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A Letter to the People We Serve and Their Families



Dear Friends and Families,

When changes are made to Medicaid, it can leave people with questions and uncertainty. You may be wondering what the recent changes mean for you, your family, and the services you receive. First, I want you to know one thing: **OCHN is here to support you.**

Some Medicaid changes are tied to new federal work requirements under H.R. 1 and direction from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS). Oakland Community Health Network (OCHN) did not create or initiate these changes. Decisions about Medicaid eligibility and requirements are made at the federal and state levels.

Our responsibility as Oakland County's public safety net is different. **We are here to help you understand what these changes mean, find reliable information, and keep you connected to the services and support you need.** We know that navigating changes to Medicaid can feel overwhelming. You may have questions about your coverage, whether you need to take action, or if you need to do something to continue receiving your behavioral health services. Some people may be affected by the new work requirements, while others may qualify for exemptions or meet the requirements in other ways.

Here is what we do know. Beginning January 2027, new federal requirements under H.R. 1 will affect some adults enrolled in the Healthy Michigan Plan. Depending on their circumstances, individuals may need to meet certain work or other approved activity requirements. Healthy Michigan Plan members will also have their eligibility reviewed every six months rather than once a year. **This is a significant change, and we recognize that it may affect the people we serve, their families, our providers, and the systems that support them. Some exemptions apply to the new requirements, and we expect** many of the people served by OCHN and our provider partners will be exempt. However, some people may be affected, and we want to make sure they have the information and support they need to understand what is required.

Starting October 1, 2026, some changes may affect certain immigrants and non-U.S. citizens. We have information about these changes available on the OCHN website, www.oaklandchn.org and we will continue to update our community as additional guidance becomes available.

The State of Michigan has allocated funding to help put these changes into place, including hiring approximately 400 staff and training community navigators who can help people understand the new requirements and navigate the process.

The best thing you can do is keep your information up to date in MIBridges. If you're not sure, then contact your local MDHHS office. You should have received, or will soon receive, formal notice from MDHHS regarding Medicaid work requirements, which includes all information related to HR 1.

We know this is a lot of information, and we know it may raise questions. Our goal is to help you understand what these changes may mean for you and your family and to connect you with reliable information and support.

We understand how important it is to stay connected to services such as therapy, case management, substance use disorder services, psychiatric services, crisis support, and other behavioral health resources. Continuity and stability matter, especially when someone is working toward recovery, managing a mental health condition, or supporting a loved one.

That is why we are actively working with MDHHS, our provider network, health care organizations, and community partners to understand these changes and prepare for their impact. We are also listening to the people we serve, families, and providers so we can better understand the questions and challenges our community is experiencing. We will continue to communicate what we know, share resources and advocate for the people and families who depend on our behavioral health system.

If you have questions, please visit www.oaklandchn.org for the latest information, frequently asked questions and upcoming H.R. 1 informational sessions. You can also contact OCHN Customer Services at **888-847-0513**. Please remember **you are not alone in navigating these changes**.

Thank you for allowing us to be part of your journey. It is a privilege to serve you and your families, and our commitment to you remains strong. **OCHN is here to support you.**

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dana Lasenby".

Dana Lasenby
Chief Executive Officer & Executive Director
Oakland Community Health Network