

Detroit Wayne Prepares Action Plan as General Fund Dollars are Reduced



Excerpts from a letter from the Detroit Wayne Mental Health Authority's CEO/President Tom Watkins:

The Detroit Wayne Mental Health Authority has prepared an action plan providing guidance for the system of care which is currently undergoing a reduction in funding. As you may know, the passage of Senate Bill 608 by the state of Michigan reduced the state general fund budget to all Community Mental Health Services by over 50%. Based upon the governor's budget for FY15, further reductions in general fund dollars are anticipated. The Authority is addressing this immediate shortfall and is prioritizing the usage of GF dollars which will go into effect on May 15, 2014.

Some of the ways CLS is assisting with this is to make sure people are enrolled in Medicaid, the Healthy Michigan plan or other available health plans.

Healthy Michigan or Medicaid Expansion is a health care program through the Michigan Department of Community Health. Residents can apply for the Healthy Michigan plan on-line, via phone, or in person at one of their local Michigan Department of Human Services (DHS) offices to determine if they are eligible. The plan offers essential benefits such as emergency services, hospitalization, mental health and substance use disorder services and many others.

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Michigan Department of Community Health



Michigan Signs MOU for Integrated Care Program

The Michigan Department of Community Health has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services for the new MI Health Link demonstration program to integrate care for individuals who are dually eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid.

Through the new MI Health Link program, all services currently covered separately through the Medicare and Medicaid programs will be integrated into a single health care delivery model. This model will feature coordinated care for physical health, long term care, and behavioral health services and supports. The program will also focus on increasing access to home and community-based services and enhanced quality through performance monitoring. MI Health Link will include the use of person-centered processes and promote enrollee choice in all aspects of the program.

*information from Arc Michigan newsletter

Let's Restore the Promise

In reaction to the steep cuts in General Fund dollars, Chief Executive Officer for Kalamazoo Community Mental Health and Substance Use Services, Jeff Potter, wrote this story for Dome magazine. Please take a few minutes to read this article.

Visit: <http://domemagazine.com/patton/jf041814>



May is Mental Health Awareness Month!

CLS is a private, non-profit organization that provides supports and services to over 4,000 children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb Counties. CLS also provides services to seniors and those with chronic illness. CLS is funded by the Detroit-Wayne Mental Health Authority, the Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority and Macomb County Community Mental Health. The Long-Term Care Division is under contract with The United Way of Southeastern Michigan, Detroit Area Agency on Aging 1-A, Area on Aging 1-B, The Senior Alliance Area Agency on Aging 1-C, The Information Center and the City of Allen Park. **The CLS Annual Report can be found on the website (www.comlivserv.com) under "About Us."**



Wayne County

Walk a Mile in My Shoes~ 10 Year Anniversary!

This year's Walk a Mile in My Shoes Rally promises to be exciting for so many reasons!!! Three people supported by CLS are involved with the 10th anniversary event including CLS Board member Scott Decker who is the emcee, Peer Mentor Andre Robinson is a guest speaker and David Dewitt Taylor of *Dazzle Do Time Entertainment* is the D.J.



Also new this year, poetry slam artists Kinetic Affect will perform as 3,000 people are expected to attend the event. Mark your calendars, Wednesday, May 14th from 1:15-3:00 p.m. Below are some important things to remember:

- The bus leaves the CLS parking lot at 10:30 a.m. and return around 4:30 p.m.
- If a person needs staff with them on a regular basis, staff **MUST** come with them that day.
- If you plan on driving separately and still would like the boxed lunch and t-shirts, **YOU MUST CALL TIFFANY DEVON AND LET HER KNOW, 734-722-7185. Last year we ran out because people did not RSVP!!!**
- **NEW THIS YEAR!!!!** If you're driving separately, there are 210 FREE, reserved spaces in the Lansing Community College parking lot (located on Shiawassee & Capitol Avenues) but it is first come, first serve, otherwise, plan on paying for parking.
- Please bring a collapsible chair because seating is limited.
- Check out the forecast, if it's sunny, pack sunscreen, if it's forecasted to rain, bring a rain poncho.
- Always have bottled water with you.
- CLS will provide accessible transportation as well however you must **call Tiffany Devon to reserve a spot, 734-722-7185 or tdevon@comlivserv.com.**

The Case for Inclusion~Where Does Michigan Rank?

Every year, United Cerebral Palsy releases its report called The Case for Inclusion. This comprehensive report details the progress of community living standards for people living with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Please follow the link to see where Michigan ranks among other states.

<http://cfi2014.ucp.org/>

Job Fair/Community Participation Event Was a Success

More than 200 people attended CLS' first ever Job Fair/Community Participation event several weeks ago which was held at the Doubletree Hilton in Dearborn. Over 40 vendors attended, about half of them were offering paid employment and the other half had volunteer positions available. Vendors included Oakwood Hospital, Lowe's, McDonald's, CVS, Toarina's Pizza, St. Vincent de Paul, Dearborn Animal Shelter, MADD, Judson Center, Michigan Works and many more.



Comments from event surveys include: "This was a great event and I can't wait for the next one." "I liked the variety of companies that were there," and "It was a good networking opportunity."

After following up with the companies that were hiring, two people got jobs as a direct result of the event and several more have been brought in for interviews and are awaiting word on if they've been hired.

The response has been very positive and plans are in the works to partner with other agencies to begin planning another event sometime soon .



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Applicants must be:

- 19-64 years old
- Not currently eligible for Medicaid
- Not eligible for or enrolled in Medicare
- And earning about \$16,000 for a single person or \$33,000 for a family of four

For more information visit www.michigan.gov/healthymichiganplan or call the Beneficiary Help Line at 1-800-642-3195. Also below is a list of additional resources:

Health Insurance Marketplace www.healthcare.gov

Health Insurance Marketplace Call Center 1-800-318-2596 or TTY 1-855-889-4325

Michigan healthcare Information www.michigan.gov/healthcare

Michigan Healthcare Helpline 1-855-789-5610

Health Insurance Navigators and Counselors
<http://enrollmichigan.com/find-your-navigator>

Department of Insurance and Financial Services
www.michigan.gov/difs



This publication is written in part by people supported by CLS with the help of the Public Relations department. For more information visit www.comlivserv.com or contact Tiffany Devon at 734-722-7185.

Oakland County



OCCMHA Board Names Willie Brooks as Executive Director

It is with great enthusiasm that Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority's (OCCMHA) Board of Directors announces that Rochester Hills resident, Willie Brooks, has been chosen to fill the organization's permanent executive director position. Brooks served as the interim executive director during the candidate search.

"We consider ourselves extremely fortunate that Mr. Brooks has accepted the official role to lead our network in public mental health service delivery," says OCCMHA Board Chair, Malkia Newman. "His demonstrated commitment to the people we serve, our core provider agencies, and to our internal staff members has proven to be a valuable asset in our ability to inspire hope, empower people, and strengthen communities." Before joining OCCMHA as Chief Financial Officer, Brooks was employed at Jawood Contracting where he worked with Maryland Health Care Systems and Blue Cross of Michigan Health Care Systems. He is also an adjunct professor at Walsh College.

Brooks has more than 30 years experience in human services and healthcare. He earned both his Master of Arts in Economics and Master of Science Finance Degrees from Walsh College. He received his Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from William Tyndale College.

"I consider it a tremendous privilege to work in the company of people whom I believe to exemplify extraordinary pillars of service, character, and commitment to help others," says Brooks. "The collaboration and diligence that I witness daily, not only from staff, but also from the people we serve, inspires me to be the type of leader who earns both their trust and respect."



"Don't wait around for other people to be happy for you. Any happiness you get, you've got to make yourself."

~Alice Walker



Solo Exhibit Showcases Artist's Creative Abilities

Many people dream of owning their own business, but how many actually pursue that dream? Elizabeth Martin of Beverly Hills was one who did! For the last eight years, she has put her creative talents to work to make "Elegant Designs by Elizabeth" a very successful business venture! She sells handmade painted ceramics, embroidered clothing, pillows, blankets, mosaics, different types of paper crafts and wall hangings. She also has a trademark ceramic fish that is a popular item that sells well!

Elizabeth attends conferences, Farmer's Markets craft fairs and invitation-only art fairs, but on May 15th, 2014 she will be hosting her second **"One Woman Art Show"** at The American Legion Hall at 2079 12 Mile Rd. in Berkley from 5:30 – 8:30 pm. "She had one seven years ago to establish a circle of support and interest in her work," said Michelle Martin, Elizabeth's mother. "This time the focus is to show how much she has grown as an artist."

The tools of Self-Determination have played a big role in helping Elizabeth succeed. Diann Dudash, Elizabeth's Independent Supports Coordinator said, "She is responsible for making all of the decisions for her business, she takes on authority with her staff and it also allows her freedom to make and spend money how she chooses."

"I like making money doing something I love," said Elizabeth. "I use my money to visit my nieces in Dallas and go to my favorite place in the world...Disney!"



Friends of CLS

It's Only Five Months Away!

Believe it or not, our biggest fundraiser of the year, Evening with Friends is ONLY five months away! This year's extravaganza is set for Thursday, September 18th from 5-10 p.m. at Laurel Manor in Livonia.

Now is the time to nominate people for the video awards ceremony so if you are interested in nominating a person supported by CLS or a community partner, please call or e-mail Tiffany Devon (734-722-7185 or tdevon@comlivserv.com)

Below is the criteria used when selecting winners. Please note the nominees do not have to have all of these qualifications.

- Is living an independent life with the needed supports in place
- Lived in an institution or nursing facility years ago, struggled for many years but now life has significantly changed for the better
- Utilizes an individual budget
- Maintains a microenterprise or is creating a business plan
- Is gainfully employed
- Receives support or providing support
- Has a connection to the community
- Volunteers
- Uses natural supports
- Did something they've never done before this year
- Is advocating on behalf of others
- Has been a role model for others in terms of assistance or advocacy
- A person that is making friends/making strides/making an effort to create the life they want
- No longer have a guardian
- A company that has helped people find jobs or connect to the community



Come and Get Connected!

An exciting new event is coming your way geared toward young professionals who want to know more about housing opportunities and the revitalization of our local economy.

Connecting for a Cause, presented by Community Housing Network, will be held, Thursday, May 15 from 5:00-7:30 p.m. at the Troy Marriott. This is a great networking opportunity and a chance share in CHN's mission with a new generation of supporters.

Sponsorship opportunities and ticket information is available by calling Hailey Noonan at 248-928-0111 or e-mail at HNoonan@chninc.net.

Time to Register for The Arc Michigan Conference

This year's conference promises to be very exciting! The event will be held in Lansing at the Radisson Hotel on Thursday, June 19~20. A few of the speakers and topics include:

- **Shirley Paceley ~ Director of Blue Tower Training, will be the Keynote Speaker and breakout session presenter.**

* Standing at the Crossroads: Stopping Sexual Violence
* Sexual Violence in the Lives of People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities.

- **Corey Smith ~ Director of Employment Services, VIA Employment Services, below is one of what he'll be discussing in his session.**

"Work is a typical adult responsibility and everyone should have the opportunity to contribute to the employed community. People with disabilities want what most people want...a job with real wages in or around our community."

Registration includes a ticket to the Lansing Lugnuts baseball game. For more information, you can register on-line <https://adobeformscentral.com/?f=QP7dhGgRnXuzDQaSGS8t7Q#> or call Courtney Trunk for more information. Also if you need accommodations, please call by May 19th at (800) 292-7851, courtney@arcmi.org. Room rate is \$109 and hotel parking is \$5. For reservations, call (517) 482.0188. **Be sure to reference promo code ARC614.**

Also during the Arc Michigan conference, the Michigan Partners for Freedom will hold their Summit on Thursday, June 19th and 20th. Local leader workshops include: Working with legislators, public speaking, owning the Process DVD & how to use it and how to reach people living in group homes and working in sheltered workshops. For more information call or e-mail Jill Gerrie at jill.gerrie@arcmi.org or (800) 292-7851 x 114

