

# *Dana's Directors Report*

February 2021

Resiliency and grit are essential when navigating a life crisis much like what we experienced with COVID-19. Not only do they inspire motivation to work through trials, these characteristics also provide the foundation from which we can address future challenges.

This month, I have focused on the following priorities:

- COVID-19: Access to vaccinations through collaboration with HONOR Community Health and Oakland County Health Division.

As we continue to take steps toward life after COVID, including receiving vaccinations, opening schools, and reengaging in the community, I am confident there are lessons learned which we can apply to other important issues that impact Michigan's public mental health system. (See COVID information on page 3.)

- System Redesign – System Transformation: Discussions about Health Plans and MDHHS Leadership's vision for future of specialty mental health services.

Another conversation that was dormant in 2020, but not dismissed, is privatization. It has been nearly five years since we first heard about "Boilerplate 298," which evolved into "System Redesign." Two phrases that simply mean moving funding from the public mental health system to for-profit Medicaid Health Plans. Improving integrated healthcare is the impetus for both concepts. The argument in opposition to these concepts: healthcare integration occurs at the person-served level and is already being achieved without funds being shifted.

We must remain vigilant in our advocacy to protect specialty public mental health services that are funded by public financial resources. Legislators need to be made aware of the differences in priorities between our two systems of care. Among which is that the public system is person focused, not profit driven. We are the safety net; we respond to risk instead of avoiding it.

- Direct Support Professionals (DSP), also referred to as Direct Care Workers (DCW) advocacy efforts for \$2 wage increase.

Another important issue is the acknowledgement of and compensation for the brave Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) who held their posts as frontline service providers in a variety of public mental health service settings throughout the pandemic. These amazing people are heroes and they are needed.

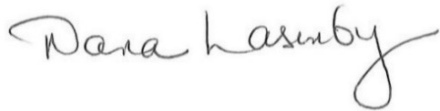
In recognition of their vital role as healthcare workers, DSPs were among those to receive a temporary \$2 wage increase. Appropriate pay for DSPs was a priority long before COVID, and it should not end with it. My goal is to educate legislators about the importance of investing in these valued caregivers by making this pay increase permanent. Your partnership in helping me and other advocates deliver this message is greatly appreciated.



A list of advocacy resources and legislative contact information is available on OCHN's website under the Office of Recipient Rights tab at [www.oaklandchn.org](http://www.oaklandchn.org)

I know we still have a little ways to go before COVID is behind us, but COVID cannot distract us from protecting the future of the public mental health system. Please assist with efforts to advocate by contacting. I hope you will join me in these important conversations and welcome your suggestions about our advocacy efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dana Lasenby". The signature is written in a dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Dana Lasenby, MA, LLP, MBA  
OCHN Executive Director and CEO

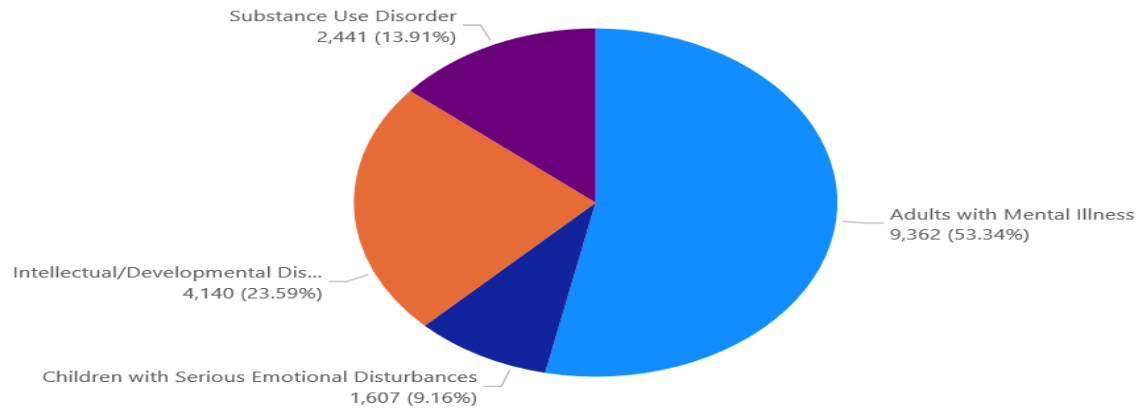
## Access to Services / January 2021 Data:

- Non-emergency access calls: 2,272
- Total screenings: 518

### Number of People Open to Services

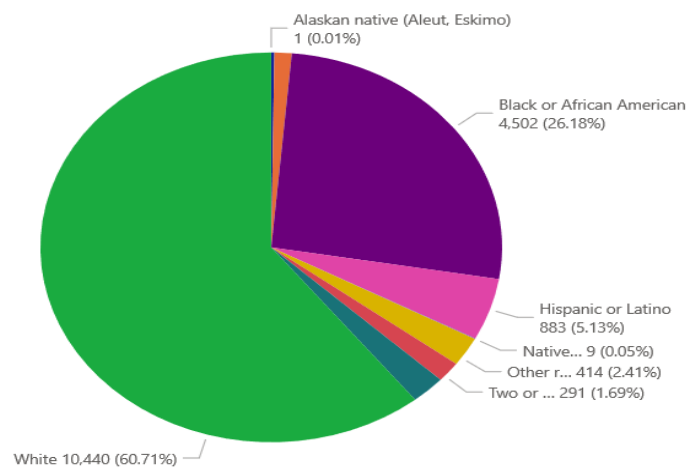
Total Persons Open (Unduplicated)

17,196

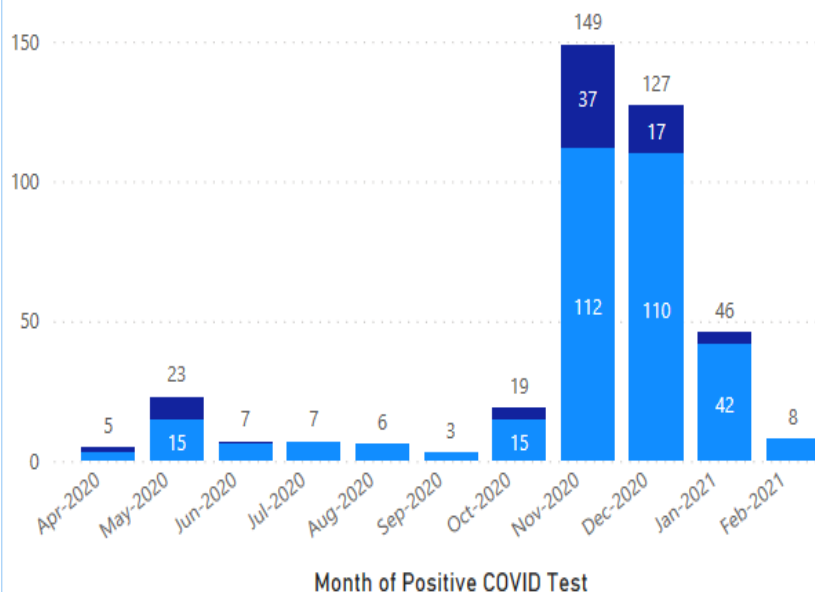


#### Race

- Alaskan native (Aleut, Eskimo)
- American Indian (non-Alaskan native)
- Asian
- Black or African American
- Hispanic or Latino
- Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
- Other race
- Two or more races
- Unknown
- White



### Positive COVID Test - People Currently Open

Residential ● No ● Yes


### Persons Served Vaccinated

Single Vaccination Dose	676
Two Vaccination Doses	183
Total # Vaccinates Administered	859

OCHN is in the early planning stages with the Oakland County Health Division and HONOR Community Health to host COVID-19 vaccination clinics. The clinics are exclusively for people within OCHN's service delivery system, including:

- People living in licensed / non-licensed residential settings
- Direct care professionals
- Family members in a caregiver roles for an adult
- Oakland County healthcare workers providing face-to-face services in the public mental health system

The first clinic is scheduled for Friday, February 19, 2021.