Oakland Community Health Network

Developmental Disabilities • Mental Health • Substance Recovery

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Oakland County residents join thousands on state capitol steps for mental health rally



OAKLAND COUNTY, MI (September 14, 2023) – More than 100 Oakland County residents, including individuals receiving public mental health services from the Oakland Community Health Network (OCHN), joined approximately two thousand Michigan citizens on the steps of the State Capitol in Lansing for the 19th Annual Walk-a-Mile in My Shoes (WAM) Rally.

WAM is hosted each year by the Community Mental Health Association of Michigan and its Community Mental Health partner organizations like OCHN. Advocates and persons receiving services share their lived experiences about how they benefit from individualized care and access to public behavioral health services.

Additionally, this year's event informed rally participants and legislative leaders about the importance of the behavioral health system, suicide prevention efforts, and putting an end to the stigma related to mental illness and developmental disabilities.

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About OCHN

OCHN is contracted by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services to lead a provider service network that assists approximately 27,000 Oakland County citizens at more than 300 service sites across the county. People who receive public behavioral health services through OCHN's provider network include those who have an intellectual or developmental disability, mental health concerns, or substance use disorder. Most of these individuals have Medicaid insurance coverage.

OCHN's goal is to ensure these individuals are aware of and have access to services and supports that will improve their health and quality of life, as well as ensure their engagement in full community participation. Its mission to “inspire hope, empower people, and strengthen communities” reflects an unyielding belief in a "Valuable System for Valued People." Programs and supports provided by OCHN's service network are available at www.oaklandchn.org.

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