



WEEKLY Update

December 3, 2021

TABLE OF Contents

CMH Association and Member Activities	2
<i>New! Responding to tragic shooting in Oxford Michigan.....</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>New! CMHA posts latest update on exceptions to Michigan’s Open Meetings Act</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>CMHA and Coalition release two documents to further Michigan’s Health Safety Net.....</i>	<i>3</i>
State & National Developments and Resources.....	3
<i>New! MiCAL rollout documents</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>New! Center for Behavioral Health and Justice: opioid use disorder in jail inmates.....</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>New! MDHHS announce RFPs on Juvenile Justice Mental Health-Related Delinquency Prevention and Racial and Ethnic Disparities Reduction</i>	<i>4</i>
State Legislative Update	5
<i>View October’s Legislative Video on CMHA’s Website</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>New! House Committee Takes Testimony on Key Behavioral Health Legislation</i>	<i>5</i>
Federal Update.....	6
<i>New White Paper Outlines Senators’ Bold Vision for Significantly Reforming Mental Health In America in Light of the COVID-19 Pandemic</i>	<i>6</i>
Education Opportunities.....	7
<i>Call For Presentations! CMHA Hybrid 2022 Winter Conference</i>	<i>7</i>

<i>VIRTUAL Ethics for Social Work, Substance Use Disorder, and Recipient Rights Professionals Training – Registration now open!</i>	8
<i>VIRTUAL Pain Management Essentials: A Psychotherapeutic Approach – Registration now open!</i>	8
Behavioral Telehealth Resource Center	9
<i>Telehealth Resource Center</i>	9
<i>Telehealth Toolkit for Suicide Prevention in Michigan</i>	9
<i>2022 Final Physician Fee Schedule (PFS) Released</i>	9
<i>Office of Inspector General (OIG) Data Snapshot – Released October 2021</i>	9
Education & Training Resources from Great Lakes MHTTC	10
<i>CMHA’s partnership with SAMHSA funded Great Lakes MHTTC</i>	10
<i>SAMHSA: Advancing Comprehensive School Mental Health Systems</i>	10
News from Our Preferred Corporate Partners	11
<i>Abilita: Top Ten Times for a Communications Review</i>	11
CMH Association’s Officers & Staff Contact Info	11
<i>CMHA Officers Contact Information:</i>	11
<i>CMHA Staff Contact Information:</i>	12

CMH Association and Member Activities

New! Responding to tragic shooting in Oxford Michigan

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.

The staff at Oakland Community Health Network (OCHN), the CMH in Oakland County and a CMHA member, their provider network, and school staff have been on the scene from the moments after the shooting, providing crisis and trauma care, and will continue to work with the school students, families, school staff, and the community as they deal with the shock, pain, and trauma of this event.

Other CMHs, PIHPs, and providers in the region and from across the state have provided support, staff,

and assistance to OCHN, Oxford Schools and the Oxford and surrounding communities as they work to recover from this tragedy.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the students, families, school staff, and the Oxford community as they recover from this tragedy.

New! CMHA posts latest update on exceptions to Michigan's Open Meetings Act

The law firm of Cohl, Stoker, and Toskey – a longtime partner of CMHA and many of its members – recently provided an update on the end date for exceptions to the state's Open Meeting Act. This update will be of interest to many CMHA members who are governmental bodies and, as such, are bound by the Open Meetings Act. That update can be [found here](#).

CMHA and Coalition release two documents to further Michigan's Health Safety Net

Weekly Update readers may remember our discussing the formation, by CMHA and some of our partner associations – the Michigan Primary Care Association (representing the state's community health centers), and the Area Agencies on Aging Association of Michigan (representing the state's area agencies on aging) - of the Health Safety Net Coalition. CMHA, spurred by the thinking the developed through our involvement in the initial and now the Alumni Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Delta Center initiative, formed a Health Safety Net Coalition with these two longstanding state association partners.

Two of initial joint projects of the Coalition, in partnership with Public Sector Consultants, are the development of:

- [a paper introducing the Coalition](#)
- [a joint set of recommendations around the health care infrastructure](#) needs common to these three health care sectors. This paper is being issued at this time, given that the availability of federal dollars, via ARPA, create an opportunity for the strengthening of Michigan's health safety net.

State & National Developments and Resources

New! MiCAL rollout documents

MDHHS recently announced the roll-out of the Michigan Crisis and Access Line (MiCAL) and related crisis efforts. The documents shared during that roll out event are found below:

- [MiCAL rollout slides](#)
- [MiCAL-CMH-PIHP-CCBHC care coordination requirements](#)
- [Rollout care coordination timeline](#)

New! Center for Behavioral Health and Justice: opioid use disorder in jail inmates

New research from the Center for Behavioral Health and Justice at Wayne State University's School of Social Work has found that at least 14% of people in Michigan's jails likely have opioid use disorder. However, less than half (48%) of individuals booked into jail were screened for opioid use disorder. The full report can be [found here](#).

New! MDHHS announce RFPs on Juvenile Justice Mental Health-Related Delinquency Prevention and Racial and Ethnic Disparities Reduction

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services has released a Request for Proposals (RFP) on the MI E-Grants system for the JJMHD-2022-Juvenile Justice Mental Health-Related Delinquency Prevention - 2022.

All proposal responses with related materials must be submitted electronically using the MI E-Grants system located at the site [listed here](#). Agencies interested in applying for this Request for Proposal must first register both the agency and user and process a Project Director Request at that site and submit their proposal by 01/04/2022 at 15:00.

To review information about the RFP, go to this site and scroll down until you find Children's Services Agency. Click on it and look for JJMHD-2022-Juvenile Justice Mental Health-Related Delinquency Prevention - 2022 to access RFP-related information.

For application instructions, please visit this site and click the "About EGrAMS" link. The "Competitive Application Instructions" manual will provide detailed instructions on completing an application in the MI E-Grants system.

For technical assistance when completing registration for the MI E-Grants system or entering application materials, contact the Bureau of Grants and Purchasing Helpdesk at MDHHS-EGrAMS-HELP@michigan.gov.

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services has released a Request for Proposals (RFP) on the MI E-Grants system for the RED-2022-Racial and Ethnic Disparities Reduction - 2022.

All proposal responses with related materials must be submitted electronically using the MI E-Grants system located at the site [listed here](#). Agencies interested in applying for this Request for Proposal must first register both the agency and user and process a Project Director Request at that site and submit their proposal by 01/04/2022 at 15:00.

To review information about the RFP, go to this site and scroll down until you find Children's Services Agency. Click on it and look for JJMHD-2022-Juvenile Justice Mental Health-Related Delinquency Prevention - 2022 to access RFP-related information.

For application instructions, please visit this site and click the "About EGrAMS" link. The "Competitive Application Instructions" manual will provide detailed instructions on completing an application in the MI E-Grants system.

For technical assistance when completing registration for the MI E-Grants system or entering application materials, contact the Bureau of Grants and Purchasing Helpdesk at MDHHS-EGrAMS-HELP@michigan.gov.

State Legislative Update

View October's Legislative Video on CMHA's Website

The Capitol Briefing is a monthly resource available to CMHA members providing a high-level overview of the key items impacting the public mental health system at the State Capitol.

Our October briefing features CMHA Associate Director, Alan Bolter, provides an update regarding the FY22 budget, and the Senate and House behavioral health redesign proposals.

To view the latest video, [CLICK HERE!](#)

New! House Committee Takes Testimony on Key Behavioral Health Legislation

Aligning the state's ability to pay standards with the federal sliding fee discount program would allow underserved mental health providers to continue a key federal loan repayment program, as a way to attract and retain key staff.

HB 5165, sponsored by Rep. Mary Whiteford (R-Casco Township) would align the state's ability to pay standards with the federal sliding fee discount program would allow underserved mental health providers to continue a key federal loan repayment program, as a way to attract and retain key staff.

"This program allows approved sites across our nation to recruit and retain needed professionals, including behavioral health providers, who agreed to practice in those sites in exchange for loan repayment, or in some cases, scholarships," Ms. Whiteford said. "This program is essential to helping to encourage professionals to work in rural and underserved areas in our nation and our states."

Ms. Whiteford added for mental health providers qualify for the funds, the state has to align with federal ability to pay scales. The state had been in the past, but Ms. Whiteford said the state failed to address this in the past four years.

"This has cost us to lose our national health service corps status," Ms. Whiteford said. "(HB) 5165 is a permanent fix in the statute that simply aligns our ability to pay with the federal standard."

Chip Johnston, executive director for Centra Wellness Network, said the legislation would allow for guidelines to be automatically changed when the federal requirements are adjusted and would immensely benefit the community mental health system. The systems need the student loan repayment program and have lost staff when due to the state's ability to pay misalignment.

"In the last four years, particularly in the last two years, as our certification drops off and we haven't reapplied, CMH's are dropping off and there's currently about eight that have dropped off," Mr. Johnston said. "It doesn't cost us a financial impact, but it hurts us in our ability to improve staff."

No vote was taken on the bill, but do expect a vote in the near future.

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 assume 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

Call For Presentations! CMHA Hybrid 2022 Winter Conference

2022 Hybrid Annual Winter Conference "Putting People First"

Radisson Plaza Hotel, Kalamazoo, Michigan

Pre-Conference Institutes: February 7, 2022

Main Conference: February 8 & 9, 2022





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!

VIRTUAL Ethics for Social Work, Substance Use Disorder, and Recipient Rights Professionals Training – Registration now open!

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 – Registration now open!

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:

- November 12th, 2021 ([Register Here](#))
- January 25th, 2022 ([Register Here](#))

Agenda:

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

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

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.

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.

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](#).

News from Our Preferred Corporate Partners

Abilita: Top Ten Times for a Communications Review

It's never a bad time to review your organization's communications technology expenses, and never a better time to enlist the help of a specialist. That's because there are certain milestones when not having a good handle on spending and inventory can result in the greatest financial risk.

Here are our top 10 scenarios for a Communications technology expense review and inventory update:

- Before a Move
- After an acquisition or merger with another company
- Upon Contract Renewal with Communications Service Providers (before and after)
- After Closing a Site
- When there are changes in Regulatory Charges
- When moving from Premise to Cloud-Based Services
- When Transforming Network Technology
- When a New Person is taking over responsibility for Communications Technology Management
- When changing to a new Data Center Provider
- When Employees Work from Home

For more details and what you might want to consider, download Abilita's Top 10 Times newsletter [here](#). To get started now, contact your Abilita Advisor, Dan Aylward, at daylward@abilita.com for a zero-risk review of your technology systems and services.

CMHA 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
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Second Vice President: Craig Reiter; gullivercraig@gmail.com; (906) 283-3451
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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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