

THE HAPPENING

October/November 2015

MARC THOMAS-TOOK HIS OPPORTUNITY TO SHINE



Marc Thomas is a great guy; he is happy, friendly, and loves to laugh. He is a social butterfly and remembers everyone he meets. If there is something fun happening in his community, Marc is there. He is a true "people person" and that is a great quality for him to have at his new job.

For seven years, Marc worked on a supported employment mobile crew (or what's often referred to as an "enclave"). Over those years, his job coaches reported that Marc was a great worker, and highly motivated, but he would have memory issues that often required him needing several prompts and reminders to complete his work tasks.

Over the years, CLS/OC has put a strong focus on helping people move away from group enclave work, and our focus and energy has been directed toward individualized employment and income generation for all.

Marc, along with his support circle which includes his family, Independent Support Coordinator, Maria Stewart, and the staff at Judson Center, decided to try something different. Marc was re-connected to MRS for job search assistance, with the intent of recharging his life by finding an independent job in the community that pays a full working wage.

Marc quickly found a job at a 7-Eleven store about a mile from his home. He was hired specifically to maintain the coffee station, greet the customers, and do routine 7-11 store

cleaning and organizational tasks. Marc LOVES this job as it offers him purpose, pay, and real responsibilities. He also has lots of opportunities to interact with his co-workers, customers, and various members of his local community.

Within one month of working at the 7-11 store, the store owner and job coaches reported that Marc was learning the job so quickly, he no longer needed constant job coaching support with him while he was working. This was such great news and such a proud accomplishment for Marc.

Marc self-directs his own budget via a Self-Determination model of support, so he decided to receive

supports through All-Ways Care Plus, the staff on his support team for employment provide "follow along" support in order to help him maintain his successful employment. All-Ways Care staff check in and provide occasional job coaching with Marc. They also speak with his employer and everything continues to be going very well.

Marc has now gained so much independence. He does all of his routine work tasks on his own, with very few reminders. He has established an excellent relationship with his co-workers and his boss. The store owner reports that all of the customers love him and most greet him by name every day. His mother reports that she occasionally drives him to work and when she drops him off, the customers in the parking lot often begin greeting him before he even gets out of the car.

Marc indicates that he loves his job and being a working man makes him feel very proud of himself. We are proud of you too, Marc -CONGRATULATIONS on your new job and THANK YOU for sharing your story with our newsletter readers!



Marc with the store owner



QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"Success is not the key to happiness. Happiness is the key to success. If you love what you are doing, you will be successful."

-Albert Schweitzer

BILLS PROTECTING USE OF SERVICE ANIMALS FOR MICHIGAN RESIDENTS.



On October 20, 2015, Governor Rick Snyder signed a bill package to modernize state law in regard to the use of service animals saying, "This small change in state law will have a widespread, positive impact on the lives of those assisted by service animals."

Senate Bill 298 makes it a crime to refuse entry to a person using a service animal or to assault a service animal. Also Senate Bill 299, exempts dogs from licensing fees if they are a service animal to someone with a disability or a veteran with a service-related disability. The bills are now PA 144 and 145, respectively. All four bills were approved with unanimous support in both chambers.

House Bill 4521, requires the Michigan Department of Civil Rights to offer voluntary identification for service animals. It also requires the department to receive reports of problems encountered by a person with a disability while using a service animal. HB 4527 makes it a misdemeanor to falsely represent a service animal, and brings state law more in line with the Americans with Disabilities Act with respect to the definitions of "person with a disability" and "service animal". It also specifically permits veterans to possess a service animal for post-traumatic stress disorder, a traumatic brain injury, or other service-related disability. The bills are now Public Act 146 and 147 of 2015, respectively.

"The use of service animals is increasingly giving veterans and Michiganders with disabilities better opportunities to live self-determined, independent lives," Lt. Gov. Brian Calley said. "While these new laws help highlight the importance of service animals, we should also work to promote awareness of the need for and use of service dogs, as many people simply are unaware they are allowed in nearly every establishment in Michigan."

NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT MONTH



National Disability Employment Awareness Month, known as NDEAM, is a nationwide campaign that raises awareness about disability employment issues and celebrates the contributions of America's workers with disabilities, past and present.

NDEAM dates back to 1945, when Congress declared the first week in October "National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week." The word "physically" was deleted in 1962 to acknowledge individuals with all types of disabilities. The week was expanded to a month by Congress in 1988 and its name was then changed to National Disability Employment Awareness Month. When the Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) was created in 2001, it was given responsibility for NDEAM, including selection of its annual theme. The theme for 2015 was "My Disability Is One Part of Who I Am."

In the honor of National Disability Employment Awareness month President Obama made a proclamation indicating that his Administration is "working to make sure our country does not let the incredible talents of Americans with disabilities go to waste. We are working to strengthen protections against disability-based discrimination in the workplace and to expand employment possibilities for people with disabilities ~ and the Federal Government is leading by example." He went on to say that he will "continue fighting to widen pathways to opportunity for individuals with disabilities and supporting employers in their efforts to increase disability inclusion." To read the proclamation in its entirety go to: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2015/10/01/presidential-proclamation-national-disability-employment-awareness-month>.

To learn more about the NDEAM go to the website: <http://www.dol.gov/odep/topics/ndeam/>. Here, you can learn more about the NDEAM history, get NDEAM materials and view the "Who I Am" Public service announcement that showcases individuals who are not defined by their disabilities.

BUDGET UPDATE

The Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority (OCCMHA) reports that they expect continued rebasing in the upcoming year that will negatively impact the OCCMHA's budget. The next round of reductions is expected to occur in April, 2016. OCCMHA has not received concrete numbers, but continues to anticipate, and plan for, another significant budget reduction in our region. There are still a lot of unknowns and we know how stressful times like this can be. CLS/OC continues to look at efficiencies in all areas to proactively prepare ourselves for any future reductions.

As always, if anyone has input or ideas related to any potential area of efficiencies within CLS/OC or our network of providers, please send an email to clsoklandnewsletter@gmail.com. We are welcoming input from any and all of our stakeholders.

Please continue to check the OCCMHA website for budget updates, www.occmha.org.

CHANGES FOR ADULT HOME HELP PROVIDERS



The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) announced that in July,

2015, MDHHS changed the way providers track and submit services for the Home Help programs from the paper provider logs to a new *electronic service verification* system. At that time, MDHHS stopped accepting the paper logs (DHS-721). All services from July 2015 and beyond must be submitted using the electronic service verification or paper service verification. Switching to the electronic service verification is a major change and many providers are having problems reporting their services. The new system will require providers to submit electronic or paper service verifications monthly to get paid. MDHHS encourages providers to take extra time to get help using the new system if they are having problems. Providers can get help by calling Provider Help Line at 800-979-4662 or by calling your local MDHHS office for more help.

NEW SPECIAL EDUCATION TASK FORCE

On October 16, 2015, Governor Snyder announced the creation of a task force led by Lt. Gov. Brian Calley, that will recommend reforms for Michigan's special education system to help special needs children reach their full potential.

The task force will develop policy recommendations to address the key findings of Calley's recent statewide special education listening tour that led to formal presentation to the State Board of Education.

To see the complete report and survey results go to: https://www.michigan.gov/documents/snyder/CalleyPresentationToStateBoardofEducation_Sept82015_499324_7.pdf

THE RESULTS ARE IN.... CLS/OC FY 14/15 SATISFACTION REPORT

Every year our funder, the Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority (OCCMHA) contracts with a neutral entity, the Michigan Consumer Evaluation Team (MCET), to conduct satisfaction surveys of each of OCCMHA's Core Provider Agencies. The 38 adult respondents were randomly selected for interviews and the following feedback was provided to us:



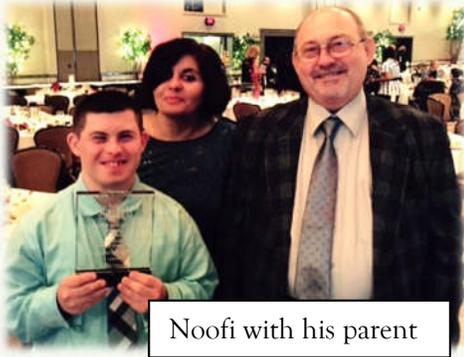
- 78% reported that they have been receiving services from CLS/OC for five years or more
- 100% reported improvements in their life as a result of receiving services
- 100% of those who experienced an improvement in their life reported that their life has "greatly improved" since receiving services
- Related to Person-Centered Planning, the following was reported: Respondents indicated higher levels of satisfaction with the PCP related issues, especially increases with the inclusion of a crisis plan and the ability to have changes made to the PCP
- There were some areas for improvement noted in the narrative comments we received - the suggestions were mostly around vocational services, communication, and timelines.
- The positive narrative feedback included much praise for the work of our staff and network providers, especially our network of Independent Support Coordinators.

When respondents were asked, "How well do you feel you are treated by the staff at the provider agency?", we were especially happy to see that despite these tough times of budget reductions, people still replied that they are being treated fairly, and with kindness and respect as that is ALWAYS our goal.

EVENING WITH FRIENDS

With nearly 700 people in attendance, the Annual Evening with Friends event was a fun and exciting night for all. Many enjoyed visiting with friends and colleagues, a great dinner, and the best part of the evening, the awards presentations. Congratulations to all of the award winners! The Oakland County honorees are noted below.

Nafaa Makadsi (“Noofi”) is an amazingly talented young man that has literally traveled miles to break down the barriers of Down Syndrome and express himself through his art.



Noofi with his parent

Noofi was born in Baghdad, Iraq. In 2003 when Iraq became unsafe due to war, Noofi and his family fled to Jordan where they lived until they traveled to the United States in 2008. In 2014 Noofi proudly became a US citizen. While in Iraq, little to no supports were provided to individuals with disabilities. Noofi’s mother and grandmother worked with him academically and his grandmother taught him art. At the age of three Noofi created his first drawing, a portrait of his grandmother and he hasn’t stopped drawing since. Today Noofi draws everyday creating his colorful abstract masterpieces. He will draw on anything when he feels inspired, from napkins and pizza boxes to mixed media paper. Noofi recently held his first art gallery event and he was featured on WDIV-TV 4.

Noofi also enjoys getting out in the community and spending time at the Joe Dumar’s Fieldhouse to play basketball. He also volunteers and has a part-time job at Pizza Hut.

You can check out Noofi’s art on his website <http://iamnoofi.weebly.com/> and on his Facebook page, just search “I am Noofi.” Congratulations Noofi on your award!

DeShaun Jones is handsome, warm, friendly, and has a great smile. You would never know the sadness this young man has experienced in his life. DeShaun tragically lost his mother at a young age; then he and his twin brother were separated when they entered the foster care system. They both eventually became Oakland County Court wards. They lived separately with several foster families until they were reunited at the age of 17, when they were both placed in a residential facility in Detroit.



In 2009 DeShaun and his brother contacted CLS/OC and have successfully lived in their own apartment with supports through Self-Determination for six years now. DeShaun now shares his story and experiences. He partnered with his former foster care agency, and is now a positive influence on the kids they work with. Through his volunteer work he gives kids hope for their future. He reaches out to foster kids, school kids, and college students, sharing his life experiences and offering inspiration. “My main mission is to help young kids get back on track and stay there. I really enjoy helping and encouraging them.” said DeShaun. He now has his own business as a public speaker and has spoken at several venues including Social Work classes at Oakland University. “I want to help young people who may have gone through what I did as a child and let them know they are going to be okay.”

Congratulations Deshaun on your award!

OCCMHA ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS



On September 29, 2015, Noofi, along with 6 other Oakland County residents, were presented with a 2015 Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority (OCCMHA) Achievement Award during their annual awards luncheon and celebration. The award honors the successes and accomplishments of individuals who have disabilities, including people with developmental disabilities, mental illness, and substance use disorders.

Noofi received the Stigma Buster Award for breaking down barriers and overcoming challenges in order to be an active, contributing member of his community.



GET INVOLVED - JOIN THE CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The CLS/OC Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAC) is looking for members.

Participating in the CLS/OC CAC is a great way to speak

out and have your voice heard, advocate, and make a difference with regard to the services and supports people receive through CLS/OC.



The Citizens' Advisory Committee is a collaborative forum for all stakeholders to receive information and provide input to help CLS/OC provide the best supports possible. The committee reviews enrollment data and trends, discusses data from satisfaction surveys, assists with quality improvement and plan development, and makes recommendations related to service delivery and program planning.

The committee meets at the CLS/OC office in Ferndale, quarterly, on the last Monday of the month from 2pm-4pm. Everyone is welcome to join the committee: people receiving services, family members, advocates, anybody that is interested in getting involved and having their voice heard about the services provided through CLS/OC.

If you have questions regarding the CAC, you can contact Lucinda Brown at 248-547-2668. If you are interested in participating in the committee, all you have to do is show up at the next meeting!



THE NEXT CAC MEETING

Monday, January 25, 2016

2:00-4:00pm

at the CLS/OC office

642 E. Nine Mile

in Ferndale

Everyone is Welcome!

OCCMHA RECIPIENT RIGHTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE SEEKING MEMBERS

The Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority (OCCMHA) is currently recruiting new members for the Recipient Rights Advisory Committee. They are accepting applications from individuals receiving services in Oakland County and secondary recipients (parents, guardians, siblings, spouses, or significant other of an individual currently receiving, or has previously received, services supported by OCCMHA). They are also seeking "member at large" candidates. Members at large are individuals that demonstrate an interest and a commitment to promoting and protecting the rights of individuals with disabilities who receive services supported by OCCMHA. The committee meets the first Thursday of every month, 5:30-7:00pm at the OCCMHA office in Auburn Hills.

If you are interested you must complete an application for membership. Committee members will make recommendations to the CMH Authority Board once a vacancy occurs. All members of the Advisory Committee are appointed by the CMH Authority Board.

For an application and more information about membership



duties go to www.occmha.org, select Recipient Rights from the menu. Also, If you have any further questions, please contact the OCCMHA Recipient Rights Office at 248-858-1202 or toll free at 877 RIGHTS-U (877- 744-4878).

Oakland County Division
642 E. Nine Mile Road
Ferndale, MI 48220
Phone: 248-547-2668
Fax: 248-547-3052



ADA TRAINING

Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority

The Americans With Disabilities Act

Presented by Chad Witcher

OCCMHA Office of Recipient Rights

Tuesday November 24, 2015

9:00 - 11:30 a.m.

At MORC

1270 Doris Rd.

Auburn Hills, MI

Highlights:

- Rights
- Discrimination
- Updated Regulations
- Accommodation Information



To register:

Go to <http://www.occmha.org/index.php/training> or

Call the OCCMHA Training Department

Beth Jacobs at

(248) 858-1795



Inspire Hope, Empower People, and Strengthen Communities

www.occmha.org • Resource & Crisis Helpline (800) 231-1127 • OCCMHA Customer Services (800) 341-2003

SPEECHCRAFT CLASS



Sign up for this great eight week class and increase your confidence speaking in front of a group or in public. Learn in a small group setting how to effectively "tell your story" and "wow" the audience with your speeches while having fun!

Upcoming Session:

WHEN: Every Tuesday - January 26, 2016 - March 15, 2016.

TIME: 1:30-3:30pm

WHERE: MORC - 1270 Doris Road, Auburn Hills

This class is open to persons receiving services, family members, CMH Staff, and provider staff. To register for a class please go to www.occmha.org or contact Beth Jacobs at 248-858-1795.

Living Hope

TAKE YOUR JOB AND LOVE IT

The world of work offers unique opportunities and challenges. Studies show positive outcomes for people with disabilities who participate in competitive employment. Work does, however, bring new issues in managing your disability. This workshop can help you start the process of creating a Wellness Recovery Action Plan (WRAP) for your job that specifically relates to occupation issues which may arise.

This training/workshop will be presented by Deborah Moore and will take place on January 11, 2016, 1:00-3pm at the Our House Clubhouse, 2045 E. West Maple D405, in Commerce Township.

To register visit the website www.occhma.org, select training schedule, go to January 11, 2016 on the calendar and enter your contact information. You can also call Beth Jacobs at 248-858-1795.

PATH

Personal Action Towards Health



Learn self-management skills that may ease the day to day symptoms of living with a chronic health condition, including:

- Mental Illness
- Arthritis
- Heart Disease
- Diabetes
- Emphysema
- Asthma Bronchitis

Class dates:

Monday 1/25/16

Monday 2/1/16

Monday 2/8/16

Monday 2/22/16

Monday 2/29/16

Monday 3/7/16

9:00 - 11:30 a.m.

Resource & Crisis Center
1200 N Telegraph Bldg 32E
Pontiac, MI 48341
(Please park and use the Conference Center entrance on Hospital Road)

Family members, friends, and care providers are also encouraged to attend the six-week community workshop. PATH meets 2.5 hours, one day per week.

Presented by:
Sherri Rushman, OCCMHA
Paul Lyons, Common Ground

To register go to <http://www.occmha.org/index.php/training> or contact Beth Jacobs at (248) 858-1795.



Inspire Hope, Empower People, Strengthen Communities

HOLIDAY LIGHTS AND EVENTS IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Auburn Hills

Dancing Lights Holiday Lights Display - Thanksgiving through New Year's at 3111 Paramount Lane. See a 50,000 light display synced to your favorite holiday songs.

Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony, December 4, 2015 6-9pm. at Auburn Road and Squirrel Road. Tree lighting, Santa, wagon rides, s'mores, crafts and more.

Berkley

Hometown Holidays/Holiday Lights Parade on December 5, 2015, 1-8pm, in Downtown Berkley. A full day of fun activities including, horse-drawn carriage rides, petting zoo, vintage trolley rides, parade, tree lighting ceremony and more. Tree lighting at 5:30pm.

Royal Oak

Wild Lights at the Detroit Zoo, will take place on several days through November and December. Check out the spectacular holiday light display of more than five million lights that will illuminate trees, buildings and animal sculptures. For schedule and ticket info visit <http://detroitzoo.org/>

Royal Oak Holiday Magic Parade on November 22 from 2-3pm, in downtown Royal Oak. Over 80 parade units will include marching bands, floats, musical performances, circus acts and more.

South Lyon

Cool Yule Festival, December 5th, 10am-8pm, Downtown South Lyon. Enjoy an arts and crafts show, candy cane hunt, live reindeer, Christmas cookie extravaganza, Parade of Lights, and more.

Ferndale

Holiday Show Place Arts and Crafts Show-December 5, 2015 from 10am-4pm at the Kulick Community Center (1201 Livernois). Admission is \$1 per person at the door.

Holiday Ice Festival - December 12, 2015 at 10am in Downtown Ferndale. Enjoy a display of ice sculptures, live reindeer, hay-ride and more! Visit www.DowntownFerndale.com for more information.

Pontiac

Holiday Extravaganza Parade and WinterFUN Festival - December 5, 2015, 8:30-10:30am in Downtown Pontiac. This is a fun family event with several activities, including a Gallery of Ice with live ice carving competition, a petting farm, live reindeer, s'mores, children activities and much more. All activities are free. Parade starts at 11am at 196 Cesar E. Chavez Ave in Pontiac.

Rochester Hills

Tree-Lighting Ceremony - November 20, 2015 at 6-9pm, at the NE corner of Adams Rd and University. The Village will come to life with over 850,000 lights that will illuminate all at once! For more info, visit thevorh.com.

Waterford

Tree Lighting and Santa Celebration - December 1, 2015 from 6p-8pm, at Town Hall 5200 Civic Center Drive. Includes a variety of activities including: crafts, Santa, a sing-a-long and more.

NOTICE OF CLS/OC HOLIDAY HOURS

The CLS/OC office will be closed on the following days:

Thanksgiving Holiday

Thursday - November 26, 2014

Friday - November 27, 2014

Christmas Holiday

Thursday, December 24, 2014

Friday, December 25, 2014

New Year's Holiday

Thursday, December 31, 2014

Friday, January 1, 2015

In the event of an emergency, you can contact our Emergency On-Call System at 734-238-7246. There is a link to our on-call system on our office voice mail as well. This service is available between the hours of 4:30pm and 8:00am on regular business days, and 24 hours a day on weekends and holidays. All other days we will maintain regular business hours of 8:00am to 4:30pm.