



WEEKLY Update

December 17, 2021

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CMH Association and Member Activities

New! New Weekly Update Format Coming in 2022!

This will be our last Weekly Update publication for 2021. Starting next year, the CMHA newsletter will be receiving a brand-new make-over that will provide viewers with a convenient and user-friendly design. We are very excited to launch this new format which will now include options to manage your subscription and links to stay connected through our social media platforms. This newsletter will continue to be emailed directly to you through a marketing automation platform and any past publication will still be available to view on our websites [resources page](#). See you next year!

New! 18th Annual ‘Walk a Mile in My Shoes’ Rally

The 18th Annual ‘Walk a Mile in My Shoes’ Rally will be held IN PERSON next year on the State Capitol Lawn in Lansing, on September 15, 2022. Each year, this event draws upwards of 2,500 advocates from across Michigan to the Capitol Building to support public behavioral healthcare. This rally aims to highlight the need for increased funding for mental health services, raises awareness of behavioral health needs in health and policy discussions and works to banish behavioral health stigmas. There



are more than 300,000 citizens in Michigan who seek behavioral health services. Mark your calendars and make plans to join us on Thursday, September 15, 2022 as we rally together on the Capitol Lawn for increased mental health funding and the need for behavioral health to be continually included in policy discussions.

To access the most up to date information, check the CMHA website at: cmham.org/education-events/walk-a-mile-rally/

New! Easter Seals and Macomb Oakland Regional Center merge

Below are excerpts from a recent Crain's article announcing the merger of Easter Seals Michigan with the Macomb Oakland Regional Center – both of whom are CMHA members. Congratulations to these two organizations as they integrate their operations and culture.

Two metro Detroit social services agencies are merging to get ahead of change in the state's mental health system and better serve the community, they say.

After three years of conversations, Easterseals Michigan and Macomb Oakland Regional Center said they will join to create one of the largest social services agencies in region. The deal will integrate behavioral health with services for people who are intellectually and developmentally disabled, among other services.

The full article (available to Crain's subscribers) can be [found here](#).

New & Updated! Providing resources to the mental health, education, and law enforcement community

As most Weekly Update readers know, a deadly school shooting took place yesterday, November 30, in Oxford, Michigan, in Oakland County. Four students have died with seven students and teachers seriously wounded. The suspect is a 15-year old student of Oxford Schools.

CMHA is shocked and saddened by this event and applauds the work of Oakland Community Health Network, the CMH in Oakland County, and other CMHA members and allies in the heroic work that they and their local partners are doing to help the Oxford and surrounding communities recover from this tragedy.

On learning of the tragic and deadly shooting at Oxford Schools, CMHA and the Michigan Association of School Psychologists pulled together key partners to identify – parents, teachers, school-based and community mental health providers, law enforcement professionals, to name a few – can help to recognize and respond to the trauma experienced by the children, adolescents, and adults in Oxford and across the state; and to prevent the contagion/copycat effect. These materials will be going to Michigan schools and law enforcement agencies. The sources of these documents include Association for Children's Mental Health, MDHHS, School Safety Task Force led by the Michigan State Police, American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), Child and Adolescent Health Center Office within MDHHS, Oakland

Community Health Network (the CMH in Oakland County), and the National Association of School Psychologists' PREPARE crisis training.

This full packet of resources can be [found here](#).

State & National Developments and Resources

New! SAMHSA: 988 appropriations announced

The federal Substance Abuse and Services Administration recently released information on the appropriations report related to the FY 2021 funding of the nation's 988 system. Additionally, the Lifeline will receive, in FY 2022, \$282 million.

This report can be [found here](#).

New! SAMHSA announces harm reduction grant program

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) is now accepting applications for the first-ever SAMHSA Harm Reduction grant program and expects to issue \$30 million in grant awards. This funding, authorized by the American Rescue Plan, will help increase access to a range of community harm reduction services and support harm reduction service providers as they work to help prevent overdose deaths and reduce health risks often associated with drug use. SAMHSA will accept applications from State, local, Tribal, and territorial governments, Tribal organizations, non-profit community-based organizations, and primary and behavioral health organizations.

Information about harm reduction can be [found here](#). Information on this grant funding opportunity can be [found here](#).

State Legislative Update

New! New Advocacy Video Opposing SBs 597 & 598

CMHA has launched a new advocacy video opposing SBs 597 & 598. The video highlights the main concerns with the privatization legislation. Feel free to share the video on social media and with anyone who may be impacted by these bills.

To view the new advocacy video, click here: <https://fb.watch/9Xo-NhPBFs/>

New! Sign the Online Petition Opposing Privatization Bills

As you may know, Senate Majority Leader Mike Shirkey recently introduced two new bills – Senate Bills 597 & 598, which attempt to reboot and expand the failed “Section 298” effort of several years ago. This legislation would privatize all Medicaid mental health services by giving full financial control and oversight or decision making to for-profit insurance companies. Supporters of Senate Bills 597 & 598 make a lot of false promises, do not be fooled these bills are a shell game, just shifting who pays the bills for a small fraction of people in the Medicaid program.

Sen. Shirkey has ignored the voice of the people served by continuing to push this dangerous idea. The Community Mental Health Association of Michigan has launched an online petition opposing these bills, please join us and sign the petition by visiting:

cmham.org/advocacy

The bills are being falsely portrayed as improvements to the state’s public mental health system. If passed into law, these bills will severely damage Michigan’s Community Mental Health system and cause significant harm to the 320,000+ Michiganders who rely on its stability.

Senator Shirkey’s bills also hand Michigan’s funds and local decision-making to out-of-state insurance companies. This legislation will allow our local mental health care decisions to be made in corporate board rooms in Missouri, California, Minnesota, Arizona and Indiana.

Thank you in advance for your tireless support, **our strength is our numbers, and we need to show it** – please go to CMHAM.org/Advocacy and sign our petition AND please forward this message to your **board members, staff, and your community partners** and ask them to sign and share the petition.

New! Legislature Done for 2021

Late Wednesday night the Michigan Legislature concluded its legislative business for 2021 – the Senate did not act on SBs 597 & 598, so the bills continue to sit on the Senate Floor and will carry over to 2022.

The legislature did finalize an end-of-the-year supplemental appropriations measure – [House Bill 4398](#). Specifically, the supplemental would appropriate \$116.8 million Gross (\$1.0 million General Fund/General Purpose (GF/GP)) for fiscal year (FY) 2020-21 to reflect final book closing adjustments. The bill would also appropriate \$724.8 million Gross (\$70.2 million GF/GP) for FY 2021-22, with most of that money reflecting Federal grants provided to the State in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Notable items include:

- **Behavioral Health Substance Use Disorder Pilot**
 - Includes \$1.2 million GF/GP for a behavioral health pilot program to integrate innovative prescription digital therapeutics and assist persons having an opioid use disorder with recovery, including community reinforcement
- **COVID-19 Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant**

- Includes \$47.1 million in federal funds for community substance abuse services for prevention activities, treatment, and recovery support services to individuals and communities.
- **Federal Mental Health Block Grant**
 - Includes \$19.7 million in federal funds for community mental health services and mental health treatment for adults with serious mental illness and children with serious emotional disturbance. Boilerplate requires DHHS to provide grants to local public entities that provide substance use disorder services and to 1 private entity that has a statewide contract to provide community-based mental health services.
- **Mental Health Crisis Services**
 - Includes \$100,000 GF/GP to be allocated to a mental health crisis services organization in Oakland County.
- **Emergency Rental Assistance**
 - Includes \$140.0 million in federal grant funding awarded under the American Rescue Plan Act for emergency rental assistance to support low-income renters that have experienced significant financial hardship from the COVID-19 pandemic and are at risk of becoming homeless or of experiencing housing instability. The new funding is in addition to the \$622.0 million in federal funding already provided for this program.
- **Great Lakes Center for Autism**
 - \$2.5 million GF/GP for expansion of pediatric autism services
- **Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities**
 - Includes \$803,900 in federal American Rescue Plan Act funds to supplement the Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities program, an ongoing Federal Transit Administration (FTA) program intended to improve mobility for seniors and individuals with disabilities by removing barriers to transportation service and expanding transportation mobility options. These funds will be made available through the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) to local service providers for eligible projects and activities.

Noteworthy Close of Books Adjustments

- **Behavioral Health Program Administration**
Includes \$1.9 million in private Michigan Health Endowment Fund and Vital Strategies grants for children's health system reform, developmental-behavioral treatment in hospitals, and Michigan syringe services programs operations continuity support.

The House and Senate also approved a bipartisan economic development package – [Senate Bills 769 \(H-1\) and 771 \(H-1\)](#) and [House Bill 5603 \(S-1\)](#) – that would, among other things, create a new Strategic Outreach and Attraction Reserve Fund and a Michigan Strategic Site Readiness Fund intended to attract businesses and stimulate job creation in Michigan. Running concurrently with the economic development bill package was [Senate Bill 85](#), which appropriated nearly \$1.5 billion Gross (\$1.1 billion GF/GP) for the bill package. There was some dissent on both sides of the aisle, with lawmakers citing concerns that the bills created a handout to big businesses and was not an appropriate use of taxpayer dollars.

In addition, the House of Representatives passed a supplemental appropriations measure – [House Bill 5523 \(H-4\)](#) – that includes several health care related items, including COVID-19 vaccine funding, funding for health care provider recruitment, retention and training, and COVID-19 treatment, among other things. The measure heads to the Senate for further consideration likely after the new year.

No further legislative business is expected this year and under [HCR 15](#), the House and Senate will adjourn sine die on December 29. The legislature isn't expected to return to regular session until the week of January 10.

Federal Update

New White Paper Outlines Senators' Bold Vision for Significantly Reforming Mental Health In America in Light of the COVID-19 Pandemic

U.S. Senators Michael Bennet (D-Colo.) and John Cornyn (R-Texas), members of the Senate Finance Committee, released "[A Bold Vision for America's Mental Well-being](#)," a white paper outlining a new framework for reimagining and redesigning how mental and behavioral health care is delivered in the United States. The white paper calls for a bold, unified national strategy that is based on smart resource planning and funding, and addresses the country's mental and behavioral health crisis through local community needs. The senators sent the new white paper to the Senate Finance Committee in a [letter](#) to Chairman Ron Wyden (D-Ore.) and Ranking Member Mike Crapo (R-Idaho) expressing their interest in working together this year to create a stronger mental and behavioral health care system for all Americans.

"Local communities have faced unprecedented challenges in their attempt to address increases in suicides, drug overdose deaths, and most alarmingly – pediatric mental health issues," wrote Bennet and Cornyn in the letter. "A lack of Federal coordination and administrative burden often prevents local communities from addressing their current needs when they are happening, until it is too late."

"The Senate Finance Committee has a unique opportunity to create generational change for Americans today and to sustain this focus moving forward. We believe that there are deep, systemic issues with the way that mental and behavioral health services are delivered that warrants bold action to redesign the system and we should reject incremental changes," the senators continued. "We are hopeful we can create better mental and behavioral well-being for all in the United States."

The [new white paper](#) highlights how the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic exacerbated the mental and behavioral health crisis in this country, increasing poor outcomes across the entire human lifespan and magnifying disparities for underserved communities, including Black, brown, and LGBTQ+ communities. As demand increases in the short-term, the white paper calls for resources to address immediate needs, while urging smart policy and resource planning and a unified, bold strategy for collective mental and behavioral health improvement.

Bennet and Cornyn are proposing establishing a national strategy to modernize the U.S. mental and behavioral health system based on principles designed to:

Integrate mental health more seamlessly throughout delivery and financing options to assure better ease of access; Enhance delivery within local communities through innovative workforce and program modernization and coordination; Update mental and behavioral care programs to improve availability, cost management, and quality; and Improve how federal funds and other resources are planned for and allocated for to increase the return on our nation's investment through better mental and behavioral health outcomes.

The white paper also outlines key steps that Congress must take this year to improve mental and behavioral health.

- Step 1: Rapid Response: Congress needs to act in the short-term to address glaring and obvious needs that communities across the country are struggling to address during a national health emergency that continues to this day.
- Step 2: Relationship Adjustment: Congress should use the legislative process to reimagine the relationship between how the federal government funds and engages with local communities.
- Step 3: Redesign the System: Congress will establish a strategy for redesigning mental and behavioral health services in America, including improved funding mechanisms.
- Step 4: Reevaluate Continuously: Congress can use an annual update process to drive meaningful reform incrementally and improve the feedback loop between the American people's experience and the federal government's response.

To help inform a forthcoming legislative package, Bennet and Cornyn are seeking input from experts, community leaders, and constituents on policies to help achieve intended outcomes laid out in their white paper. Anyone may provide feedback to mentalhealth@bennet.senate.gov by October 8, 2021.

In July, Bennet and Cornyn [reintroduced](#) the Suicide and Crisis Outreach Prevention Enhancement Act, which would increase funding for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (NSPL) program to \$50 million per year, provide greater flexibility for participants to raise awareness of the services they offer, and collect vital statistics to help understand and reduce disparities.

In June, Bennet and U.S. Senator Susan Collins (R-Maine) [introduced](#) the Medication Access and Training Expansion (MATE) Act to require prescribers of highly addictive medication, like opioids, to complete a substance use training to ensure they have foundational knowledge of addiction prevention, treatment, and medication management.

Read the full white paper [HERE](#).

Education Opportunities

LAST CALL! Call For Presentations! CMHA Hybrid 2022 Winter Conference



2022 Hybrid Annual Winter Conference
"Putting People First"

Pre-Conference Institutes: February 7, 2022
Main Conference: February 8 & 9, 2022
Radisson Plaza Hotel, Kalamazoo, Michigan

CMHA is committed to bringing the BEST to you during our Winter Conference: the BEST Ideas, the BEST Research, the BEST Practices, the BEST Programs, the BEST Success Stories! Be a part of our conference, by submitting your BEST ideas!

[Click Here to Submit Your Conference Proposal!](#)

Deadline: Friday December 17, 2021!

Motivational Interviewing Virtual Trainings Registration Now Open

Registration is now open for the FY22 VIRTUAL Motivational Interviewing College trainings which includes Basic, Advanced, the newly expanded two-day Supervisory, MI for Leadership & Organizations!

This event is sponsored by the adult mental health block grant and is intended for persons who serve adults only through the mental health and substance abuse provider network in the state of Michigan. It contains content appropriate for CEOs, COOs, clinical directors, supervisors, case managers, support coordinators, therapists, crisis workers, peer support specialists and any other practitioners at the beginning, advanced and supervisory levels of practice.

By registering for these trainings, the participant acknowledges they have read & agree to the updated virtual guidelines and terms & conditions in the brochure to ensure they can fully participate in the virtual education. Registration closes 5 business days prior to each training.

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Training</u>	<u>Registration Link</u>
Jan. 18-19, 2022	M.I. for Supervisors	CLICK HERE
Jan. 24-25, 2022	M.I. Basic	CLICK HERE
Jan. 27-28, 2022	M.I. Advanced	CLICK HERE
Feb. 2-3, 2022	M.I. for Leadership & Organizations	CLICK HERE
April 4-5, 2022	M.I. Basic	CLICK HERE
April 7-8, 2022	M.I. Advanced	CLICK HERE
April 19-20, 2022	M.I. for Supervisors	CLICK HERE
April 27-28, 2022	M.I. for Leadership & Organizations	CLICK HERE
July 11-12, 2022	M.I. Basic	CLICK HERE
July 14-15, 2022	M.I. Advanced	CLICK HERE
July 20-21, 2022	M.I. for Leadership & Organizations	CLICK HERE
July 27-28, 2022	M.I. for Supervisors	CLICK HERE

Times:

Training(s) start promptly at 9:00am and adjourn at 4:15pm each day. Zoom Waiting Room opens at 8:30am each morning; attendees must be logged on by 8:45am. (All times in EST)

Training Fees:

\$75 per person for each training. The fee includes electronic training materials and CEs.

VIRTUAL Ethics for Social Work, Substance Use Disorder, and Recipient Rights Professionals Training

Community Mental Health Association of Michigan is pleased to offer VIRTUAL Ethics for Social Work, Substance Use Disorder, and Recipient Rights Professionals Trainings presented by Stephanie M Huhn MA, LLP, CBIS, CAADC, CCM, ACCTS through Zoom. There are 6 CE credits available for this training. This training fulfills the Michigan Social Work Licensing Board’s requirement for licensure renewal for ethics. This training fulfills the MCBAP approved treatment ethics code education – specific.

Dates:

- January 18th, 2022 ([Register Here](#))
- February 15th, 2022 ([Register Here](#))
- March 15th, 2022 ([Register Here](#))
- April 13th, 2022 ([Register Here](#))
- April 19th, 2022 ([Register Here](#))

Agenda:

Log into Zoom: 9:45am
Education: 10:00am – 12:30pm
Lunch Break: 12:30pm– 1:00pm
Education: 1:00pm – 4:30pm

Training Fees: \$130 CMHA Members \$153 Non-Members

VIRTUAL Pain Management Essentials: A Psychotherapeutic Approach

Community Mental Health Association of Michigan is pleased to offer Pain Management Trainings presented by Stephanie M Huhn MA, LLP, CBIS, CAADC, CCM, ACCTS online through Zoom. This course qualifies for 2 CEs and fulfills the Michigan Social Work Licensing Board’s requirement for licensure renewal for pain management.

Dates:

- January 25th, 2022 ([Register Here](#))
- March 24th, 2022 ([Register Here](#))
- April 27th, 2022 ([Register Here](#))

Agenda:

Log into Zoom: 12:45 pm
Education: 1:00pm – 3:00pm

Training Fees: \$53 CMHA Members \$61 Non-Members

Behavioral Telehealth Resource Center

Telehealth Resource Center

Michigan's Behavioral Telehealth Resource Center serves to provide current information on telehealth policies, training, and funding. Please visit the [Telehealth Resource Center webpage](#) to review our resources. If you have content suggestions, please contact Amy Stagg at astagg@cmham.org.

CMS Updates – State Medicaid & CHIP Telehealth Toolkit

The CMS developed the Medicaid & CHIP Telehealth [Toolkit](#) to help states accelerate adoption of broader telehealth coverage policies in Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Programs. On December 6, CMS released a [supplement](#) to the toolkit to provide additional support to state Medicaid and CHIP agencies in their adoption and implementation of telehealth planning beyond the Public Health Emergency (PHE) flexibilities. States can use this toolkit as they clarify and determine telehealth policies. This supplement also highlights innovative state telehealth profiles. The profiles begin on pdf page 62.

Telehealth Toolkit for Suicide Prevention in Michigan

The Michigan Preventing Suicide in Men (PRiSMM) project has developed a Suicide Prevention Telehealth Toolkit and Training Network. They are inviting interested CMH partners to join a select group of community and behavioral health providers to participate in a three-month cohort (Jan-Mar 2022) to pilot test the SP telehealth toolkit for providers and form a professional learning collaborative that will develop a statewide training model and network. To learn more, view the [Toolkit Presentation](#), to participate in the toolkit pilot program, [click here](#) to access the Participation and Consent Form. The next Provider Pilot and Professional Learning Community meeting is Dec. 14 at noon.

2022 Final Physician Fee Schedule (PFS) Released

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released the 2022 PFS which has a commitment to drive innovation and support health equity and high quality, person-centered care. The final rule makes significant strides in expanding access to behavioral health care, especially for traditionally underserved communities, by harnessing telehealth and other telecommunications technologies. In line with legislation enacted last year, CMS is eliminating geographic barriers and allowing patients in their homes to access telehealth services for diagnosis, evaluation, and treatment of mental health disorders.

CMS is bringing care directly into patients' homes by providing certain mental and behavioral health services via audio-only telephone calls. This means counseling and therapy services, including treatment of substance use disorders and services provided through Opioid Treatment Programs, will be more readily available to individuals, especially in areas with poor broadband infrastructure. In addition, for the first time outside of the COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE), Medicare will pay for mental health visits furnished by Rural Health Clinics and Federally Qualified Health Centers via telecommunications technology, including audio-only telephone calls, expanding access for rural and other vulnerable populations. [Click here to read the full article from CMS.](#)

Office of Inspector General (OIG) Data Snapshot – Released October 2021

A new [data snapshot](#) released by the US Department of Health and Human Services OIG provides information to policymakers and other stakeholders about the relationship between beneficiaries and providers of telehealth services. These data are critical to informing decisions about how to structure telehealth services in Medicare on a more permanent basis. This snapshot is part of a series of reports on telehealth; the other reports focus on telehealth utilization and program integrity. Here are some high-level findings. [View the full report.](#)

Education & Training Resources from Great Lakes MHTTC

CMHA's partnership with SAMHSA funded Great Lakes MHTTC



Great Lakes (HHS Region 5)

MHTTC

Mental Health Technology Transfer Center Network

Funded by Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

CMHA is the Michigan partner of the Great Lakes Mental Health Technology Transfer Center (MHTTC). Through this partnership, funded by the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), MHTTC and CMHA provide Michiganders with access to a wide range of evidence-based and promising mental health practices. More information on the work of the Great Lakes MHTTC [can be found here.](#)

The Great Lakes MHTTC products and educational offerings can be found at its [Products and Resources webpage.](#) This section of the MHTTC website hosts all Great Lakes MHTTC products along with products developed with their partner TTCs within the region and across the country.

SAMHSA: Advancing Comprehensive School Mental Health Systems

As children go back to school, SAMHSA is also elevating mental health resources for supporting students and staffs, created by SAMHSA's grantees through its Mental Health Technology Transfer Centers, that address mental health and resiliency in school settings:

The [Back to School After COVID-19: Supporting Student and Staff Mental Health Toolkit \(PDF | 4 MB\)](#) helps guide conversations to include a trauma-informed, equitable, and compassionate lens to providing mental health supports to every member of the school community.

[Behavioral Health Impacts During & After COVID-19: What to Expect and Ways to Prepare for the Return to In-Person Learning \(PDF | 4 MB\)](#) presents information on the impact of COVID-19, what to expect as students return to school, and ways to prepare at the staff, building, and district levels.

[Strengthening School Communities for a Safe, Supportive Return: Part 2](#) covers strategies and best practices for school systems to promote student and staff resilience, wellbeing, and success, following

COVID-related school closures. It also promotes cross-state networking and shared learning about best practices, successes, and challenges during learning modality transitions.

View more [back-to-school resources](#).

CMH Association's Officers & Staff Contact Info

CMHA Officers Contact Information:

The Officers of the CMH Association of Michigan, in their commitment to fostering dialogue among the members of the Association with the Association's leaders post their contact information below. While this dialogue will not take the place of the regular dialogue and decision making that occurs during the meetings of the Association's Board of Directors, Steering Committee, Provider Alliance, Association Committees, Directors Forum, PIHP CEOs meeting, nor any of the great number of Association-sponsored and supported dialogue venues, the Officers want to ensure that the members of the Association can reach them to discuss issues of interest to the Association's members.

President: Joe Stone; Stonejoe09@gmail.com; (989) 390-2284
First Vice President: Carl Rice Jr; cricejr@outlook.com; (517) 745-2124
Second Vice President: Craig Reiter; gullivercraig@gmail.com; (906) 283-3451
Secretary: Cathy Kellerman; balcat19@live.com; (231) 924-3972
Treasurer: Randy Kamps; randyk@4iam.com; (231) 392-6670
Immediate Past President: Bill Davie; bill49866@gmail.com; (906) 226-4063

CMHA Staff Contact Information:

CMH Association staff can be contacted at (517) 374-6848 and via the direct phone lines and e-mail addresses below:

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