



## **FACT Sheet: OCCMHA's Service Wait List, Healthy Michigan & the General Fund**

### **About OCCMHA:**

- Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority (OCCMHA) is the public mental health system responsible for identifying, influencing, and delivering services and supports to more than 23,000 Oakland County residents. These residents include adults and children with developmental disabilities; adults with serious mental illness or substance use disorders; and children with serious emotional disturbance.
- Assistance provided to individuals by OCCMHA's service network is funded primarily through Medicaid, as well as the State's General Fund, Healthy Michigan, and Local dollars from Oakland County.
- In 2014, OCCMHA received a \$14 million Medicaid rate reduction. This reduction is the result of the Michigan Department of Community Health's (MDCH) actions to establish a uniformed Medicaid state funding average for all of Michigan's ten community mental health regions.
- Prior to the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and Medicaid Expansion (Healthy Michigan), OCCMHA used its unrestricted General Fund dollars to meet a community need that is now being addressed by both of these valuable healthcare plans.
- Recently, the State removed \$20 million of General Fund dollars from OCCMHA's budget. This decision was made with the understanding that many people who had been receiving services through the General Fund would now be insured through Healthy Michigan.
- Federal restrictions regarding the use of Healthy Michigan funds have resulted in an \$8 million General Fund shortage for OCCMHA.
- In response to the reduction in General Fund dollars, OCCMHA has changed its service guidelines to agree with the ACA and Healthy Michigan. These guidelines include the creation of a Service Wait List to be used by Common Ground during the eligibility/access process. The wait list took effect on July 15, 2014.

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### OCCMHA Service Wait List Details:

- All persons requesting out-patient services that require the use of General Fund dollars, and whose service needs meet the service priority guidelines, will be placed on OCCMHA's new "Service Wait List."
- People are only added to the Service Wait List after Common Ground has assessed and provided for their immediate crisis/emergency needs and the situation is stabilized.
- OCCMHA's Service Wait List and services are only available to people who do not appear to be eligible for Healthy Michigan, Medicaid, or MICHild. Common Ground will help to determine a person's eligibility for these insurance plans.
- Since people with developmental disabilities who are over the age of 18 should be eligible for Medicaid, they will not be added to the Service Wait List. Youth with developmental disabilities should be covered by their parent/guardians' private insurance or Medicaid plan, and also will not be added to the Wait List. Common Ground will help to determine the family's eligibility for Healthy Michigan, Medicaid, or MICHild.
- If it appears that an individual qualifies for Healthy MI benefits, Common Ground will connect him/her with an OCCMHA service provider. Both Common Ground and the service provider can assist in the Healthy Michigan application process.
- A person's position on the wait list is determined by the severity and urgency of his/her needs. "Severity Scale" guidelines used to evaluate an individual's situation are based on OCCMHA's level of care guidelines and risk assessment.
- Using criteria specified by OCCMHA, Common Ground and OCCMHA service providers have the ability to add an individual to the Service Waiting List.
- OCCMHA manages/monitors the list using a customized computer program to maximize the movement of people from the list to services. While new to Oakland County, wait list programs have been used by other public mental health systems in the state since 2010.
- All people who are added to the Service Wait List will be given a letter explaining the process and the steps they can take to have their situation reviewed and re-evaluated.
- Individuals who are currently receiving services from an OCCMHA provider and moved to the Service Waiting List, do have the right to dispute this decision through a Local Appeal. OCCMHA's Customer Services can assist individuals with their request. A Customer Services representative can be reached at (800) 341-2003.
- Individuals who are applying for public mental health services for the first time and are added to the wait list have the right to request a "review of decision" through Common Ground. OCCMHA's Customer Services can assist with this request as well.

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