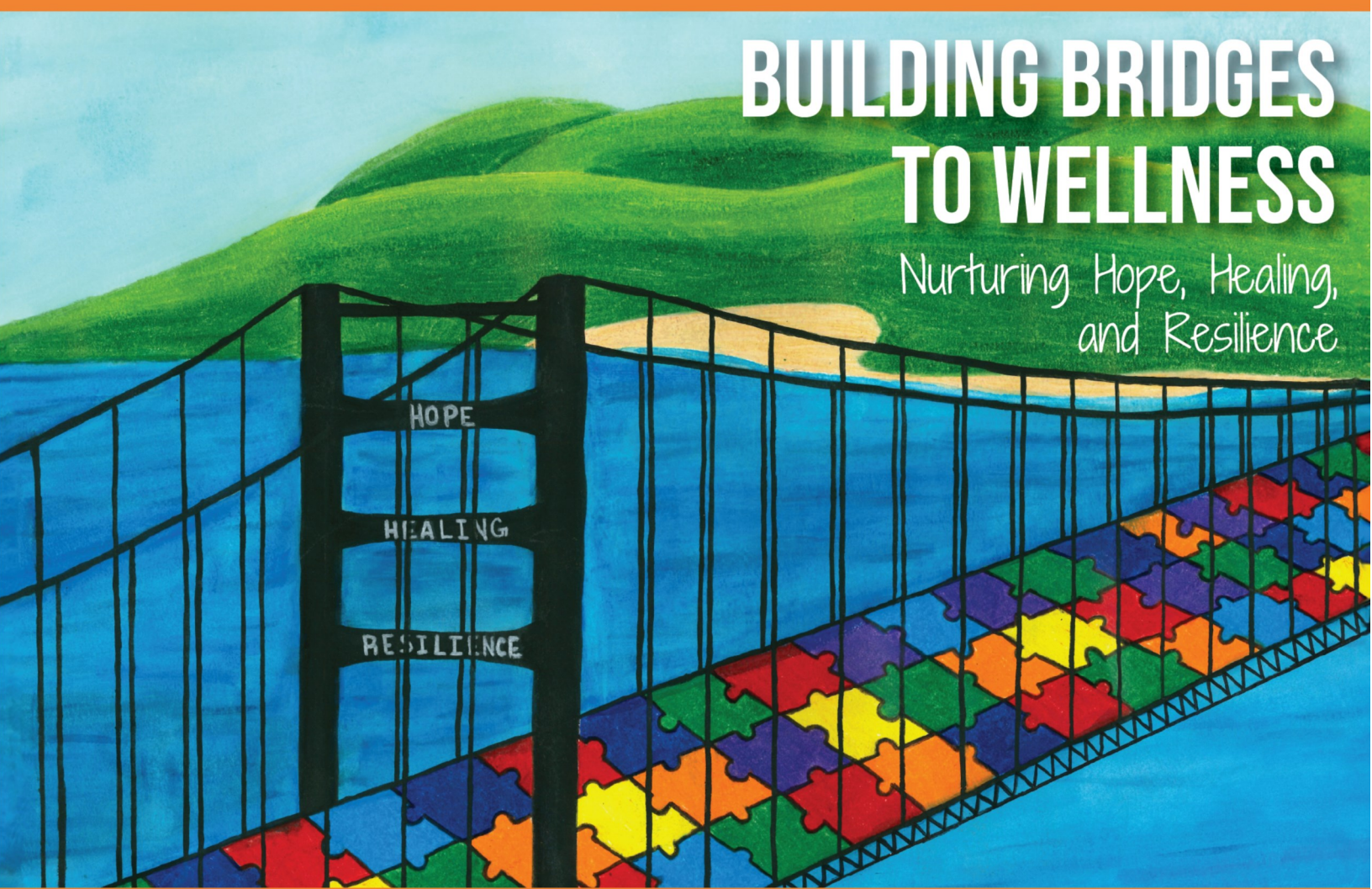


St. Clair County  
**Community Mental Health**

**2023 ANNUAL  
REPORT**

**BUILDING BRIDGES  
TO WELLNESS**

*Nurturing Hope, Healing,  
and Resilience*



Artwork by: Reese Klei, Yale High School



Dear Community Members,

As we reflect on the past year, I am pleased to share the progress and accomplishments of St. Clair County Community Mental Health (SCCCMH). It has been a year marked by continued growth, collaboration, and commitment to meeting the mental health needs of our community.

Our agency continues to experience unprecedented growth in the number of individuals seeking services and in our highly qualified workforce. This expansion speaks to the increasing recognition of the importance of behavioral healthcare and the trust placed in us by those we serve.

We are privileged to collaborate with diverse community partners, including law enforcement agencies, human service organizations, school districts and educational partners, and many other community organizations. Through these partnerships, we continue to provide vital mental health education and outreach, equipping our community with the knowledge and resources needed to support a healthy foundation for everyone's mental health. This protective factor is critical in ensuring the Blue Water Area remains a safe, active, and desired community.

Our team continues to work on initiatives to support and expand youth services. Through program initiatives and advocacy, we are working diligently to ensure that the young people of St. Clair County are minimally affected by a statewide shortage of long-term treatment options. It is paramount that we address the increasing need for various levels of behavioral healthcare for this vulnerable population.

As we look forward, with the re-development of our agency's mission, vision, and values last year, we are committed to further enhancing our impact and accessibility of behavioral health care to the community. These guiding statements serve as a

beacon for innovation and future growth, ensuring SCCCMMH continues to meet the community's needs.

Our commitment is evident in our new three-year strategic plan, which has four strategic pillars designed to address St. Clair County's evolving behavioral healthcare needs. Our four pillars are Organizational Efficiency, Education, Workforce, and Program Excellence. You can learn more about the initiatives laid out in our strategic plan online at [www.scccmh.org/strategic-plan](http://www.scccmh.org/strategic-plan). The objectives in this plan are critical to propelling us forward and expanding access to high-quality mental healthcare all residents deserve.

In this fast-paced, important work SCCCMMH does daily, I want to express my sincere gratitude to our dedicated staff, members of our Board of Directors and Advisory Councils, community partners, and community members who make our work possible. Together, we are making strides toward a healthier, more resilient community.

Sincerely,

**Debra Johnson**  
Chief Executive Officer  
St. Clair County Community Mental Health



# EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

## JEANETTE GROVE

Jeanette's exceptional compassion and dedication to the well-being of the individuals she serves shines in all her interactions. Early in 2023, she was recognized as the Employee of the Month for helping an individual experiencing an emergency housing situation. Having rearranged her schedule to prioritize urgent matters, she swiftly connected the individual to resources, facilitated team meetings, and initiated long-term problem-solving, demonstrating exemplary service. Jeanette's commitment to improving individuals' lives demonstrates St. Clair County Community Mental Health's core values.



# TEAM OF THE YEAR

## LISA AZAR, GINA BASS-MADDOX, TALIA BROWN, ALEX MCCRACKEN, DR. MOHAMMAD SAEED, AND MELISSA WAY

Lisa, Gina, Talia, Alex, Melissa, and Dr. Saeed are St. Clair County Community Mental Health's 2023 Team of the Year for their outstanding teamwork and initiative. As a team, they rallied around a family faced with multifaceted concerns, and despite demanding schedules, they generously devoted their time, often working outside of regular hours, to ensure the family received much-needed support. They collaborated on innovative solutions tailored to the family's needs. Their respectful approach, attentive listening, and openness to new ideas fostered a supportive environment. Their commitment extends not only to those they serve but to their colleagues as well.





# COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

## A COMMUNITY-DRIVEN NETWORK OF SUPPORT

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) is a grassroots beacon of support, education, and advocacy for individuals living with a mental health condition, along with their families and caregivers. Across the United States, NAMI affiliates provide crucial resources and programs, serving as a lifeline for those navigating the complex landscape of mental illness.

Tori Ferres and Emily Uppleger intimately understand the deep effects a mental health diagnosis can have on families and friends. Motivated by their personal journeys, they embraced the opportunity to pioneer a local NAMI Chapter driven by a shared vision of fostering understanding, solidarity, and empowerment.

Reflecting on her teenage years spent grappling with her mother's mental health diagnosis, Tori said, "If there had been a support group or place to access resources during that tumultuous time, I would have eagerly embraced it. Knowing I wasn't alone and gaining insight into my mother's diagnosis would have been invaluable."

For Emily, navigating a loved one's mental health journey underscored the need for communal support. "Having a network of individuals who've walked similar paths could have alleviated much of the confusion and isolation," she shares.

"Access to legal, medical, and emotional guidance is vital for all affected by a mental health diagnosis."

NAMI's range of programs, from support groups to educational initiatives, addresses these needs, striving to destigmatize mental illness and enhance access to care. Tori and Emily resonate deeply with NAMI's mission, recognizing the offerings as the very support structures they yearned for in their own lives.

Now serving as NAMI Blue Water Area officers, Tori and Emily are committed to expanding these vital services within our community. Through training, classes, and support groups, their goal is to uplift and empower families, friends, and loved ones impacted by mental illness.

In acknowledgment of their dedication to enhancing mental health support systems, St. Clair County Community Mental Health proudly honors Tori and Emily as the 2023 Community Service Award Recipients. Their commitment to fostering compassion and resilience within the Blue Water Area exemplifies the transformative power of community-driven initiatives.

**SCAN TO LEARN MORE ABOUT  
NAMI BLUE WATER AREA**



# COMMUNICATIONS AWARD

## FOSTERING A VIBRANT AND CONNECTED COMMUNITY

St. Clair County Community Mental Health proudly presents the 2023 Communications Award to Paul Dingeman, a cherished figure in public access television across the southern portion of St. Clair County for over three decades. Currently, Paul serves as the host of “Focus with Paul Dingeman” on CTV, an online program that serves as a beacon of community engagement and awareness.

Driven by a desire to keep our local community informed, uplifted, and unified, Paul records weekly “Focus” episodes featuring insightful interviews with a diverse array of local guests. His commitment to promoting positive narratives and fostering a vibrant, connected St. Clair County shines through each episode.

SCCCMH is privileged to have a dedicated monthly spot on Paul’s program, a testament to his belief in our agency’s contributions to the community. Reflecting on this partnership, Paul shares, “CTV recognizes the immense value CMH brings to our community, and it’s truly an honor to



shine a spotlight on their impactful efforts each month.” Paul’s understanding of the importance of mental health awareness and outreach further underscores his selection for this award.

Beyond his professional accolades, Paul’s genuine warmth and dedication to community improvement through his platform sets him apart. While he may relish celebrating community achievements, SCCCMH celebrates Paul’s contributions, which are a testament to his remarkable interview style and profound commitment to nurturing community well-being.

In honoring Paul Dingeman with the 2023 Communications Award, SCCCMH extends heartfelt gratitude for his contributions to amplifying voices and fostering understanding in the community.



## RIGHTS CHAMPION OF THE YEAR

**Andrea Bubel**, Residential Services Division Director, Blue Water Developmental Housing.

Andrea was recognized for implementing a program that supports individuals as they work to develop their skills to support their employment in the community.

## RIGHTS CHAMPIONS OF THE YEAR

Annually, SCCCMH recognizes individuals and teams from across the community working together to protect the rights of individuals accessing behavioral health services.

### RIGHTS CHAMPION TEAM OF THE YEAR

**Grace Butterfield, Sarah Cassidy, Terri Harrison, Dennis Loxton, Mary Mackey, Victoria Partaka, and Tonia Rock**, Simpson Group Home, I.M.P.A.C.T.; **Lisa London and Irene Schuck**, SCCCMH.

This team was recognized for their commitment to advocacy, ensuring residents were protected and new processes and safeguards were implemented within their group home.

# ORGANIZATION OF THE YEAR AWARD

## 31<sup>ST</sup> CIRCUIT COURT FAMILY DIVISION

The 31st Circuit Court Family Division is the 2023 Organization of the Year for showing steadfast dedication to improving the lives of children in our community.

The partnership between the 31st Circuit Court Family Division and SCCCMH has historically been strong. Our work is characterized by a shared mission of supporting the health and safety of families and children.

“Because of the efforts of Community Mental Health and its staff, we have a better opportunity to address risk factors, reducing the likelihood of reoffending or the need for more intensive services, creating a path for more successful futures of our youth,” comments Thomas M. Hull, Director of Juvenile Services. “Much of the work we complete needs to be done in tandem to appropriately address the needs of our youth.”

The court team has an overwhelming sense of compassion when working with families and children going through some of the most challenging times of their lives. Although part of the court’s role is to serve as an instrument of accountability and consequences, the staff are working to also be agents of change, supporting young people and families so that they don’t require further court intervention. The court team is committed to positively impacting local youth and their families, promoting successful and encouraging outcomes for all.



## THE NEXT STEP PROGRAM:

### EMPOWERING INDIVIDUALS WITH MENTAL HEALTH CONDITIONS

Mental health is a crucial part of overall well-being, yet it often remains stigmatized and misunderstood. The Next Step Program works to break down these barriers and offer comprehensive and individualized support.

The program is centered on personalized care, recognizing each individual’s unique journey and needs. Participants work closely with a team of professionals, including peer support specialists, licensed clinicians, and registered nurses. This multidisciplinary approach ensures holistic support, addressing not only mental health concerns but also co-occurring substance use disorders and physical health conditions. The team’s diverse backgrounds and lived experiences foster understanding and empathy, creating a safe and supportive environment.

A key objective of the program is empowering individuals through education. Participants gain knowledge about their mental health conditions, treatment options, and coping strategies, enabling them to make informed decisions and actively participate in their recovery journey. The program also emphasizes advocacy to destigmatize mental health conditions, promoting open conversations and creating an inclusive community.

The Next Step Program guides individuals through the complex web of available resources and services, linking them to mental health, physical health, and substance use treatments. It fosters community connections and peer-led activities, providing a sense of belonging and support.

The program’s impact extends beyond individuals to the community, promoting mental health awareness and reducing stigma. By offering personalized support, education, and community connections, Next Step improves lives and fosters a more compassionate, supportive society.

# BUILDING A LIFE OF HIS CHOOSING

Radiating positivity and anticipation, Damion Kent stepped into the room, donning his trademark bright smile and a playful oversized sombrero as he prepared to receive the Empowerment Award at the 2023 Celebration of Recovery. While the sombrero added a lighthearted touch, Damion's journey is a shining example of empowerment in mental health recovery.

Empowerment in this context refers to the process of individuals taking control of their lives, making informed decisions, and actively pursuing their mental health goals. Damion embodies these qualities through his demonstration of resilience, self-awareness, and autonomy. Drawing on his inner strength, he has overcome obstacles and built a fulfilling life.

Damion's journey through the Next Step Program led him to find meaningful work at Goodwill as a warehouse worker. As a sociable person, he appreciates the supportive team at SCCCMH and the welcoming environment at Goodwill, where he enjoys the company of his colleagues and benefits from strong leadership.

His recovery journey has been marked by steadfast determination and the support of his dedicated care team and natural support system. From securing stable housing to finding satisfaction in his work, Damion demonstrates a remarkable capacity to shape his destiny while fostering positive relationships with his healthcare team.

When asked about his progress, Damion credits his supportive network. He praises his team at SCCCMH for their willingness to help and address any concerns he may have. He also acknowledges the unparalleled support of his parents, who have stood by his side throughout his recovery journey.

"Damion epitomizes empowerment," comments Renee Polio-McGuire, SCCCMH Case Manager, who nominated him for the award. "His commitment to leading a meaningful life, pursuing his dreams, and advocating for his well-being is inspiring."



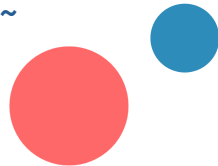
In every decision and action, Damion exudes a sense of ownership and control, embracing the opportunity to shape his future on his terms. His journey reflects the profound impact of empowerment in mental health recovery, showcasing the transformative power of self-determination and resilience.



**NEVER STOP TRYING,  
EVEN WHEN IT'S HARD.**

**I TELL MYSELF THIS ALL THE TIME,  
AND THAT'S THE ADVICE I WOULD GIVE ANYONE  
WHO IS WORKING TOWARD THEIR GOALS,  
BECAUSE IT IS GOING TO BE HARD,  
BUT IT'S GOING TO BE GOOD.**

**~ DAMION KENT ~**



# BREAKING THE CYCLE: THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF MENTAL HEALTH COURT

Mental health courts are specialized courts designed to divert individuals with mental illness away from incarceration and into comprehensive treatment and support services. In St. Clair County, Mental Health Court (MHC) aims to address the unique needs of individuals with mental health conditions and substance use disorders who become involved in the criminal justice system, often for minor offenses related to their untreated illnesses.

Unlike traditional criminal courts focused solely on adjudication, MHC adopts a multidisciplinary, collaborative approach involving judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, and mental health professionals from SCCCMH. Eligible individuals voluntarily opt into MHC as an alternative to traditional case processing. Upon entry, individuals agree to a court-supervised treatment plan tailored to their specific needs, including medication management, counseling, substance use treatment, housing assistance, job training, and other supportive services. Regular court appearances and judicial monitoring ensure adherence to the treatment regimen and court-mandated conditions.

Mental health court offers several potential benefits for individuals, the justice system, and the community. “The collaborative approach lets the various systems involved coordinate their response, so that we aren’t overburdening the individual caught in the middle,” comments Honorable John D. Tomlinson, Probate Judge. “This gives us better results than we usually achieve if each system acts independently. The courts reduce recidivism, get a better understanding of what resources are available, and a better understanding of the individual’s unique situation and needs.”

“I’ve seen too many instances where people were caught in the middle, unable to navigate the requirements being imposed by different systems. Sometimes, the requirements were contradictory or overwhelming,” adds Judge Tomlinson. “I’ve used a lot of the lessons learned through Mental

Health Court in the court’s interactions with other agencies.”

Aside from reducing recidivism and offering a more cost-effective solution than repeatedly cycling individuals with mental health conditions through the criminal justice system, it provides improved access to treatment options. Many individuals with mental health conditions and substance use disorders lack access to adequate treatment and support services, which can exacerbate their conditions and increase the risk of criminal justice involvement. Mental health courts facilitate connections to comprehensive community-based treatment and resources tailored to individual needs. “Building on the strong relationship between CMH and St. Clair County Courts, we’ve been able to develop a cooperative system that enhances participants’ opportunities for success and improves their quality of life,” states Judge Tomlinson. “We’ve been doing this successfully for more than 15 years, and look forward to the promising future ahead.”



## FROM THE SCCCMH MENTAL HEALTH COURT TEAM:

*One individual entered our program already serving a sentence for a misdemeanor offense; she could have simply finished the remaining days and been released. However, before her incarceration, she was living with severe untreated mental illness, unemployed, living in her car, and on the verge of losing her parental rights. To make lasting positive changes in her life, she needed more support than the traditional criminal justice system provides. Approximately one year later, after graduating from MHC, her life has drastically turned around. She is living in an apartment, has a job, her mental health has markedly improved, and she is on the path to reunification with her children. It is a true success story in every aspect.*





# MENTAL HEALTH KNOWLEDGE CREATES SAFE COMMUNITIES

We recognize the necessity of a comprehensive approach to mental health. In addition to clinical care, community education, awareness, and training are crucial.

Building a highly skilled workforce allows us to expand access to services and provide high-quality behavioral healthcare the community deserves. Internally, we provide staff with an abundance of training opportunities. Encouraging learning of new evidence-based practices, assisting with continuing education credits, and offering leadership development opportunities is a priority as staffing needs rise.

Mental Health First Aid (MHFA), a curriculum by the National Council for Mental Wellbeing, equips individuals with skills to intervene in mental health crises. We offer free MHFA training to community members, including school staff, direct care workers, and law enforcement. This initiative empowers community members to provide “first-aid” care for mental health concerns and understand available support in the community.

Prioritizing youth mental health, our staff offers support to local school districts through assemblies, onsite clinical support, presentations, and professional development trainings. This year, we developed a digital toolkit to enhance awareness and support for caregivers and educators regarding mental health. This online resource provides practical information for everyday use, contributing to ongoing education about mental health. This toolkit and more resources can be found under the Education & Outreach tab of our website: [www.scccmh.org](http://www.scccmh.org).

Our partnerships with local law enforcement agencies are flourishing, offering diverse training programs from Mental Health First Aid to crisis de-briefings. Our innovative initiative with the Port Huron Police Department provides an SCCCMH clinician onsite, enhancing the ability to address mental health crises effectively and provide timely behavioral health support to residents in need.

Prioritizing mental health education and training is fundamental. By increasing knowledge, we can reduce misconceptions and stigma surrounding mental health conditions, empower individuals to recognize signs of mental health conditions in themselves and others, allow for timely intervention and improved outcomes, and equip individuals with coping strategies and resilience-building skills. These outreach initiatives help better inform the community of the access points for mental health and substance use disorder services and increase our community’s awareness of the resources available.

**Trained 131 officers**  
on interacting with individuals who have a behavioral health condition as part of an ongoing collaboration with local law enforcement agencies



**>1,900**  
Hours of support provided to the Port Huron Police Department by the SCCCMH full-time embedded clinician



**Held 112 educational events** showing a commitment to providing education opportunities for the community and professionals

**Provided 202 county residents with free Mental Health First Aid training - more than 1,500 have been trained to date**



Mental Health  
FIRST AID

from NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR  
MENTAL WELLBEING



# VETERAN NAVIGATOR PROGRAM: ADVOCATING FOR MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

Our Veteran Navigator program is essential in supporting the mental well-being of our local veteran community. This peer-led initiative, spearheaded by a veteran navigator, serves as an indispensable asset for veterans seeking assistance in navigating the complex landscape of mental health services and benefits.

One of the program's focuses is advocating for the effective utilization of the Community Care benefit, which allows veterans to receive care from community providers when the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) cannot readily provide the required services or if distance to a VA facility is a barrier. This benefit is particularly significant for St. Clair County residents, as it expands access to mental health support beyond the VA medical facilities. The veteran navigator is a knowledgeable guide, assisting veterans in understanding and enrolling in community care. By leveraging this benefit, veterans can access mental health services and substance use disorder treatment from SCCCMH or other local providers, ensuring timely and convenient care. Additionally, the navigator plays a vital role in raising awareness about the unique mental health challenges faced by veterans.

SCCCMH is uniquely qualified to provide this benefit to our local veteran community as we have worked diligently with our clinical staff to ensure appropriate and effective training in many Department of Defense-approved and endorsed treatment modalities. These evidence-based practices, including prolonged exposure therapy and eye movement desensitization and reprocessing (EMDR) therapy, are worked into a treatment plan tailored to support each veteran through a person-centered planning process.

Providing a single point of contact for the diverse needs of our veterans, the program streamlines the process for those seeking support, ensuring

they receive the care and resources they deserve. The Veteran Navigator Program is a testament to our community's commitment to its veterans. By addressing this population's specific mental healthcare needs and integrating community care, the program supports the well-being of veterans and enriches the community as a whole. Continued advocacy and support are essential to sustain and expand the benefits of this program, ensuring that all veterans receive the respect, care, and support they deserve.

## MEET OUR VETERAN NAVIGATOR



Wendy Martindale is a United States Navy Veteran, having served from 1995-1998, and SCCCMH's first Veterans Navigator.

As a licensed Masters Social Worker and drawing upon her lived experience, Wendy masterfully cultivates partnerships and helps fellow veterans navigate the VA system, including assisting with the VA benefit enrollment process, accessing community resources such as housing, employment, and healthcare, and enrolling in mental health services or substance use disorder treatment services at SCCCMH or through other community providers.

Wendy has been recognized by the Department of Health and Human Services, the Community Mental Health Association of Michigan, National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Michigan, and Blue Water Woman for her work as a Veteran Navigator.



# A JOURNEY OF COURAGE & RESILIENCE

## FROM MARINE TO PEER SUPPORT SPECIALIST

Victor served in the U.S. Marine Corps for 12 years, including a combat tour in Iraq. His time in the military left him with lingering mental health and substance use concerns. After several attempts at taking his own life, Victor sought care at SCCCMH. What followed was a journey of healing and growth, leading him to his current role as a Veteran Peer Support Specialist.

Upon contacting SCCCMH, Victor was connected to a comprehensive support team, including a clinician, case manager, and psychiatrist. As he navigated his recovery, Victor recognized the need for more support and requested a peer to walk with him through his struggles. He was matched with a peer support specialist who was also a veteran. Their shared lived experiences helped build their peer relationship.

Victor credits this connection as a turning point in his recovery journey. The familiarity of their individual experiences allowed them to connect on a deeper level, creating a sense of understanding and camaraderie. Victor's peer support specialist could relate to the challenges he faced, providing critical support and hope when needed most.

Inspired by the impact his peer had on him and another encounter with an individual grappling with their mental health, Victor is now dedicated to

helping others in his role as a Veteran Peer Support Specialist. He believes in the power of peer support because of the mutual understanding and shared experiences that veterans can offer one another. Through his work, Victor is inspired to hold hope for veterans struggling with mental health and substance use conditions, just as his peer did for him.

Victor describes his work as “incredible, life-changing, and life-saving.” He finds purpose in being there for others, helping them navigate the complexities of recovery and find a path forward. His own recovery journey has given him the strength to show others that they, too, can overcome adversity and find hope.

One key lesson Victor learned through his journey is the transformative power of communication. By sharing his story and listening to others, he has experienced healing and wants to extend the same opportunity to others. Victor's story is a testament to the resilience and courage of veterans. As a Veteran Peer Support Specialist, his dedication to supporting fellow service members embodies his Marine Corps values of honor, courage, and commitment.

Victor's journey from struggling with his mental health to becoming a peer support specialist is a powerful example of how the right support can change lives. His story is a source of inspiration for veterans everywhere, demonstrating that recovery is possible and there are people who care and understand. Through his work, Victor continues to make a difference in the lives of those he serves, one conversation at a time.



# CREATIVE EXPRESSION: BUILDING COPING STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS

SCCCMH offers several supportive programs that encourage creativity as a catalyst for promoting mental well-being and recovery. One of the programs, Music and Minds, allows individuals to engage in music classes that foster self-expression, emotional regulation, and personal growth.

After working with individuals who share a passion for music, Doug Miller, Care Manager, saw an opportunity for a music class. The class is facilitated to provide a supportive space for individuals to connect with music and each other.

Music and Minds is open to all, regardless of musical background or ability. The class starts with a discussion, allowing participants to share their experiences and emotions. Music is often central to these conversations and guides the day's activities. Facilitators work with individuals to explore various instruments, offer demonstrations, and even "jam sessions." The flexibility allows for different levels of engagement, from solo playing to group collaborations.

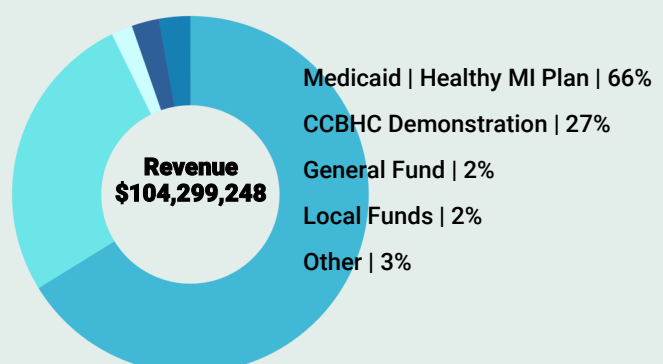
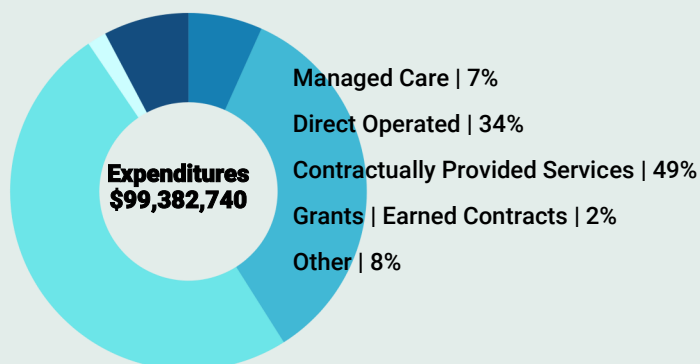
Discovering music can be a powerful tool in the recovery process; exploring emotions, developing coping strategies, and gaining control over their recovery journey, participants address their physical, emotional, cognitive, and social needs. The nonverbal nature of music provides an alternative form of expression for those who may

find it challenging to articulate their thoughts and feelings. Additionally, the social aspect of the class has fostered a sense of community and connection that other clinical modalities can't provide.

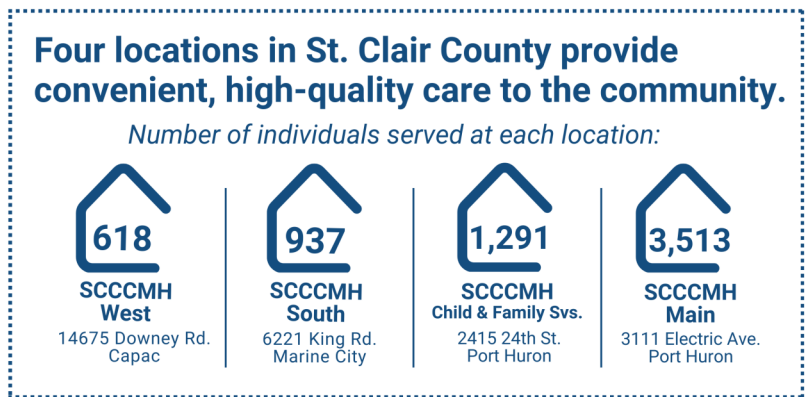
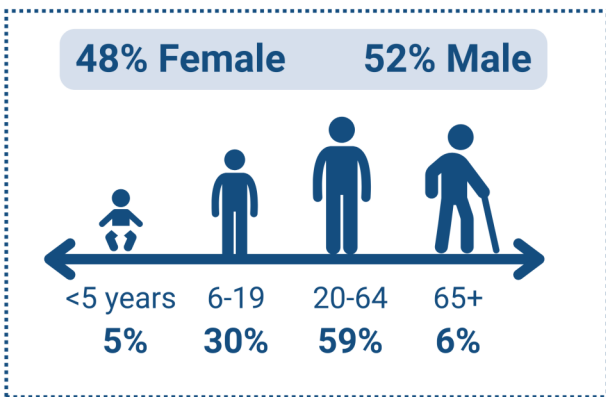
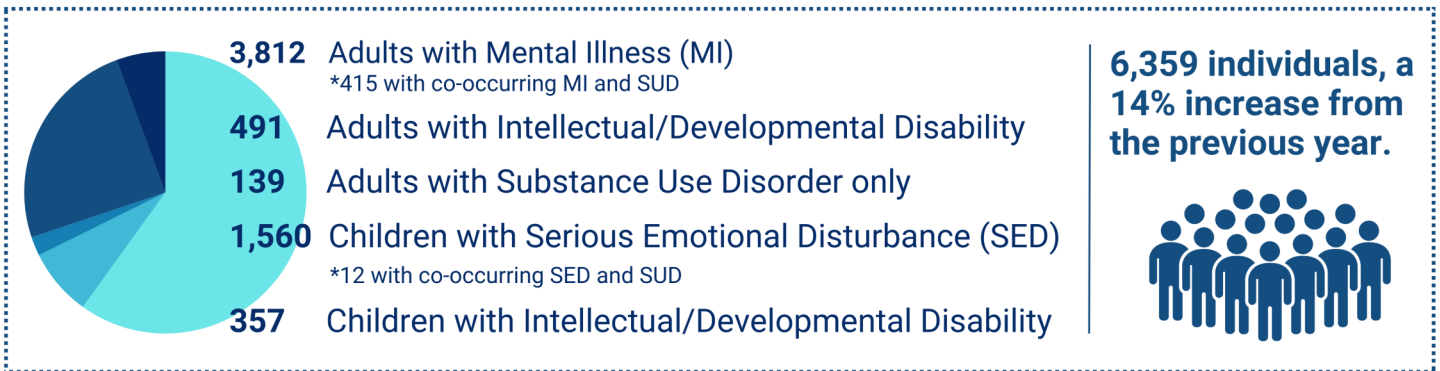
The goals of the class continue to evolve and the team is working to expand the success of the class to all service locations, including introducing it at our Child and Family Services location. Through Music and Minds, SCCCMMH is helping individuals tap into music's healing power and supporting their recovery journey.



## FY23 FINANCIAL DATA



# WHO WE SERVED IN FISCAL YEAR '23

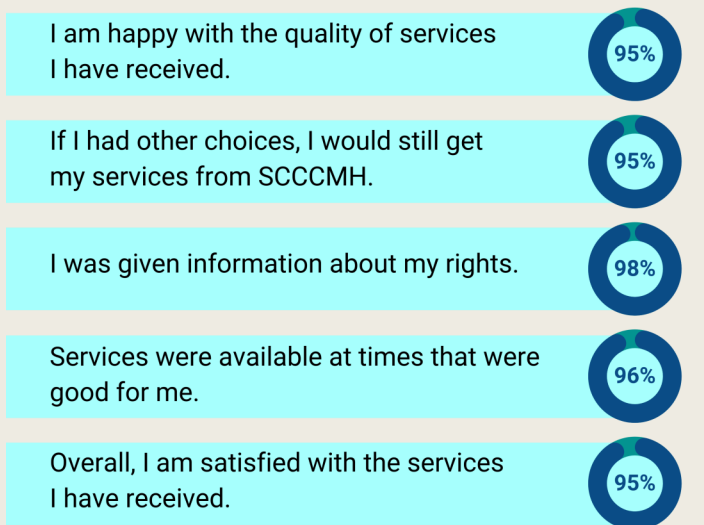
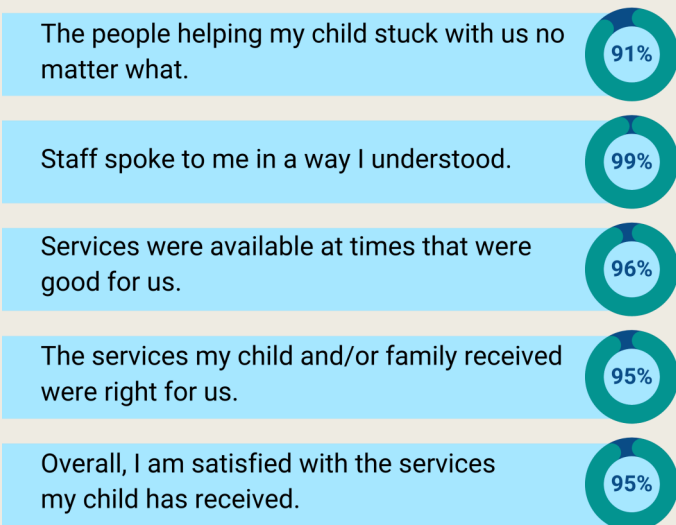


## CUSTOMER SATISFACTION SURVEY RESULTS:

Mobile Crisis Unit responded to 5,290 calls and provided emergency support to 1,180 individuals, 27% of whom were not enrolled in SCCCMH services at the time the crisis occurred. Crisis response services are available to ALL St. Clair County residents 24/7.

### CHILD CUSTOMER SATISFACTION SURVEY

### ADULT CUSTOMER SATISFACTION SURVEY



### FY23 SCCCMH BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Nancy Thomson** | President  
**Julie Jowett-Lee** | Vice President  
**Martha Partipilo** | Secretary  
**Lori Ames**  
**Jackie Bligh**  
**Dawn Davey**  
**Anthony Essian**  
**Robert Johnson**  
**Edwin Priemer**  
**Kyle Schieweck**  
**Jessica Totty**

### FY23 SCCCMH ADVISORY COUNCIL

**Nancy Thomson** | Chair  
**Lisa Clark**  
**Nora Condlan**  
**Alesha Fay**  
**Martha Partipilo**  
**Harold Powell**  
**Cynthia Raymo**  
**Amy Sanderson**  
**Ruth Thick**

### FY23 RECIPIENT RIGHTS ADVISORY COUNCIL

**Nancy Thomson** | Chair  
**Lori Ames** | Vice Chair  
**Georgina Day**  
**Barbara Deegan**  
**Julie Jowett-Lee**  
**Rosella Mirabelli**  
  
**JoAnn Wilton**

### FY23 SCCCMH LEADERSHIP TEAM

**Debra Johnson** | Chief Executive Officer  
**Dr. Brandon Moore** | Medical Director  
**Karen Farr** | Chief Financial Officer  
**Tracey Pingitore** | Chief Operating Officer  
**Kathleen Gallagher** | Program Director  
**Kim Prowse** | Human Resources Director  
**Dann Hayes** | IT & Facilities Director  
**Michelle Measel-Morris** | Support Services Director  
**Telly Delor** | Recipient Rights Director

## ABOUT OUR STAFF:

SCCCMH staff donated \$24,204 this year to 23 different charitable funds and local nonprofits through the Casual for a Cause Program.



SCCCMH staff participated in 61 community events this year, such as health fairs, parent nights, open houses, parades, awareness events, fundraisers, and more!



St. Clair County Community Mental Health employs

**456**



dedicated and highly qualified professionals.

- 72 Care Managers
- 97 Clinicians
- 51 Mental Health Assistants
- 18 Peer Supports & Recovery Coaches
- 46 Medical Service Staff
- 83 Other Direct Service Supports
- 89 Administration

Staff provided **354,893 units of service** in FY23.

Units of service include services, such as individual and group therapy, peer support, case management, psychiatric and nursing care, classes, and more.



# WHY A PROACTIVE APPROACH TO MENTAL HEALTH MATTERS



In St. Clair County, we've seen firsthand the impact that mental health challenges can have on individuals, families, and the community. As we reflect on the past year and look ahead, we see that our collective efforts have made a significant impact, but there is still much work to be done.

Our investment in mental health is not just a moral imperative but a strategic one. By addressing mental health proactively, we can prevent crises, reduce healthcare costs, and, most importantly, improve the quality of life for all residents. The evidence is clear: community interventions that involve cross-sector partnerships and include community members effectively promote good mental health at every level.

We can't do this alone. The mental well-being of our community is a shared responsibility. It will take working together to make a lasting difference – local leaders, businesses, schools, places of worship, and every resident of St. Clair County.

Let's invest in our community's mental health, create neighborhoods and public spaces that nurture connection and belonging, and advocate for policies and programs prioritizing prevention, early intervention, and holistic support.

We strongly advocated for supportive legislation for Michigan's publicly funded mental health system. These advocacy efforts, focused on safeguarding the public mental health system from privatization, ensure that community-based mental health services remain accessible and responsive to local needs.

We continue to be vigilant about updating policies and protections that are necessary to protect the

mental well-being of our youth. Initiatives and actions are needed not only within the programs and services available at SCCCMH but also at the governmental level. With the anticipated passage of Senate Bill 227 this year, we are seeing our efforts move the needle, but there is more work to be done.

Looking ahead, we will continue to be a vocal advocate for policies and initiatives that strengthen Michigan's mental health infrastructure. To learn more about upcoming advocacy, outreach, or education efforts, community members are encouraged to follow SCCCMH on social media and visit our website.

Let's embrace the transformative power of collective action. Together, we can build a community where mental health is not an afterthought but a cornerstone of our well-being. Together, we can create a St. Clair County where mental health is celebrated, not stigmatized—a community that sets a high standard for caring. The future is ours to shape, and it starts with us.

## CONNECT WITH SCCCMH

INFORMATION | EVENTS | SERVICES | ADVOCACY



- [scccmh.org](https://scccmh.org)
- [facebook.com/scccmh](https://facebook.com/scccmh)
- [scccmh](https://www.instagram.com/scccmh)
- [Search SCCCMH](#)
- [linkedin.com/scccmh](https://www.linkedin.com/company/scccmh)



**CHARTING OUR COURSE:**

**S CCCMH DEVELOPS NEW MISSION, VISION, VALUES, AND STRATEGIC PLAN IN 2023.**

In 2023, St. Clair County Community Mental Health developed a new three-year strategic plan. Part of this endeavor was to create a refreshed mission, vision, and values statement (above), serving as guiding principles for all SCCCMMH operations. To read our strategic plan in its entirety, visit our website.

SCAN TO VIEW:



**St. Clair County  
Community Mental Health**

*Providing Opportunities for Health, Wellness, & Connection*

[www.scccmh.org](http://www.scccmh.org)



**24/7 Crisis Line: (810) 966-2575**

**Access to Services: (888)-225-4447**