



THE UPDATER

News from Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority
about the public mental health system in Oakland County

From Jeffrey L. Brown, Executive Director

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THE CURRENT BUDGET SITUATION: WHAT IS THE IMPACT?

Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority (OCCMHA) has a responsibility to serve persons with disabilities in our community. We provide the supports and services that help you live a quality life.

OCCMHA's ability to provide these services and supports comes from the funding it receives from the State of Michigan. For the past several years Michigan's economy has been poor. This affects how much revenue (money) the State of Michigan collects and has to spend for many different services including the public mental health services in Oakland County.

Because the State of Michigan has less money this year it has made cuts to service programs statewide. These cuts include about \$11 million to OCCMHA for General Fund services. General Fund dollars are used to provide services and supports to persons who do not have Medicaid.

The cut in funding requires OCCMHA and its core provider agencies to do some things differently. These changes will help ensure OCCMHA can provide supports and services to all those that need them. We know changes can be stressful, so we want you to understand what we are doing. If you have questions or don't understand why we are making these changes talk to your provider or call Customer Services at 1-800-341-2003.

THE UPDATER will provide you with a summary of changes that will be occurring in 2010. THE UPDATER will be issued periodically as updated information is available. The major changes are listed below.

- OCCMHA will no longer pay for dental services that are not covered by Medicaid. This began in mid 2009.
- It is now required that individuals with Medicaid requesting respite care meet the Medicaid respite care criteria so that this respite care can be paid with Medicaid dollars rather than the limited General Fund dollars. This began October 1, 2009.
- OCCMHA cut summer recreation funding. This included funding for activities such as sporting events, concerts, park & recreation programs, or other items outside of the mental health service array and person center plan. This began in mid 2009.

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- Ensuring all persons who are eligible for Medicaid get on it as quickly as possible. Some areas of focus will be:
 - Persons admitted into a hospital for psychiatric services must complete a Medicaid application. Additionally, for persons on Medicaid Spend Down pursuing eligibility for Medicaid as soon as possible each month.
 - Applying for Medicaid or pursuing eligibility for Medicaid through the Spend Down process for persons living in specialized residential homes or in unlicensed settings.
 - Working closely with the Department of Human Services to process applications quickly.
 - Cooperation in the Medicaid application process is required from persons asking for services or currently getting services or they will be responsible for their full cost of services.
- The types of services that are available to an individual may soon depend on the funding source. (Example: Medicaid, General Fund, MICHild, ABW).
- Individuals with mental illness, depending on their need, will be served through new services models.
- OCCMHA funds typically will not be available for housing assistance for non-Medicaid persons. Individuals will be assisted to find other housing resources/funding options.
- OCCMHA along with its core provider agencies are looking at ways to be more efficient in its delivery of needed services.
- OCCMHA administrative costs will be reduced through the elimination of some administrative support contracts.
- OCCMHA staff is paying an increased amount of their insurance premium. Department budgets were reduced by 5%.

Michigan's economy is still struggling. Our State elected officials will be making difficult decisions regarding funding for services and what cuts to make. It is a real possibility that OCCMHA will need to make further cuts in 2010 to prepare for the anticipated 2011 budget reduction. Up to now most of the cuts we have experience is related to General Fund services. Additional cuts will likely affect Medicaid services as well.

Take an opportunity to contact your State Representative or Senator to let them know the benefits of the services and supports you receive.

CUSTOMER SERVICES 1-800-341-2003.

www.occmha.org