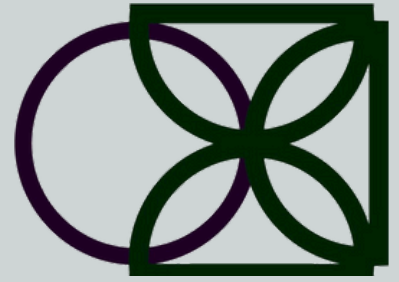


SCCMHA PROVIDER NEWS

December 2024



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A Message from the CEO, Sandra Lindsey

Happy Holidays SCCMHA staff and network providers,

On behalf of myself, the SCCMHA Board of Directors and our administration, we want to thank you for your continued commitment to those we serve and their families over this past year. In addition, we would like to wish you and yours the very best of the holiday season.

As we step into the New Year, it is important to look back not just at the challenges of FY 2024, but also events that will shape our network and service delivery to people we serve and families into the future.

If you are a new staff member at SCCMHA or at one of our contracted network providers, WELCOME! We are glad to have you

join the network in whatever function you perform, whether it be direct service or an administrative or support function. Please know that you have joined a talented and committed group of around 2,000 people and a workforce driven by the SCCMHA mission.

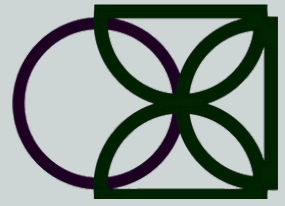
We understand staffing shortages everywhere this last year have made things challenging when it comes to managing caseloads, covering shifts and meeting deadlines. In addition, the demand for service from people we have never served has been particularly eye-opening. However, our staff and network of providers have persevered, and collectively we continue to do all that we can to provide quality treatment interventions and support programs for those that are seeking service, though not always in as timely of a manner as we would like.

Despite challenges, there have been great successes, targets we have reached and new programs we have begun or expanded over the past year. It is worth mentioning the following departments and their staff, as well as the staff groups at our contracted Network agencies, and we offer our thanks for their efforts.

Let me also apologize in advance for the length of my article in this issue of the SCCMHA Provider Newsletter. To be candid, I just decided it was time to call out the issues our system has been managing and the good work by staff members and contracted providers across the network. I want you all to know that our administration sees you, we know what challenges you face and manage and wish to thank you for your service. So, with that context in mind, the purpose of my article for this edition of this newsletter is to offer my specific thanks to SCCMHA Departments, Units, and our Contracted Service Network.

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SUICIDE PREVENTION LIFELINE CALL OR TEXT: 988



- Thanks to the leadership and staff at **Central Access and Intake (CAI)**, which has been in-processing new persons served at numbers we have never seen in my twenty-four plus years as CEO. CAI was understaffed most of last year but despite that reality, they persevered.

Their department achieved significant milestones in streamlining and improving the efficiency of the intake processes, ensuring that people seeking services received timely assignments to treatment teams that aligned with the level of care they needed. In 2024, with just weeks left until the end of the year, 2,383 people sought services at the CAI front door. 1,550 were adults and 869 were children and youth. My thanks as well to the SCCMHA clinical staff who came to assist CAI from other departments and units in the first two quarters of last year.

- Thanks to both **Crisis Intervention Services (CIS)** and **Mobile Response and Stabilization Services (MRSS)** for their commitment to problem solving and support to the people they see in crisis or with urgent needs and are at risk. I am pleased to report that MRSS became fully staffed this year and, like CIS, are now operating 24/7, 365 days a year, including holidays. Your close working relationships with law enforcement and first responders and other community partners are truly noteworthy.

- Special thanks to the **Management and Staff of the Clinical Teams and Record Holders**, here at SCCMHA and across the contracted network. Clinical and administrative demands have been especially heavy this year. Clinical workforce shortages and increased caseload sizes continued to add to the burden of your service delivery and your patience and commitment to manage these burdens are much appreciated.

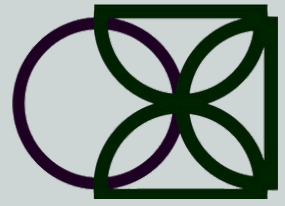
Our Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) status brought with it many new clinical expectations, new screening and assessment tools and related user training. Implementation of new performance metrics, and monitoring of those metrics was also a feature of 2024, with additional changes yet to come in January of 2025.

- Our thanks to the **Contracted Clinical Teams and adjunct service providers with CCBHC Designated Collaboration Organization (DCO) status** in 2024, including, TTI Adult Case Management/Outpatient, ACT and Clubhouse, Hope Network – Adult Case Management and Outpatient and CSM/IDD, Westlund Guidance Clinic – Child, Young Adult Case Management and CSM/IDD, Outpatient and School Based Service, Saginaw Psychological Services – Adult & Child Case Management and SUD Primary Outpatient, McDowell Center – Adult and Child Outpatient for Mild/Moderate, SVRC – Competitive Integrated Employment and Skill Building. All of you are so very much appreciated.

In addition, I understand that the end of contracts with providers of CLS Services, rendered outside licensed residential settings, was especially challenging for those of you serving, impacted persons served and their families. The bed shortages both for inpatient psychiatric admissions and for specialized residential programs have continued to further complicated service planning.

Clinical staff working with children and youth were required by MDHHS-BCCHPS to attend training in the 4th Qtr. of 2024 on the new MichiCANS Screener and Assessment tools depending on their function. They also needed to pass a competency test before being able to use the tools. 91 clinical staff have trained and...

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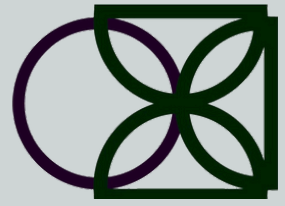
successfully completed testing with 33 more staff in the process of completing the requirement. The MichiCANS was intended to be the replacement to the CAFAS and PECFAS tools which the public mental health system has used for decades, but just days into the new fiscal year, the system was informed by MDHHS, that the CAFAS and PECFAS use would need to continue specifically for level of care determination decisions for some unspecified time going forward in 2025.

Despite these many challenges together we have persevered and there seems to be some recent improvements in staff hiring across the network, which is a hopeful sign. Special thanks to those agencies and clinical teams at both SCCMHA and in the contract network, that stepped up to accept new referrals when other network providers, after many years, gave notice to us of their plans to end their service contracts. The collective strength of our clinical teams across the network meant leaving no one without replacement service providers.

- Thanks to all the **front-facing network clinical staff, peers, practicum students and those that provide administrative support and arrange transportation service access** to more people than ever before. Many of the people served last year included those with complex and acute presentations, which required changes in their levels of care. Still others were homeless or struggling to remain housed, were also in various stages of SUD recovery and others were supported by you to stay their treatment course and focus to attain ongoing treatment goals in their IPOS.
- Thanks to the **Clinical Supervisors** who took on the supervision of **Social Work Students** this past year and to the students themselves for choosing practicum placements at SCCMHA.
- Thanks to the **SCCMHA Clinical Program Directors** for their leadership and oversight of the Medicaid Waivers (CW, SED and HSW), ISPA and Behavioral Treatment Plans and Behavioral Support Plan oversight and compliance.
- Thanks to our **specialized residential providers** including crisis residential and to our **Fiscal Management Agents** employing staff serving people with Self-Determination arrangements.
- Thanks as well to **specialty providers** for ABA Services, CLS, Respite, Recreational Therapy, Bayside Lodge and Friends for Recovery
- Thanks to the **Care Management (CM) Department** staff for completing 1915 ISPA enrollments and renewals to prevent any lapse in service to these enrollees as well as new enrollees. The total ISPA enrollments in 2024 totaled 990 people (461 adults with Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities (I/DD), 170 Children with IDD, 242 adults with mental illness and 11 children/youth with Severe Emotional Disorders (SED).

Thanks as well to CM for sharing the responsibility for the review of intakes for new people processing from CAI to assigned clinical teams to ensure we are providing the correct level of care and that each IPOS reflects the correct array of service in terms of intensity, scope, and duration. We also thank the CM staff for their patience...

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with new staff in the issuance of courtesy authorizations and coaching of staff in the services provisions for the CMHSP Specialty Benefit and the multiple Medicaid Waivers our organization is responsible for managing.

Lastly, I would like to thank the CM staff for providing training to network case holders serving adults, to facilitate the change from the former MDHHS Adult Services Authorization Payment System (ASAP/Model Payments) to the new MI Aims system for Personal Care payments to General AFC providers last April, so provider payments through the new system which went live on May 1, 2024, were ensured.

- Thanks to the staff in our **Health Home Clinic** at Hancock including clinical and administrative leadership and support positions, Psychiatry, Advanced Practice Prescribers, Nursing and Medical Assistants serving as Care Coordinators. This team provides services to not just those we serve with record holders employed at SCCMHA, but also for those in many of our contracted clinical teams. This service assistance began in 2023 in response to contracted network prescriber shortages and continued in 2024. This is also the unit that is implementing our Behavioral Health Home (BHH) performing Care Coordination work with primary and other specialty care providers. There were over 115 people enrolled in BHH in FY 2024.

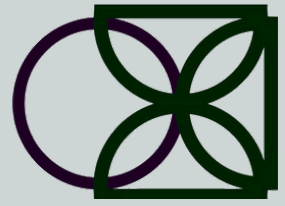
250 individuals pass through the Health Home each week. Staff process 100 care coordination requests per week (refills, coordination with primary care or other providers, form requests, referrals, etc). The Health Home direct service per week includes: 45 Child/Adolescent psychiatry visits, 175 Adult psychiatry visits, and 50 administered injections.

The Health Home Nursing staff have also continued to provide services in collaboration with our OBRA/PASARR unit for both new and annual evaluations of people in nursing homes.

Lastly my thanks to the members of the nursing staff that took on the responsibility for training direct care staff working in our specialized group homes on medication management for those we serve. This department now has an RN assigned to each of our contracted licensed specialized residential settings located in Saginaw County so there is always an assigned (or go-to) RN without having to ask who can troubleshoot, educate, or provide guidance, as needed to the home staff for their residents.

- Thanks to the **Entitlements Office** for their fabulous work in helping those we serve maintain their Medicaid eligibility with the restart of the MDHHS Medicaid Redetermination process post-COVID. These efforts have kept the percentage of SCCMHA Medicaid disenrollment to one of the lowest in the Mid-State Health Network region. This is the same unit charged with enrollment of persons served into our Certified Community Behavioral Health Home Clinic (CCBHC) with enrollment at the end of 2024 totaling 3,999 people.
- My thanks to the leadership and staff in our **Network Services Business Operations Department**, and Finance Department for their work in FY 2024, to push out new and ever-changing service contracts, contract amendments, and implementing the cost sharing program for replacement vehicles at residential sites and Bayside Lodge. Thanks as well to the facility staff in this department that managed the physical plant needs for...

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the SCCMHA-owned group homes and relationships with the owners of property where we lease office space. These staff also were responsible for the planning and procurement of a host of skilled trades to facilitate capital improvement projects at SCCMHA buildings, in the list below. Thanks to the **SCCMHA Facilities, IT and Custodial** staff that helped with the relocation of staff to temporary workstations as space renovations commenced.

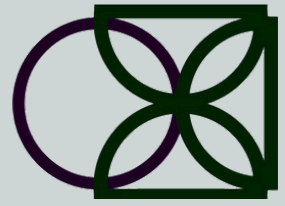
- Expansion and renovations of the Human Resources Department
 - Purchase and installation of a new natural gas generator at the Hancock building so that operations will continue in power outages
 - Purchase and installation of a new air conditioning system at the Albert & Woods Center
 - Purchase and installation of new security cameras in our buildings and parking lots
 - Support to the Genoa Pharmacy for their remodel at the Hancock Building
 - Signage Replacement at the Albert and Woods building
 - Demolition of the Community Support Services suite at the Hancock building with renovations to this space targeted for completion in the spring of 2025
 - Kitchen improvements at Community Ties North
 - Replacement of SCCMHA Fleet Vehicles
- Thanks to our **Finance Department** staff for their expert budget development and management, service rate development, revenue and expense management, voluminous reporting to MDHHS, including CCBHC reporting, state and federal grant reporting, financial and compliance audit preparation, expanded commercial insurance billing in partnership with Yeo & Yeo Medical Billing. Commercial and Medicare billing was greatly assisted by the **Credentialing Staff and Credentialing Committee**, thank you. Thanks to the Finance Department Staff for their work on procurement and purchasing activity and never-ending claims adjudication and payment to our contracted network.
 - Thanks to the staff of Human Resources for all their work this last year recruiting for vacant positions across all departments and units at SCCMHA. The HR department, in an effort to solicit more applicants for vacancies, did more advertising for open positions than ever before and attended 3 in-person and 3 virtual job fairs. Thanks as well to the supervisors that also attended these events.

In calendar year 2024 thus far, HR has assisted supervisors and directors conduct 227 applicant interviews. Over this same period, 46 new staff were hired including 4 new staff which will begin work this month. At the time of this newsletter publication, there were 37 positions for which HR is actively recruiting and 14 of these vacancies are either scheduled for new hire orientation or are in the reference check process. At this same time, HR is recruiting for 6 Custodial Techs, 12 Vehicle Operators and 10 Mental Health Activity Aides (2 of whom are in the reference check process).

The HR Department office suite was expanded and renovated a couple of months ago to make room for more offices so two new HR Assistants could be hired. These new staff are now in place, and we welcome them to SCCMHA.

- My thanks to the members of the **SCCMHA Diversity Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Action Team** for helping execute our DEI Plan. The *SCCMHA DEI Report 2021 - 2024*, is being published by my office and will be released in the next couple of weeks, describing our focus and accomplishments of the first three years of this...

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initiative. The report will be posted to our website and the link to it shared with staff, the SCCMHA Board, CAC and other audiences including select community partners.

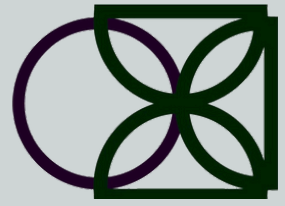
- Thanks to the **SCCMHA Continuing Education Department** for their work to provide or arrange training for many new and existing staff across the network including the support for DEI staff training. Jennifer Keilitz and Alecia Schabel led in concert with MPHI, the producer of our new eLearning module for DEI 101 staff training, which is now also available for use by our contracted network agencies and their staff.
- Thanks to the **SCCMHA Auditing Department** for their work to prepare and submit documents for review to help us respond to external evaluators at MDHHS and MSHN as well as conduct reviews of all internal and external service provider units and departments, including Event Verification Reviews and compliance with the Home and Community Based Services regulations.
- Thanks to the **Enhanced Health Department**, the staff providing Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Dietary/Nutritional Services, and social work staff working in OBRA/PASARR, completing time-sensitive new and annual evaluations for people in nursing homes. All of these staff managed a large influx of service referrals last year.
- Thanks to the leaders and staff at **CTN/CTS, Supported Employment**, and the **Housing Resource Center** for the unique and important services they deliver to those we serve and the community partnerships you have built to enhance the services you provide.
- Thanks to our **Quality/IT – Business Intelligence** staff, for meeting state reporting deadlines and their work and collaboration with PCE Systems to make the numerous needed changes to our electronic health record Senti II, this past year. This work allowed us to meet our ever-changing regional and state reporting needs. Our thanks for helping with Senti II system changes related to our CCBHC status, like the addition of new clinical screening and assessment tools. Thanks too, for excellent manage of **Medical Records**.

Thanks for the work to make needed changes to claims processing infrastructure, telephone service support, workspace set-up, meeting Help Desk needs, start-up of Electronic Event Verification and so many other tech upgrades, system security provisions and improvements, many of which users are blind to.

The department continued the creation of Data Dashboards for clinical users, and completed state and national surveys for CCBHC, SAMHSA, National Core Indicators (interviews of persons served with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities), the annual Customer Satisfaction Surveys, and completed the MDHHS Annual Submission including the Community Needs Assessment. Thanks as well for the ongoing management of Medical Records.

Thanks to the Quality Staff for their highly organized management of reviews/audits by MSHN, MDHHS as well as the HSAG Managed Care reviews, including the MDHHS & MSHN Waiver Reviews, Semi-Annual MSHN Medicaid Event Verification Reviews, HSAG Encounter Data Validation (EDV), HSAG & MSHN Performance Measure and HSAG Compliance Review.

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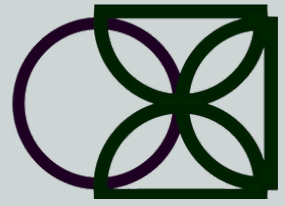


- Thanks to our **Environmental Services** staff for keeping our workspaces clean, safe, and welcoming and for your wellness messaging to staff members. Thanks too, for your work to reconfigure building office space, setting up and changing furniture all to better accommodate and locate existing and new staff to meet their needs and those they serve. Thanks as well to our Security staff for their assistance in providing for building and parking lot safety, security, and the protection of SCCMHA assets communicating with our staff on their procedures.
- Thanks to our **Customer Services** staff for managing incoming telephone communications, welcoming those we serve to appointments, arranging transportation service, helping building visitors, managing our U.S. Mail, and managing the Local Appeal Process.
- Thanks to our staff in the **Office of Recipient Rights**, for your vigilant protection of the rights of those we serve, and your training of other staff across the network to do the same. Thanks too for your voluminous investigations into allegations of rights violations and the monitoring of remediations for substantiated complaints.
- Thanks to our **Compliance Department** staff for helping the network abide by numerous state and federal laws, statutes, regulations, and policies and responding to OIG inquiries and FOIA Requests.
- Thanks to all the SCCMHA staff that serve on standing **SCCMHA Committees**, joint committees with the contracted network staff and those that represent SCCMHA and those we serve, at local, regional, and state meetings or are providing outreach services at local community events.
- Thanks to my **CEO Office** staff for keeping me on track, scheduling and rescheduling appointments and meetings, responding to customer and community inquiries, arranging, and preparing for all meetings of the SCCMHA Board of Directors, Citizen's Advisory Committee, Saginaw Hoarding Task Force, and the creation of reports and other documents for inside and outside audiences.
- Thanks to the **SCCMHA Management Team** members and their support staff, for all they do each and every day to attend to issues large and small to support our staff, network and most importantly those we serve. They somehow manage to balance their commitment to this mission, all within the guardrails of our MDHHS and MSHN Contracts, and the state and federal bureaucracy that is community mental health in Michigan.

Thanks, in particular to the Management Team members that led in the CCBHC space last year, both in terms of building and refining the Designated Collaboration Organizations in the network and in the seemingly unending work of the 2025 CCBHC Recertification and Cost Reporting process. You all made magic happen.

In closing, thanks for all you do to provide treatment, support services and to assist those we serve, their families, and the greater Saginaw community. Wishing you all a safe and fun-filled holiday season with family and friends.

*Warmest regards,
Sandra M. Lindsey, CEO*



Hello Winter from the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1987 (OBRA) and Enhanced Health Service (EHS) teams

The older population is expected to continue to grow significantly in the future. In 2011, the first Baby Boomers began turning 65. By 2030, all Baby Boomers will be older than 65. After 2050, all Baby Boomers will be older than 85. The number of people 65 and older increased by 34%, from 43.1 million in 2012 to 57.8 million in 2022. This population is projected to reach 88.8 million in 2060. By 2040, about 78.3 million people will be 65 or older, more than twice as many as in 2000 (35 million).

A snapshot in 2022, people 65 and older represented 17% of the U.S. population. By 2040, they are projected to comprise 22%. The 85 and older population is projected to more than double from 6.5 million in 2022 to 13.7 million in 2040 (an 111% increase). People over 65 who identify as members of racial and ethnic minority populations increased from 9 million (21%) in 2012 to 14.5 million (25%) in 2022. The number is projected to increase to 26.6 million in 2040 (34% of older adults).

Between 2022 and 2040, the white (not Hispanic) population 65 and older is projected to increase by 19% compared to an 83% increase for the combined populations of older people who identify as members of racial and ethnic minority populations: Hispanic (118%), African American (not Hispanic) (57%), American Indian and Alaska Native (not Hispanic) (39%), and Asian American (not Hispanic) (76%).

- **Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Decennial Census, Population Estimates and Projections*

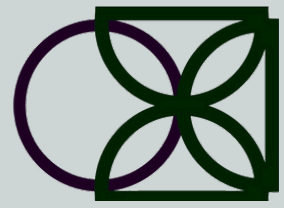


Living Arrangements: Of the older adults living in the community, more than half (59%) of people 65 and older lived with their spouse or partner in 2023. More than 18 million (71%) older men and 15 million (49%) older women lived with their spouse or partner. In 2023, about 28% (16.2 million) of all older adults living in the community lived alone (5.7 million men, 10.5 million women). They represented 22% of older men and 33% of older women. The proportion of people living alone increases with advanced age for both men and women. Among women 75 and older, for example, 42% lived alone. In 2022, a relatively small number of people (1.3 million) 65 and older lived in nursing homes. However, the percentage of the population increased with age, ranging from 1% for people 65-74 and 3% for people 75-84 to 8% for people over 85.

- **Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement 1967 to present.*

Thus far, (Jan-Nov 2024), we have completed 658 Level I Screenings (Partials) and 75 Level II (Full Evaluations). We would also like to hear from you on what type of trainings and/or education that you would find helpful in treating the aged older adult population.

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If you have any questions or just want to know more about OBRA and our process, feel free to give us a call.

- Amanda Pennell, OBRA Coordinator - (989) 797-3419
- Jordan Schantz, Clinical Social Work Assessor - (989) 272-7209
- Michelle Vance, Supervisor - (989) 272-7207



EHS: Also known as Occupational Therapy (OT), Physical Therapy (PT), and Dietary/Nutritional (RD) Services

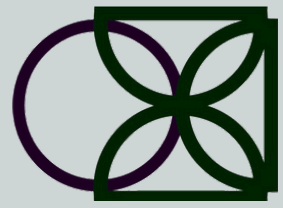
Research from the World Health Organization (WHO) on Physical Activity

Key Facts

- Regular physical activity provides significant physical and mental health benefits.
- In adults, physical activity contributes to prevention and management of noncommunicable diseases such as cardiovascular diseases, cancer and diabetes and reduces symptoms of depression and anxiety, enhances brain health, and can improve overall well-being.
- In children and adolescents, physical activity promotes bone health, encourages healthy growth and development of muscle, and improves motor and cognitive development.
- 31% of adults and 80% of adolescents do not meet the recommended levels of physical activity.
- The global target set to reduce levels of physical inactivity in adults and adolescents is a 10% relative reduction by 2025 and 15% by 2030, from the 2010 baseline.
- The global estimate of the cost of physical inactivity to public health care systems between 2020 and 2030 is about US\$ 300 billion (approximately US\$ 27 billion per year) if levels of physical inactivity are not reduced.
 - **Source: World Health Organization, June 26th, 2024*

As we continue to receive new referrals with services are available for persons served over an array of populations including children, adults, and the aged just a reminder that Saginaw County Community Mental Health Authority (SCCMHA) is the payor of last resort. Therefore, persons served must have exhausted their medical benefit through community resources for these services prior to beginning the referral process. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Michelle Vance at (989) 272-7207.

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Other education opportunities for senior care

Older adult education opportunities are coming in 2025, specifically for education around caregiver information, those with Dementia and providing care for Older Adults in the home and residential settings.

Please contact Michelle Vance and/or Amanda Pennell if you have any questions or any specific training needs regarding the Older Adult population.

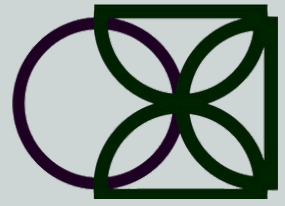


Adult Foster Care providers getting persons served into community, searching for other activities

As providers, we want to ensure the people we serve living in specialized adult foster care homes are being integrated into the community. Helping persons served get out into the community ensures we are helping them live a life like everyone else. Specialized AFC providers are to assist persons served get out into the community to participate in meaningful activities at least two times per week. This ensures persons served are integrating in the community and having experiences outside of the home that are fulfilling, provide growth, and are productive utilization of leisure time.

We understand it can be difficult to find opportunities for persons served to get out into the community but, there are ways to get persons served out into the community for meaningful outings. Opportunities such as attending free events around the community like Party on McCarty, Friday Night Live, holiday parades, the library, and the farmers market. Another great way to ensure persons served are participating in outings, is to take surveys. Surveys can be a great way for persons served to decide where they would like to go and community events they would like to participate in. Do not forget to post outings on the home's activity calendar.

Please remember to offer these outings at least two times per week and record if persons served are participating. It is important to record when persons served are participating in outings within progress notes or another separate form. Persons served can decline activities outside of the home. Providers are to ensure they are recording when persons served are declining activities and outings. Remember we are here to provide the people we serve with the best experience and assist them to live lives like everyone else. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact our SCCMHA Auditing Team.



SCCMHA Training Updates

Written by Continuing Education Supervisor Alecia Schabel

You are most likely familiar with recent SCCMHA changes to training requirements. Your patience has been greatly appreciated as some of the committees & workgroups sorted through the details of training requirements.

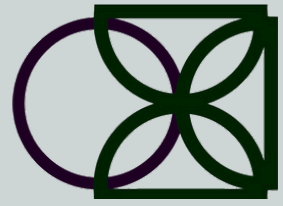
SCCMHA promotes a culture of continuous learning in order to not only encourage opportunity for personal and professional development, but to also ensure staff are compliant with all acts, state and federal requirements, which include, the Balanced Budget Act, Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), Deficit Reduction Act, Michigan Department of Health & Human Services (MDHHS), Michigan Administrative Code, Michigan Mental Health Code, Occupational Safety & Health Administration, Code of Federal Regulations, and CCBHC.

In early 2025, SCCMHA CEU will be launching an agency-wide Learning Management System (LMS). This new digital platform will allow us to create, deliver, and manage the learning experiences to fulfill desired learning objectives. The new LMS will allow for much interaction and brand-embedded content so SCCMHA can offer streamlined, personalized onboarding and continuous learning opportunities. The goal is to maximize learners' potential through engaging learner expectations with rapid advancements in training technologies.

Please stay tuned for more specific information as it becomes ready.

SCCMHA Training Updates			
Who	Training Item	Change/Update/Info	Authoritative Source
ALL	Use of BOT Apps for online training: A bot is a software program that operates on the Internet and performs repetitive tasks.	Please advise your staff if they have a BOT app installed on their device, they will need to shut it off while completing training. If CEU is noticing more than 10 trainings completed for one training topic, all will be deleted. More than 3 quiz attempts for one training have caused significant concerns with CEU data entry.	SCCMHA Continuing Education Unit (CEU)
ALL	Ethics of Touch Training Mental Health Ambassador Training Effective Communication	Removed these 3 training requirements, no longer required.	SCCMHA CE Committee

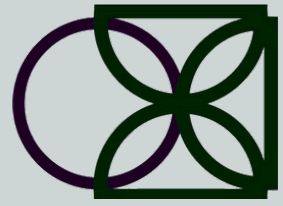
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SCCMHA Training Updates

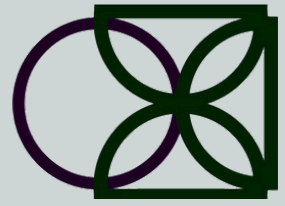
Who	Training Item	Change/Update/Info	Authoritative Source
ALL Contracted Staff	DEI Training	<p>On 10/1/2024, SCCMHA announced required DEI Training for <u>all</u>* SCCMHA providers and staff. <i>*CLS, Respite, Autism Behavior Technician providers are excluded.</i></p> <p>**Staff have 90 days from 10/1/2024 to complete and pass the training.</p>	SCCMHA CE Committee
ALL	Suicide Prevention or Intervention Training Requirement	<p>SCCMHA has joined the Zero Suicide Initiative. With this new initiative all* board-operated and network staff are required to complete <i>either</i> Suicide Prevention or Suicide Intervention training. <i>*FI providers are exempt from this requirement</i></p> <p>Specific training requirements are determined by provider type. There have been revisions since this requirement was first announced. Please visit this link for the most current information: Zero Suicide Initiative Trainings Overview and Expectations</p>	SCCMHA CE Committee/CCBHC
Case Holders	MDHHS Core Elements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective 10/1/24: replacing previous <i>Core Skill Trainings</i> to align with MDHHS terms and for auditing purposes. • Depending on the team, there was a reduction of 10-16 trainings • <u><i>No new Core Element trainings.</i></u> All staff who have already completed the previous Core Skills have already met the MDHHS Core Elements requirements. • The concept is the same as previous, since there are multiple trainings to meet the 1 training requirement – staff are required to submit proof of completion for each training to receive credit. Proofs must be submitted together for each training topic to receive credit. • This link provides an example of how different trainings can meet requirements for several topics: https://www.sccmha.org/userfiles/filemanager/m9mt5pxdiok4o73nl3md/ • All previous Core Skill trainings are still available if supervisors direct or staff would like to supplement their training. 	MDHHS and SCCMHA CE Committee

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SCCMHA Training Updates

Who	Training Item	Change/Update/Info	Authoritative Source
Care Coordinators (Medical Assistants)	CPR Training	Effective 10/1/2024 – CPR training is required within 90 days of hire for all Care Coordinators. *Care Coordinators hired for over 1 year have 90 days from 10/1/2024 to complete.	Jennifer Kreiner/SCCMHA CE Committee
Nurses and Care Coordinators	CPI Training	Effective 10/1/2024 – CPI (<i>physical intervention for protection</i>) training is required within 90 days of hire for all Nurses and Care Coordinators *Nurses and Care Coordinators hired for over 1 year have 90 days from 10/1/2024 to complete	SCCMHA CE Committee
Clinical Waiver Providers	16 hours SEDW Credits	Staff who hold a SEDW Case will need 16 hours from any trainings which would fit within the technical requirements. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Credits must be earned outside of Child Diagnostic training credits SCCMHA SEDW Link (Includes SEDW TCM)	MDHHS
All providers serving persons ages 0-20 with Serious Emotional Disturbances (SED) and/or Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities (IDD) at intake and during treatment planning	MichiCANS	MichiCANS has replaced CAFAS/PECFAS Please refer to the training link here: MichiCANS SCCMHA	MDHHS
Contracted Waiver Staff	Environmental Emergencies/Fire Safety	Per the MDHHS email sent 8/7/2024, it was determined all those serving persons on a waiver must now renew Environmental Emergencies & Fire Safety Training every 3 years. Current staff who have already completed Environmental Emergencies & Fire Safety Training should work to bring this into compliance ASAP.	MDHHS



SCCMHA hosts meeting to develop Early Childhood Court Program in Saginaw County

The Albert & Woods Professional Development & Business Center for the Saginaw County Community Mental Health Authority (SCCMHA) played host to a meeting of the teams involved in the launch of Saginaw County's Early Childhood Court Program on Thursday, Sept. 26.

The Exploration Inventory was the first of a series of meetings held to discuss and learn more about the evidence based ZERO TO THREE Safe Babies model. This first meeting, facilitated by Safe Babies Training and Technical Assistance Specialist, Andria Peek, invited clinicians and case workers from SCCMHA, as well as representation from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, officials from the Saginaw County court system, and many other community partners.

Attendees learned more about the Safe Babies model and participated in Q&As and team building to encourage collaboration between all the agencies, along with identifying strengths of the current systems and opportunities to enhance services.

The next meeting of Saginaw County's Early Childhood Court and providers will highlight a report compiling the information gathered in the Exploration Inventory and ensuring its accuracy, then another meeting will follow to begin "case mapping."

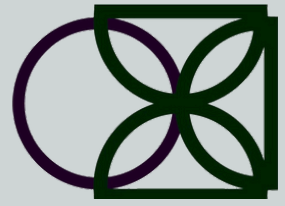
In case mapping, the team will work together to develop a plan for how potential Early Childhood Court cases will be identified and the process of participating in this specialty court program. The goal of this meeting is to maintain fidelity to the model while also individualizing it to the Saginaw County population.

Following these meetings, the Early Childhood Courts program of Saginaw County will be close to ready for launch, however no date has been decided for implementation of the program yet.

Saginaw County and St. Clair County were both selected for expansion of the Early Childhood Court program, established by the MDHHS and made possible by a grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).

The focus of the Early Childhood Court is to provide services to families with children ages 0 – 3 years who have become involved in the child welfare system. The goal is to increase the likelihood of reunification between children and parents and reduce the potential for reentry in the child welfare system and foster care. Families will be working with an Infant Mental Health therapist through SCCMHA – an essential part of the Early Childhood Court team. The IMH therapist will assist parents and their babies in developing secure attachments and assist parents in improving their parenting abilities and overall family relationships. Families will also be connected to other treatment providers and community resources based on the individual needs of the family and its members.





First Choice of Saginaw hands out gift cards to AFC residents in need

The holiday season brings many opportunities to help those in need. And First Choice of Saginaw is grateful to have provided that assistance again this year.

On Friday, Dec. 6, we handed out \$50 gift cards to persons served living in adult foster care homes to buy whatever their heart desires.

An annual tradition, funds were raised for the gift cards at various events throughout 2024, such as hot dog and sloppy joe sales, bake sales, a summer fundraiser and others.

Some residents plan on using the cards for clothes, some for art and writing tools, others for hats, gloves or other things to help keep warm through the wintery season.

Over 200 cards were given out at the event on Dec. 6, where persons served by SCCMHA were able to participate in holiday bingo, making holiday cards, or even meeting Santa Claus!

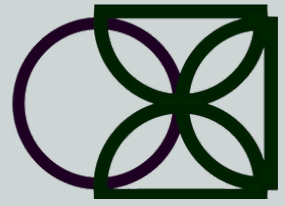
Plans for 2025 fundraisers are underway to raise money again for gift cards to be distributed next December.

First Choice of Saginaw would like to send a HUGE thank you to everyone who gave for this event or any of the fundraisers throughout the year. We want to thank all the volunteers who so generously assisted with fundraising events, whether you helped with transporting items from one location to another or donated your time through cookie packing, candy packing, or hot dog and sloppy joe sales.

Thank you to all who so generously donated items to the various fundraisers, such as hot dogs, sloppy joes, candy for candy grams, or cookies for the Holiday Event. Thank you to all of the staff who donated from their paychecks each week and give generously to First Choice, those who gave a little extra during the fundraisers or just gave money to help support this great cause. Your efforts made a big difference in the lives of those we serve this holiday season.

If you would like to donate for 2025, please contact Jennifer Keilitz at (989) 797-3486.





Keeping Your Home and Family Safe During the Holidays



Written by Security Coordinator Kyle Lipp

During the hustle and bustle of the holiday season, home safety can often take a backseat. However, it's essential to prioritize safety to ensure you and your family can enjoy the holidays without worry. Here are some simple safety steps to protect your home and loved ones during this busy time:

1. Preventing Holiday Fires

- Inspect holiday lights for damaged wires or broken sockets before using them. Avoid overloading electrical outlets and turn off all decorations when leaving home or sleeping.
- Keep your live Christmas trees well-watered to avoid drying out. Keep them away from heat sources and make sure to throw them out promptly after the holidays
- When using candles, make sure they are not left unattended or near flammable objects. Use candle holders that won't tip over and make sure to extinguish candles before leaving or going to bed.

2. Cooking Safety

- Stay in the kitchen while food is cooking. Always keep flammable objects away from the heat sources.
- Never pour water on a grease fire. Use a pan lid to smother the fire or have a fire extinguisher specifically designed for grease fires.

3. Travel Precautions

- Avoid posting travel plans on social media until you return home. This will not allow people to know that you are not home.
- Ask a trusted neighbor or friend to check on the home regularly, gather mail, and take out trash. If nobody is available, stop mail and newspaper delivery until you return. This will avoid it stocking up while you're not home.
- Double-check to make sure all doors and windows are locked before you leave.

SVRC's Empowered Voices named Underground Railroad of Saginaw's Volunteer of the Year

The SVRC-established program Empowered Voices was recognized for their volunteer work by the Underground Railroad of Saginaw, being named the non-profit's Volunteer of the Year at their annual Empowerment Dinner and Celebration fundraiser.

Empowered Voices has worked with various organizations around Saginaw County since the 1960s, but has worked with the Underground Railroad since 2011. The program allows persons served through SVRC to assist at the Underground Railroad's resale shop, helping with sorting donations and preparing items to go on the floor, as well as get work experience, learn more about the professional realm and participate in mock job interviews.

"It's important that they have the same opportunities we have," said SVRC Chief Clinical Officer Yolanda Bellinger said. "This is our goal, to find these experiences for them because they deserve to be treated like any other individual."

Being recognized by the Underground Railroad for the work they do means just as much to the persons served as it does to the program, according to Bellinger.

"It's one thing to see the benefits of being able to run this program, but it's more rewarding that the persons served who volunteer were recognized for their work and willingness to participate."



SAGINAW COUNTY
COMMUNITY MENTAL
HEALTH AUTHORITY

MAKE AN IMPACT!



WE ARE SEEKING APPLICATIONS FOR NEW CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC) MEMBERS!

Interested individuals should download the application at:
www.sccmha.org/about/citizens-advisory-committee.html

Meetings held 1st Thursday of most months at 6:00PM
SCCMHA, 500 Hancock St, Saginaw, MI 48602

\$30.00 Meeting Stipend

TO RETURN FORM OR FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Ryan Mulder, Executive Assistant to CEO

PHONE 989.797.3501 EMAIL ryan.mulder@sccmha.org

FAX 989.799.0206

www.sccmha.org

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