considerations. The event resulted in increased participant awareness, meaningful engagement in critical health topics, and strengthened partnerships with community organizations, reinforcing OCHN’s role in promoting early intervention, informed decision-making, and healthy families.

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	May 2026	2026 Fiscal Year to Date
Referrals	380	3,121
Remained in Community	55%	51.3%
Arrests	4.74%	2.56%
Voluntary Emergency Transports	19.74%	18.02%

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.

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