

Rights Champion

NEWSLETTER

A publication of St. Clair County Community
Mental Health's Office of Recipient Rights

Congratulations To the newest Rights Champions

Christina Huber
Assistant Program Manager
Creative Empowerment
Opportunities

Sarah Dobrowolski
Clinician
SCCCMH

Ruth Thick
Executive Director
Port of Hopes

Look inside for more
information on our champions



We hope everyone has
a safe and happy
Halloween!



Guardian/Recipient Training

This quarterly virtual training focuses on providing Recipient Rights knowledge to guardians and recipients. The first training was held on August 26, 2026, with eight (8) attendees. Keep a look out for the next training date and reach out to the ORR with any questions.

MDHHS-ORR ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Recipient Rights team attended the 33rd Annual Rights Conference, "Raise Your Voice for Rights," with 288 attendees. Through 20 sessions, staff learned about rights protection, advocacy, and best practices that will help support and empower the individuals we serve.

REMINDER

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**St. Clair County
Community Mental Health**
Providing Opportunities for Health, Wellness, & Connection

Issue 3, Volume 10 , September 2026

CHOICE OF MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL

Per Section 713 of the Mental Health Code,
"A recipient shall be given a choice of physician or other mental health professional in accordance with the policies of the community mental health services program... or service provider under contract with the community mental health services program...within the limits of available staff in the community mental health services program...or service program under contract with the community mental health services program..."

Who is a Mental Health Professional?

MHC 700.1106

"Mental Health Professional" means an individual who is trained and experienced in the area of mental illness or developmental disabilities and who is one of the following:

- A physician who is licensed to practice medicine or osteopathic medicine and surgery in this state...
- A psychologist licensed to practice in this state...
- A registered professional nurse licensed to practice in this state...
- A licensed master's social worker...
- A physician's assistant licensed to practice in this state...
- A licensed professional counselor

What does this mean?

If a recipient of services requests a change in mental health professional, staff should follow their agency's policy in this area. Please keep in mind that any policy speaking to this issue must indicate that a recipient of services has the right to be given a choice in determining their mental health professional within the limits of available staff in their assigned program.

- **SCCCMH Policy #03-001-0005:**
Person-Centered Planning Process/ Individual Plan of Service
- **SCCCMH Policy #05-001-0085:**
Choice of Mental Health Professional

If a recipient requests a change in mental health professional, that request should be forwarded to the supervisor/designee of that program for processing.

The supervisor/designee of the assigned program will determine if a change in mental health professional is possible based on staff availability and therapeutic need. In making this decision, supervisory staff must ensure a person-centered approach was followed, and the individual's preferences and choices were evaluated.



Christina Huber

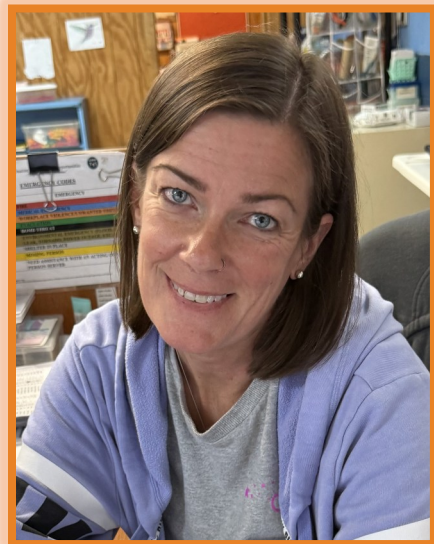
Assistant Program Manager
Creative Empowerment Opportunities

“Christina always goes above and beyond for our persons served here at CEO Anchorville. She is a wonderful Program Assistant Manager and huge asset to our team; always on the front line helping her employees with tasks that need to be done. She shows a lot of compassion to our persons served and family, and deserves to be recognized for the hard work and dedication she has to Creative Empowerment Opportunities.”

How long have you been supporting and serving individuals in our community?

“8 plus years. “

What are some of your hobbies, interests, or fun facts about yourself outside of work?



“Some things I enjoy doing outside of work are making jewelry, watching documentaries, playing cards, camping, or just hanging out with my kids!”



Sarah Dobrowolski

SCCCMH Clinician

“Sarah Dobrowolski consistently demonstrates a strong commitment to protecting and advancing the rights of the individuals she serves. She stays informed about new policies, legislation, and political changes that may impact recipients and is proactive in understanding how those changes could affect their rights and well-being. Sarah is a dedicated advocate who speaks up when she identifies potential barriers or policies that could negatively impact individuals. She works to ensure recipients' voices, rights, and best interests are represented and encourages thoughtful, person-centered decision-making.”

How long have you been supporting and serving individuals in our community?

“I have been at CMH for about 3 years total, but have engaged in some community groups and activities prior.”

What are some of your hobbies, interests, or fun facts about yourself outside of work?

“I have started reading a lot more this year, I’m at 35 books and counting! I do pottery, engage in advocacy work, and am Chief Steward of our union (AFSCME Local 3385!)”



Ruth Thick

Executive Director
Port of Hopes

“Ruth goes to bat every day for our consumers. She makes sure everyone at our center is treated with the dignity and respect they deserve. Ruth makes sure everyone feels safe and appreciated as well as heard when situations arise. There isn’t just one thing that makes Ruth stand out. She is a rock star and valued member of our community.”

How long have you been supporting and serving individuals in our community?

“I started volunteering at the center January 2008 and my employment started November 2011.”

What are some of your hobbies, interests, or fun facts about yourself outside of work?

“I enjoy bowling, swimming, and spending quality time with my family. I’m a simple, down-to-earth woman with strong family values. Above all, I love being a mom to my amazing children and fur babies. Outside of work: I enjoy making the most of life by laughing, having fun, making memories with friends and family.”



COMPLAINT RESOLUTION SYSTEM

Per SCCCMHA policy, employees/volunteers are required to report recipient rights complaints to the Office of Recipient Rights within 24-hours of any known or suspected recipient rights violations. Please note: Complaints can always be filed anonymously.

How to File a Recipient Rights Complaint:

- 1) **Mail a completed Recipient Rights Complaint Form to:**
Office of Recipient Rights
3111 Electric Avenue
Port Huron, MI 48060
- 2) **Fax a completed Recipient Rights Complaint Form to:**
Attn: Office of Recipient Rights 810-966-3393
- 3) **Email at RecipientRights@scccmh.org or** call the Office of Recipient Rights at: (810) 985-8900, or
- 4) **Visit the Office of Recipient Rights** and report your complaint in-person (address in #1)

Contact the Office of Recipient Rights

If you have questions about Incident Reports, ORR Background Checks, Site Visits, or need assistance filing a complaint, please contact a staff member of the Office of Recipient Rights. We are here to support you!

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------|
| ① Sandy O'Neill, Director: | (810) 966-3356 |
| ① Marissa George, Advisor: | (810) 966-3547 |
| ① Tracy Duncan, Advisor: | (810) 276-4423 |
| ① Jocelyn Henderson, Advisor: | (810) 966-3516 |
| ① Cassaundra Taylor, Advisor | (810) 966-3352 |
| ① Sandy Home, Technician: | (810) 966-3710 |

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