

St. Clair County Community Mental Health

Celebrating 60 Years of Health, Wellness, and Connection

1850 - Michigan's first psychiatric hospital, Kalamazoo State Hospital, opens.

1900s - Michigan has several large state-run institutions, each housing thousands of individuals with mental illness or intellectual/developmental disabilities.

1944 - The Department of Mental Health is created, making mental health care a formal part of state government in Michigan.

1950s - Early efforts to find alternatives to institutionalization lay the groundwork for the development of Community Mental Health programs in the decades to come.

1970 - Due to the deinstitutionalization movement, county residents begin to be discharged from state hospitals and returned to their communities for treatment. An estimated 1,300 adults and children from St. Clair County were residing in an institutional setting prior to this movement.

1972 - Outpatient counseling services begin in St. Clair County offering treatment options in the least restrictive setting.

1973 - Day treatment programs for individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities and/or mental illnesses begin.

1974 - The Michigan Mental Health Code establishes rights and standards of care.

1991 - The Supported Community Integration Services program begins, allowing individuals to receive community-based support for employment and other daily living skills.

1994 - Wraparound begins as a coordinated effort between SCCC MH, the criminal justice system, MDHHS, schools, and other community partners to support at-risk youth and families.

1996 - The concept of managed care emerges. During the 1990s, the first talks of privatizing the public mental health system in Michigan also begin.

1996 - Person-Centered Planning is added to the Michigan Mental Health Code.

2013 - ABA therapy is added as a Medicaid benefit, expanding autism treatment access.

2015 - The People's Clinic for Better Health moves to its new location inside the SCCC MH main office.

2016 - SCCC MH receives a grant to integrate physical and behavioral health services, beginning the Healthcare Integration Project. All locations become tobacco-free.

2017 - SCCC MH builds a new location in Capac to serve western county residents.

2019 - A dedicated Child & Family Services location opens in Port Huron.

2019 - SCCC MH receives its first federal CCBHC grant to expand access to services.

2025 - SCCC MH currently serves more than 7,000 individuals in five locations throughout St. Clair County, offering a broad range of evidence-based and promising practices designed to support recovery and deliver integrated, trauma-informed care.

Looking Forward - Current priorities and future projects include the development of a children's therapeutic group home, a behavioral health urgent care center to provide community-based crisis stabilization services, and an independent crisis and intake phone line to streamline access to SCCC MH services.

PAST

1960

1970

1980

1990

2000

2010

2020

PRESENT

1963 - The Community Mental Health Act passes the United States Congress, requiring every county to guarantee that residents have competent, comprehensive mental health services available to them.

1965 - In response to the Community Mental Health Act, the St. Clair County Board of Commissioners forms the Mental Health Board.

1980s - Person-Centered Planning becomes a foundational practice, empowering individuals in their treatment.

1980 - St. Clair County Community Mental Health (SCCC MH) becomes a licensed foster care placement agency and begins offering family foster care homes for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). Group homes open to serve individuals with mental illness or I/DD.

1987 - SCCC MH develops a clinical response program for individuals who are homeless and have a mental illness.

2000 - The St. Clair County Board of Commissioners votes to allow SCCC MH to become an Authority.

2004 - The "Recovery Model" is adopted as the standard of care, recognizing that all individuals have the ability to live a life in recovery.

2008 - SCCC MH moves into its new headquarters in Port Huron. The move consolidates five separate offices into one 64,000 sq. ft. state-of-the-art facility. Genoa Pharmacy opens a location inside the new building.

2010 - Michigan expands Medicaid, increasing access to mental health care.

2020 - In response to the global COVID-19 pandemic, SCCC MH expands its use of technology, including telehealth services to ensure individuals continue to receive treatment and support during the Stay-at-Home Order.

2022 - Michigan becomes a CCBHC demonstration state, which changed how SCCC MH services are funded.

2023 - Due to continued growth and development in southern St. Clair County, SCCC MH renovates and opens a new, larger office in Marine City.

2025 - The previous Marine City location becomes a second Child & Family Services location serving southern area families.