The value of CMHA to its members: CMHA accomplishments in 2022

Member organizations of the Community Mental Health Association of Michigan (CMHA) receive many important benefits, centered around the five strategy platforms of the CMHA:

- Government relations and advocacy
- Education and training
- Policy and fiscal analysis
- Representing and linking members with dialogue and co-development venues, information, resources and partnerships
- Media and public relations
Government Relations and Advocacy

CMHA’s government relations and advocacy work is composed many components including:

• Testifying on behalf of membership in various legislative settings, serving as the spokesperson for the Association’s members

• Tracking legislative, policy and appropriations changes impacting our membership, including providing comments on behalf of members on state policy changes

• Developing and maintaining relationships with key legislative & administration leaders, developing trust and credibility, serving as sound content source and advocate

• Regularly communicating with CMHA members on a range of legislation and policy issues:
  » CMHA Capitol briefing video
  » Weekly Update
  » Voter Voice program CMHA’s Action Alert system
  » Attend local CMH/PIHP/Regional board meetings (in person and via Zoom)
  » Regular virtual advocacy briefings in response to threats facing our system
• Managing the CMH Political Action Committee (PAC) & Education & Advocacy Fund

• Coordinating efforts and message with two well-recognized multi-client lobbying firms on contract with CMHA

Examples of advocacy successes by CMHA over the past year include:

1. Defeated SB 597 and 598 – which would have privatized/profitized the management of the state’s public mental health system - through the development of a comprehensive advocacy effort against legislative threats facing the public mental health system. This advocacy effort involved a wide range of sophisticated advocacy efforts – social media, first-person videos, press releases, public opinion polling, electronic Action Alerts and a broad and diverse coalition of over 100 organizations.

2. Passage of House Bill 5165, allowing CMHA members access to a key federal loan repayment program – a tool in attracting and retaining clinicians

3. Passage of SBs 637 & 638, strengthening Michigan’s mental health crisis response system

4. Passage of SB 412, which maintains open access for Medicaid mental health protected drug classes

5. Appropriations bills
   » Continuation of the $2.35/hour increase for Direct Care Workers
   » $101.2 million for the 14 established CCBHC demonstration sites
   » $61.3 million for Health Homes to increase the number of behavioral health homes from 37 to 42 and the number of opioid health homes from 40 to 49.
   » Phase out the local match drawn down requirement, putting $5 million per year over years back into the budgets of Michigan’s CMHs
Education and Training

CMHA’s education and training efforts, unlike many state associations, are broad in scope and audience reach, deep in the level of knowledge provided to participants, and diverse in their content.

CMHA has a team of skilled education and training planners who provide CMHA members with access to some of the state’s, Great Lakes region’s, and nation’s leading subject matter experts.

Examples of this work by CMHA over the past year include:

1. Offered almost 200 trainings and conferences reaching over 11,000 individuals on a wide range of evidence based and promising practices, often with a focus on specific populations.

2. Continued long-standing educational partnership with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services is supported by a $10 million federal grant dollars that underwrote the cost of over 140 trainings and seminars. Over 5,900 Michiganders were able to broaden their education and skills through this federal grant.

3. Provided access to high quality educational offerings – via virtual conferences, webinars, and virtual roundtables – at a discount to CMHA members, provided by the National Council for Mental Wellbeing (NatCon) and the National Association of County Behavioral Health and Developmental Disability Directors (NACBHDD’s Legislative and Policy Conference)

4. Boardworks series designed to equip the Boards of Directors of CMHA member organizations to be provide effective governance of those organizations.

5. CCBHC-focused learning sessions:

6. To foster understanding of CCBHC by the leadership of Michigan’s CMHSPs and PIHPs:

7. To foster understanding of ability of CCBHCs to serve rural communities (jointly with the National Council)

8. Educational partnerships with:

   a. Georgetown University, Center of Excellence, Infant & Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation – in a national conference focused on equity, workforce development, policy, finance and research and evaluation

   b. SAMHSA-funded Great Lakes Mental Health Technology Transfer Center (MHTTC)

   c. Central Michigan University Medical School

   d. Michigan State Police, Michigan Department of Education, and MDHHS
Policy and Fiscal Analysis

The CMHA carries out a range of policy and fiscal analysis initiatives with the aim of fostering wise decision making and advocacy around a range of issues that impact the members of the Association and the persons and communities served by the Association’s members.

Examples of this work by CMHA over the past year include:

1. Developed and issued a number of white papers, by the Association’s Center for Healthcare Integration and Innovation (CHI2), on topics of vital importance of the Association’s members.
   
   » Healthcare Integration and Coordination – 2021/2022 Update: Survey of Initiatives of Michigan’s Public Mental Health System
   
   » Recommendations on Advancing the Nation’s Mental Health Systems
   
   » Impact of the Movement to Private Managed Care System for Publicly Sponsored Mental Health Care: Perspectives from Other States.

   Past CHI2 white papers have included and can be found at the [CMHA CHI2 webpage](#).

2. Carried out in-depth and accessible fiscal analysis related to a number of financing and policy issues:
   
   » Monthly analysis of actual Medicaid revenues to the system in comparison to projected revenue
   
   » Fiscal analysis in support of effort to raise the wages of Michigan’s Direct Care Workers

3. Developed analysis and recommendations on Michigan’s post-state demonstration CCBHC initiatives

4. Developed, in concert with the CMHA Behavioral Telehealth Advisory Group, recommendations and comments related to Michigan’s post-pandemic Medicaid telehealth policies.
Representing & linking members with dialogue and co-development venues, information, resources, partnerships

The CMHA links its members to key resources while representing and drawing its members into a range of decision making and dialogue venues with key decisionmakers at state and national levels.

Examples of this work by CMHA over the past year include:

1. Published the CMHA Weekly Update providing over 1,600 readers with up-to-date information on a range of topics: News related to Association’s members and CMHA, state legislative and policy activity, federal legislative policy activity, educational offerings sponsored by the Association and other reliable sources

2. Published Connections electronic journal electronically distributed to readers across the state and posted on CMHA website

3. Formed and operated Michigan’s Behavioral Telehealth Resource Center (initially with funding from the Michigan Health Endowment Fund). This Center housed the Behavioral Telehealth Advisory Group; Resource Center website and issued a strong and clear set of recommendations related to Michigan’s post-pandemic Medicaid telehealth policies.

4. Negotiated, through the Association’s CMH Contract Negotiation Team, on behalf of the CMH system, the CMH contract with MDHHS – leveraging the solidarity across the membership that leads to better outcomes to these negotiations

5. Spoke at dozens of meetings of the Boards of directors and/or senior leadership of Association members on a range of issues, including state and national developments
6. The Persons Served Advisory Group – made up of and led by persons served – to ensure that persons served have a strong voice in setting the direction of CMHA

7. Built and sustained strong partnership role with the major statewide advocacy organizations: NAMI Michigan, Arc Michigan, Association for Children’s Mental Health, Mental Health Association in Michigan, Disability Rights Michigan, Michigan Disability Rights Coalition, Autism Alliance of Michigan

8. Developed and maintained active membership and, often, leadership in coalitions, recruiting Association members to serve as Association representatives to state level coalitions including: Direct Care Wage Coalition, Safety Net Coalition, Michigan Health Endowment Fund’s Behavioral Health Stakeholders Group, With One Voice and Kevin’s Song (statewide suicide coalition and conference), Behavioral Health Learning Collaborative

9. Actively participated and/or recruited Association members to serve as Association representatives to MDHHS, MDE, and LEO workgroups, including: School-based mental health (3ln) Advisory Group, Incompetent to Stand Trial (IST) workgroup, Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) workgroup, 988 Advisory Group, Crisis Stabilization Unit Advisory Group, Children’s Special Health Needs/CMH collaboration workgroup, Medicaid Ratesetting Workgroup, Cost Allocation Workgroup and CEOs oversight group, Uniform Release of Information Advisory Group, Medical Services Advisory Group

10. Continued strong partnerships with national organizations, including:
   » National Council for Mental Wellbeing: Link to national legislative and policy efforts, regular dialogue with National CCBHC technical assistance center, support for CMHA efforts to fight privatization and related erosion of the system, large number of CMHA member staff and Board members attend, at a discount, National Council conference, several representatives CMHA members serving on Board of Directors
   » National Association of County Behavioral Health and Developmental Disability Directors (NACBHDD): link to national legislative and policy efforts specifically linked to the work of county-based systems, access to high level federal health care administrators and policy makers via Annual Legislative and Policy Forum, representatives of several CMHA members serving on the Board of Directors, CMHA CEO serving as the Chair of the NACBHDD Board.
Media and Public Relations

CMHA, in partnership with the CMHA Public Relations Committee and the public relations firm of Lambert, carries out a substantial number of media-relations efforts focused around issues of focus by CMHA and its members.

Examples of this work, by CMHA, over the past year, include:

1. Strong media presence (carried out in partnership with Lambert (CMHA’s public relations partner) and the CMHA Public Relations Committee. These stories are found on CMHA’s Newsroom webpage: https://cmham.org/newsroom/
   - Editorials on a range of mental health issues
   - Press releases on key events, legislative and policy positions
   - Large number of social media posts on a range of mental health topics
   - Infographics on the strengths of and recommendations by the public mental health system

2. Statewide survey and press work on the public’s view of the state’s public mental health system and efforts to privatize that system: CMHA contracted with EPIC-MRA (one of the state’s preeminent public polling firms) to gauge the public sentiment around proposed privatization/profitization of Michigan’s public mental health system.

3. Electronic media messages, jointly developed by CMHA and Lambert as banner advertisements to run, daily, on both of Michigan’s capitol news services, MIRS and Gongwer

4. Social media posts on a range of topics, most recently focused on thwarting the threats posed by SB 597 and 598.
We are proud of the accomplishments of the CMHA and its member organizations in 2022. A full report of these accomplishments can be found by scanning the QR code below.

The Community Mental Health Association of Michigan is the state association representing Michigan’s public Community Mental Health (CMH) centers, the public Prepaid Inpatient Health Plans [(PIHP) public health plans formed and governed by the CMH centers] and the private providers within the CMH and PIHP provider networks. Information on the CMH Association can be found at www.cmham.org or by calling (517) 374-6848.

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