

## Director's Report for November 1, 2022

Good evening! I'm sorry I couldn't be with you for the board meeting tonight, I am attending Habitat for Humanity's fall fundraiser. Earlier this year I was asked to be in Habitat's annual fundraising calendar as a community partner, the unveiling of the calendar is this evening! I have put together a few highlights for you in my absence. I look forward to seeing you all in December.

- SCCCMH is ranked 58<sup>th</sup> in the country as top health care places to work. Kim Prowse is taking lead with our Employee Wellness and Development Committee to review the areas identified for improvement and develop our plan.
- The Public Health Emergency (PHE) is expected to be extended another 90 days; however, there has been some discussion that the 60-day notice announcing the need of the PHE will be issued in November.
- Staffing Dashboard: As of September 30<sup>th</sup> we have 356 Regular Full Time Employees, 60 Regular Part Time Employees and 6 Temporary Part Time Employees for 422 Employees. This is a 7% increase from last year and a 24% increase from 2019.
- On Friday, October 14, I attended the unveiling of the "We are all different, but swim in the same pond" wave mosaic art installation. This is the beginning piece of the countywide project. Because of your support of this project, SCCCMH received a replica of the wave mosaic that we will proudly display in our lobby. Each of our locations will eventually have a fish mosaic created by individuals receiving CMH services. These are slated to be complete in 2023.
- Laura Fitzgerald of The Times Herald wrote an article about Law Enforcement and CMH. We have provided information that exemplifies the great partnership we have with them. (First responder hotline, PHPD Chief Champion Committee, Mental Health First Aid (over 80 officers trained in 2021, CMH provides new officer training to PHPD, Data on working with our Mobile Crisis Unit, etc.) as well as how much training has been provided by our staff on a variety of mental health topics. The Times Herald published the story on Thursday, October 20, 2022, you can access it on the Times Herald website or its Facebook page – you can also find a link on SCCCMH's social media pages.
- Just a reminder, the CMH Players present: "It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play" on Friday November 18 and November 19; both evenings at 7 p.m. at the Citadel Stage in downtown Port Huron. Tickets are available now by call 810-966-3706.
- Just a reminder, the next Board Meeting will be our Holiday Dinner. The dinner will be held in the galley beginning at 5:00 p.m. Please let Tracy Wells know if you will be attending.
- We are currently negotiating with Region 10 for existing furniture located in the main building. We are also waiting on an update regarding final move plans.
- The agency will be closed on Friday, December 9 for an All Staff In-service. We will be at the Blue Water Convention Center.
- On Monday, October 24, Port Huron City Council approved \$148,000 for SCCCMH to provide services to city residents through Talkspace, an online therapy resource. If this

year one funding produces agreeable results, there is potential to carry this program for an additional two years; funding is through ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds. More information on how we will utilize this program to help more than 130 people through therapy services and 10,000 families through the Talkspace Parenting App.

- We are beginning to collect recommendations for our Art of Caring Awards, which recognize individuals, businesses, and community organizations that make a significant impact on the programs and individuals supported by St. Clair County Community Mental Health. We are also looking for recommendations for the Communications Award, Community Service Award, and Organization of the Year – all given to community members and individuals who have performed outstanding service in these areas to our community and agency. If you have recommendations, please forward by the end of the year to Aubree Mayhew at [amayhew@scccmh.org](mailto:amayhew@scccmh.org).
- CMHA Fall Conference last week:
  - There were a number of great sessions, including one on integrating mental health/school based services.
  - Farrah Hanley provided MDHHS key issues update. A few of the MDHHS priorities she mentioned are as follows:
    1. Better coordination of physical and behavioral health care. Including developing a plan to address Health inequities racial disparities.
    2. Improved access to care for all.
    3. Working on internal realignment of her department within MDHHS.
    4. Developing with a new Bureau for children's services to include a clinical review team, autism, and Behavioral Health Services.
    5. Protect the vulnerable / promote health and economic stability.
    6. Address social determinants of health.
    7. To address psychiatric inpatient bed capacity, she reported that 70 beds were taken off line (WP Ruther/Kalamazoo Hospitals) due to staffing shortages. She further stated that they are adding 40 children's psychiatric beds (Hawthorn). We are unsure of how those are going to be staffed with the staffing shortages.
  - The best session was by Cole Williams, CEO and founder to the Delta Project titled "Your Why Matters: Engaging with Children, Youth and Families." His mission is to help us know how to create a culture of engagement where people feel safe, empowered and supported while encouraging people to continue to climb "Life's Mountains." I think he had us all in tears... excellent presenter! We are going to see if we can get him to present here at some point!
  - I also attended the Director's Meeting. We debriefed on the Farrah Hanley presentation. CMHAM will meet with Farrah and ask that they focus on a few key areas:
    1. Advocate for child licensing rule change and Senate Bill 993.
    2. Support Direct Care Worker wage increase.
    3. Workforce shortages.

- As always, if you have any questions, comments, or feedback, please feel free to reach out.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Debra Johnson', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

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