

Strategic Plan and Operational Goals

REPORT MONTH: March 2018

1. (SP) **Address Under-Utilization of Existing Behavioral Health Services**

1.1 Increase Provider Collaborations (inter-agency referrals) by 2020

- Investigate and support one or more centralized systems to be utilized by CMHB-affiliated service providers and referral sources that provides for real time capacity for service access, such as a website or coordinated entry points for the BH system of care; develop a measurement tool to gage current collaboration baseline
- Continue marketing of existing behavioral health resources by updating and disseminating the CMHB resource guides each year
- Implement at least (2) parent, senior, support groups, and other anti-stigma opportunities for the community to be educated on mental health wellness services and supports
- Develop at least (2) new mental health partners which should include hospitals and at least one dementia specialist
- Continue supporting and expanding the medical ID program with first responders
- Continue at least (4) provider collaboration opportunities such as the BH Consortium, Ending Homelessness Consortium, Suicide Task Force, Addiction Recovery and Multicultural Coalitions

1.2 Increase Provider Screenings 25% by 2020

- Develop a measurement tool to gage baseline of current provider/organization screenings of CMHB affiliated partners and determine barriers to screening
- Develop a funding and training mechanism for providers/organizations that would like to start or enhance BH screenings; address barriers and incorporate solutions
- Increase mental health first aid trainings for paraprofessional “screenings” and referrals- targeting at least (2) new trainings in Oak Park

STATUS:

- Sarah’s Inn will be hosting the movie “Escalation” at D200 this month which focuses on the relationship between a college-aged couple showing how unhealthy behavior can escalate into abuse. Following the movie, there will be a youth-led discussion for young people and a Q & A panel discussion for adults
- Provided resources at the OPRF Chamber of Commerce Health and Wellness Business Card Exchange with approx. 85 attendees
- Provided resources at D97 Special Education Parents Night (Thank-you Nancy!)
- Presented and provided resources at the last Village of Oak Park Board of Health meeting
- Will be providing resources at the 4th Annual Community Health & Wellness Fair at the YMCA
- Will be presenting to the Oak Park resident group called PERSIST on the CMHB and its resources
- Meeting with NOW POW for a second time this month for the public and closed loop referral database. This work is falling under the *Service Intersections Committee* of the *Ending Homelessness Coalition* and they will analyze some potential vendors to present to the CMHB this year
- *Text A Tip* (mental health texting service to increase screenings and triage for youth and adult residents in crisis or need of connection to programs and services). Update:
 - Reaching out to a few local school teachers & social workers to speak with students about text a tip names, marketing preferences, etc.
 - Will begin to have graphic artist work on draft logos, posters, magnets and stickers to present to task force and schools
 - Developing with LEAD school train the trainer handbook, policy considerations, FAQ, etc
 - Ed Condon (D90) is meeting with the two other school Superintendents this week
 - Planning a soft roll out of this in May- still need to determine is that will be one school district or all three
- The *BH Continuum of Care* spreadsheet for OP-RF prevention-after care services went out to all agencies and is supposed to be completed by the end of this week
- Concordia University partnership (Center for Gerontology and the Community Counseling Center) updates:

-Dementia Friendly River Forest work is funded through West Suburban Hospital and will most likely start this summer. We will discuss ways to include Oak Park targeting the S.P. objective aimed at developing at least one new dementia partner

-Pat Porter is interested in working with Concordia to start a memory loss support group for our seniors

- The state's *Social and Emotional Screening Committee* will be meeting this month to discuss the required social emotional screens being added to the Child Health Examination Form We are on this committee as this will eventually greatly increase social emotional screenings as is our goal.

Anti-stigma and Education Events

- *Ending the Silence* - NAMI presented at Julian Middle School on February 26, 2018. 148 students in 6 classes heard the presentation. NAMI staff is processing the evaluations.
- Started *Ending the Silence* at Brooks Middle School

Family Education and Advocacy Series

- Presented this month at the Oak Park Library: *Culture, Bias, and the Body*
- Presented on *Dementia and Depression* at Oak Park Township Senior Service
- *Mental Health First Aid* at Oak Park River Forest High School begins this month with 16 registered staff

Education Classes

- WRAP (Wellness Recovery Action Plan) continues to have good attendance.
- NAMI Basics began in February with eleven parents in attendance.
- Family to Family began in February with eighteen participants, and due to the popularity of the class, four more people registered after the first session.

2. (SP) Address Lack of Available Behavioral Health Services

2.1 Increase Focused Funding to Gap Areas by 2020 including coordination of care, universal screenings, and parenting services

- Prioritize funding for gap areas for the February 2018 awards (FY19) as well as for the October FY20 Application for Funding
- Develop at least (1) new relationship with a university to explore the BH workforce shortage in Oak Park
- Support the development of a strategy to recruit/retain needed workforce
- Advocate for increased resources for BH services and supports

2.2 Increase Inter-Agency Partnership by 10% by 2020

- Develop a measurement to gage baseline of current provider/organization integrated care partnerships that serve Oak Park by December 2018
- Develop the BH continuum of care (mental health and substance use) for Oak Park and River Forest and advocate for and support integrated care partnerships across the continuum of care via (2) Consortium events by December 2018
- Coordinate at least (1) cross-training with physicians/ BH providers (including cultural competency) and develop a mechanism for CME's
- Develop at least (1) new relationship with a Cook County managed care partner by December 2018

STATUS:

- **Collaborating with the Schools/Expanding Care Coordination Committee presenting their recommendations to the MBHAC Steering Committee to develop a new screening tool that includes care coordination for all cultures, but it will be weighted more heavily for minority families to ensure they have priority. This may entail growing the care coordination services, so we will be monitoring that since it is a S.P. priority**
- **Have been contacted by the Irving School Wellness Committee to help us move forward and launch some of the initiatives/services in our S.P. They include 1. Mental health texting service for youth, 2. Increased access to Care Coordination or possible co-location at D97, and 3. Implementing a universal S/E screen as part of the registration process. This is being discussed at the cabinet level at D97 and hope to have a report by next month**
- **When the updated the *BH Continuum of Care* spreadsheet for OP-RF prevention-after care services is returned to us we hope to be able to advocate for an increase in partnerships where partnerships make good sense (Ex: Thrive and a SUD agency)**
- **Will develop an RFP for cultural competency trainings in FY19 July cycle that include physicians' participation.**

- Attended a meeting at Riveredge with all the managed care companies. It was mostly tailored to questions providers had about process, but we did talk to a few of them about exploring a “value-added”, “creative contracting” relationship with them which we will follow up. We do have a meeting with CountyCare this month to follow up on the same thing- possibly a pilot with them to utilize our care coordination services with an end goal of leveraging additional funding from them for families we share
- Working with Concordia’s Community Counseling Center to address the BH workforce shortage as well as adding diversity of therapists. See attached flyer that we are marketing to our folks: especially those without insurance, that want a male or black therapist, or want evening appointments
- Staff identified funding opportunities from the applications that were submitted that meet the gaps and priorities of the S.P. at the CMHB grant meeting and recommended those for funding in FY19- (met this goal so will be dropping this from the reports)
- Leading ACMHAI’s Strategic Planning process to identify priority S.P. areas for state 708 Boards. Looking to see where there is synergy with their and the CMBH’s S.P. to leverage resources/trainings/etc.

Related Consortium/Coalition Updates:

The Behavioral Health Consortium

- Co-hosted the *Reactive Attachment Disorder Workshop* in partnership with River Edge for agencies. Room was filled at close to 200 participants

Community Mental Health Awareness and Suicide Prevention Coalition (CMHAC)

- The Coalition will be involved with River Edge in planning and hosting Illinois’ Statewide Suicide Prevention Summit, a large event being planned for fall

Multicultural Behavioral Health Advocacy Commission (MBHAC)

- The *Education/Anti-Stigma* committee discussed having a MHBAC Health Fitness outdoor family day in October for mental health awareness week instead of July for Minority Mental Health Month. Folks feel it’s too hard to attract people in the summer. They are also exploring a *Communities of Color- Mental Health Summit*. Jack and Jill and APPLE are interested in partnering
- Conducted the third and final Cultural Competency Training this month. The assessment of the three trainings will be part of the final RFP Year End Report from Best Practices

Ending Homelessness Coalition

- Held the Annual Town Hall this month with about 50 folks in attendance. The key speaker was a person formerly homeless in OP who turned her life around based on housing provided by Housing Forward. The working groups all gave a public report as well. See attached Wednesday Journal article
- The *Service Intersections Committee* is implementing the standardized screening tool for all partner agencies to use and is looking at proposals for the new website to replace Network of Care for public access as well as closed loop linkages. Plan to use this data to meet the goals of increased linkages and coordinated care
- The *Community Touchpoints Committee* has signed a partnership agreement with D97 to implement a new screening tool to identify and refer families in need, and is starting discussion with D200. This will directly impact the goal of increasing screenings and linkages
- The *Community Education/Awareness Committee* is doing Ambassador Training/Education and some new private entities may consider becoming funding partners
- The *Affordable Housing Committee* is still waiting to see if Housing Forward was awarded the 500K from the Village for rental subsidies targeting the families in school that are one paycheck away from homelessness
- Next steps in Year Two of Action Plan is to increase the education and employment opportunities for the homeless folks in our programs

Success of All Youth (SAY)

- Still working on gathering mental health and substance use data from Oak Park service providers to tie to the SAY indicators. Using the IYS data points to see if there is a reduction based on interventions: “Feel sad or hopeless almost every day” and “Seriously considering suicide”, as well as # of school suspensions.

3. (SP) Address Social Norms Among Parents and Youth Regarding Youth Drinking and Substance Abuse

3.1 Develop and Implement coordinated communication campaigns at OPRF-HS by December 2020

- Support the development and implementation of a youth alcohol communication campaign by December 2018
- Support the implement a second year of the youth marijuana communication campaign by December 2018
- Advocate and help to support the evaluation of the Project Towards No Drug Abuse Campaign by December 2018 (Delete this objective? School will not be doing an evaluation.)
- Develop a market research campaign to identify appropriate paths of communication to reach the underserved youth populations (e.g., minority, LGBTQ, and homeless)

3.2 Develop Parent Education Opportunities for Youth Substance Abuse for parents by December 2020

- Support at least (2) parent education presentations by December 2018
- Collaborate with IMPACT and PYD to survey OP/RF parents regarding youth drinking by December 2018
- Support the implementation of evidence-based parent cafes and other parent education around timely events (prom, graduation)
- Research successful public education campaigns (ex. Australia) and incorporate into OP-RF campaigns
- Include binge drinking in at least (1) parent education event by December 2018

3.3 Increase Access and strengthen the continuum of care for substance abuse prevention, intervention, and recovery support by December 2020

- Develop the continuum of SUD services for Oak Park and River Forest youth and adults and identify gaps
- Target resources to gaps areas for FY20 Application for Funding in October 2018
- Develop and provide SUD resources to at least (2) community events by December 2018
- Include DD/ID providers at (1) BH Consortium by December 2018
- Continue support of the Addiction Recovery Team for at least (1) public education event by December 2018
- Identify and support at least (1) enhancement to the OP youth adjudication screening/linkage protocol

STATUS:

- When the updated the *BH Continuum of Care* spreadsheet for OP-RF prevention-after care services is returned to us we hope to be able to update the Substance Use Service Guide
- CMHB scheduled for an upcoming Health and Wellness Fair which SUD resources will be provided
- *Strengthening Families* substance abuse prevention started this month. This is the 3rd session and has had the most families registered. They even started a wait list for next session as they filled to capacity
- In talks with Rosecrance about hosting a parent and/or student presentation on Binge Drinking
PYD/School Committee is working on the alcohol and marijuana communication campaigns. Some updates:
 - April Alcohol Awareness Month: planning on doing compliance checks with the OP police and a prescription take-back day
 - created a new *Stall Street Journal* bathroom media piece focusing on the impact of vaping
 - Another parent information postcard went out this month to D200 households
 - still exploring using one website that would combine all the parent info/events at all schools, under both IMPACT and PYD, on one site
 - Finished a prom FYI sheet for parents which will go out to all D200 parents prior to prom. In the planning stages of at least one Parent Coffee to discuss strategies to avoid prom and underage drinking parties
 - Working on the marketing for the upcoming parent education night at D97: *Raising Resilient and Drug Free Kids* as well as the parent event at D200: *Up in Smoke -What You Need to Know About Teens and Vaping*

Addiction Recovery Team (ART)

- Toured Concordia University to move educational event for National Recovery Month from Lake Theater to the university. Tentative date is September 8th at 11; working on movie and panel selection, PSA for promotional purposes, and sober block party/fellowship event. Target will be young people living in recovery

Adjudication-meets again this month

4. (SP) **Address the Availability of Illicit Opioids to Reduce Resident Opioid Use Levels**

4.1 Establish a reporting system for illicit opioid availability within Oak Park and River Forest by 2022

- Support the Village of Oak Park's effort to establish a reporting system
- Support the Village of Oak Park's efforts for safe disposal of medications
- Identify partners working to reduce opioid availability and misuse, and assist the Village in forming/joining a task force by December 2018
- Identify partners to develop a coordinated communication and education campaign by December 2018, with a goal of implementing a plan in 2019

STATUS:

- **PYD committee is working with the YMCA to hold a safe disposal of drugs event at the upcoming Health and Wellness Fair. The Township has purchased some kits that will be available to the public that dissolve meds for safer disposal anywhere**
- **The OP-RF Opioid Task Force meets this month**

5. (SP) **Support Caregiver of Persons with Developmental Disabilities to Ensure Residents with Developmental Disabilities Have Their Needs Met**

5.1 75% of Oak Park and River Forest residents will be educated on accessing available services by December 2022

- Host or sponsor at least (1) informational session/seminar/resource event for OP-RF families by December 2018
- Work with the CMHB DD Consortium membership to develop a measurement tool to survey caregivers and consumers about their respite and case management needs by December 2018
- Identify support groups that serve OP and RF (and support if necessary), and disseminate the information via website, social media, resource events, and a resource guide by December 2018

STATUS:

- **We provided information about BH and DD services at D97s Special Education Parent Night**
- **Asked Fawn Joyce who coordinates parent resource events at D200 to include CMHB for resource dissemination**
- **Still working with Concordia University to develop a support groups for caregivers**
- **Will discuss Goals 5 & 6 with the larger ID/DD Networking group this month for ideas**

6. (SP) **Increase Access to Services for People with Developmental Disabilities Over the Age of 22 to Ensure Residents with Developmental Disabilities Have Their Needs Met**

6.1 Increase by 20% the numbers of families that have all services needed, regardless of functioning level or age, by December 2020

- Work with the CMHB DD Consortium membership to develop a measurement tool to survey consumers and caregivers with family members with higher level of needs (BH/DD) as to their needs by December 2018
- Determine a process to baseline the current needs of those families by December 2018
- Assess the Network of Care's effectiveness linking families and referral sources to appropriate services via a survey monkey by December 2018
- Work with the CMHB DD Consortium to determine a collaboration/training protocol for the DD work force to collaborate/train with BH specialists
- Advocate for and support the high school to make phone calls to families who have graduated to evaluate transition success, unmet needs, and acquire data on who may need services
- Advocate for increased resources for DD/ID services

STATUS:

- **Several education and training events are coming up in the next few months relevant to these S.P. areas:
- MARCH 15-APRIL 5: Workshop on "Behavior Strategies for Parents of Individuals with DD", for parents of adolescents and adults, Thursday evenings, 5-6:30 p.m. Developmental Disabilities**

Family Clinic, U of I Chicago. (Thanks to Janet this went out to the OPRF Parent Facebook, IPRF IEP Facebook and the D97 Special Parent Group!)

-MARCH 20-21: Illinois Crisis Prevention Network's annual conference, March 20 in Naperville and March 21 in Springfield. Theme: "With Support Comes Stability: Solving the Puzzle of Serving People with Challenging Behaviors". Registration: <https://icpntraining.com/>

- SEPT. 4-7: IARF and the IL Assn. for Behavioral Health are jointly hosting the annual Educational Conference & Expo at the Hilton in downtown Chicago. <http://www.iarf.org/Conference.aspx>

We've reached out to ICPN and UIC to see how we can get involved with these initiatives (market to our parents and agency staff and/or bring these to Oak Park)

- Developed a survey for parents to assess their needs around BH/DD issues with their children. Will be on the agenda at the next DD Consortium meeting to try to disseminate to caregivers. Have not had luck with D200 in getting this survey to their parents
- Talked to D200 about follow up calls with parents whose children have graduated. They are only mandated to make those calls every 3 years-via the Board of Ed. Still waiting to find out when they will be doing it again and how we can assist

The Developmental Disabilities Consortium

- Working on the They Deserve More Campaign to address workforce issues. This is a coalition of providers and provider groups calling for a \$13.50 wage beginning July 1 which would ramp up to \$15 over the next two years. The starting wage, on average, is now just \$10.59, which has led to a huge shortage of workers statewide. See attached Wednesday Journal ad for National Developmental Disabilities Month
- Meets next month to work on action steps for Strategic Plan Goals 5&6

Continue working with ACMHAI, NACBHDD and other trade associations and advocacy groups to support increased resources for DD/ID services.

(O) Work with staff and consultants to maintain (and enhance if needed) an electronic database for valid and reliable service and fiscal data. The system should be able to generate quarterly and yearly reports as needed by the staff and requested by the CMHB.

- Implement at least (1) enhancement to the fiscal and agency database that will improve efficiencies
- Analyze the six month and year end reports to the Board and implement any modifications that will enhance the data "snapshot" for Board members
- Update user manuals for the funded agencies at least (1) time per year and conduct at least one (1) database training per year

STATUS:

- Electronic report template for RFP Year End Reports is finished and CMHB is testing. We will implement this with agencies for their Year End report due in April. This will standardize the reports across agencies
- The PDF converter functionality is complete for the CMHB Application for Funding which will improve the user friendliness of that application
- The database training for April is scheduled
- Starting this month, we required the CEO's and all staff that utilize the database for reporting to attend a FY19 contract meeting to go over their contracts, funding guidelines and parameters in detail to help reduce errors in the service and fiscal database. Those meetings are in progress

7. (O) Support staff efforts for professional development and continue the training and development of staff as needed to meet the needs of the CMHB.

- Continue to transition grant management, oversight and rate development to the Contract Manager
- Encourage and support the Contract Manager's involvement in community, state, and federal leadership positions such as the Chamber of Commerce, ACMHAI, and NACBHDD
- Continue to share leadership of the Consortiums and Coalitions of the CMHB with the Contract Manager (CM)

STATUS:

- The CM ran the contract meetings for all the new fundees for FY19. This was traditionally done by both the ED and CM

- The CM attended the National Association of County Behavioral Health and Developmental Disability Directors conference this month. ACMHAI paid for her registration fee to represent them. This is the annual conference which we interface with CMS, SAMHSA, HRSA, and other federal department directors for policy updates, best practices, and information exchange
- The CM continues to co-chair the Service Intersections committee of the Ending Homelessness Coalition which is taking the lead on looking for CMHB’s new service and linkage website
- The CM will be the only auditor for all the 2nd audits of agencies this year as we are cutting funds from the independent auditor budget

8. (O) Maintain (and enhance as needed) a regular, sustainable audit system that is focused on compliance with agency contracts, financial accountability and program outcomes.

- Continue to evaluate, enhance, and improve as needed the onsite and offsite auditing of CMHB funding
- Continue to evaluate, enhance, and improve as needed the outcomes evaluation process. Host at least (1) outcomes training with agencies per year

STATUS:


- The CM will be working this year to set up templates for the internal and external auditing documents and making sure the process and forms are clearly linked to language in the Funding Guidelines- *Audit Policy*
- The Executive Director will be working with other funders such as the Funders Collaboration and the state to reduce the overall outcome collection and analysis process and align with what is required from agencies major funders. Outcome consultation will be cut in the FY19 budget so we will be identifying a more manageable but meaningful outcome process that addresses quality as we look towards performance based contracting and away from fee for service

OTHER: Nothing new on the Wellness Center to report this month

GLOSSARY OF FREQUENTLY USED ACRONYMS


ACRONYM	MEANING
ACMHAI	Association of Community Mental Health Authorities of Illinois (708 Boards statewide trade organization)
ARC	DD agencies statewide trade organization
ART	Addiction Recovery Team
CADC	Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor
CADCA	Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America
CBHA	Community Behavioral Healthcare Association (BH agencies statewide trade organization)
BHC	Behavioral Health Consortium
CMHB (also known as 708 Board)	Community Mental Health Board
CMS	Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (Federal)
CNA AND NA	Community Needs Assessment/Needs Assessment
CSS	Community Support Services
DASA	Department of Alcohol and Substance Abuse (State)
DD	Developmental Disabilities
DHS	Department of Human Services (State)
DMH	Division of Mental Health (State)
FMAP	Federal Medicaid Assistance Percentages
FPL	Federal Poverty Level
HFS	(Department of) Healthcare and Family Services (State)
HS	High School
IABH	Illinois Association for Behavioral Health
IDPH	Illinois Department of Public Health
IEP	Individualized Education Plan
IYS	Illinois Youth Survey
MBHAC	Multicultural Behavioral Health Advisory Committee
MCO (also known as ACO's)	Managed Care/Accountable Care Organizations
MH	Mental Health
NACBHDD	National Association of County Behavioral Health and

	Developmental Disability Directors
NAMI	National Alliance on Mental Illness
NIDA	National Institute on Drug Abuse
NOC	Network of Care
NOM	National Outcomes Measures
OP	Oak Park
OPRFHS	Oak Park River Forest High School
OPT	Oak Park Township
POS	Purchase of Service
PYD	Positive Youth Development (leadership committee of SPF)
RF	River Forest
RFP	Request for Proposal
RFT	River Forest Township
SAY	Success of All Youth
SED	Serious Emotional Disturbance
SMI	Serious Mental Illness
SP	Strategic Plan
SPF	Strategic Prevention Framework (SAMHSA underage drinking grant)
SUD	Substance Use Disorder
TA	Technical Assistance
TASC	Treatment Alternatives for Safe Communities
WSSRA	West Suburban Special Recreational Association



1894
CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO
COLLEGE of GRADUATE STUDIES

Community Counseling Center



***Depressed? Stressed? Grieving?
Anger Issues? Struggling with a Decision?
School or Family Issues?
HELP IS AVAILABLE.***

- Brief, goal-directed counseling services for *individuals, adolescents, couples, and families* (if children are under 12, they can be seen with the family unit).
- This is a training center offering counseling services free-of-charge to the community. Services are provided by *counselors-in-training* as part of the Clinical Mental Health Counseling Master of Arts program, under the supervision of Concordia faculty members.
- Counseling sessions are available January through May and September through November and are time-limited, generally 8-12 sessions per client.
- All counseling sessions follow the American Counseling Association's Code of Ethics for confidentiality.

Call (708) 488-4111 to schedule your appointment now.
Sessions available Wednesday & Thursday evenings Spring 2018 semester.
Concordia University Chicago, 7400 Augusta St., Christopher Center #263
River Forest, IL 60305



It's more than "just say no"

Raising Resilient and Drug-Free Kids



Wednesday, April 25, 2018
6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Oak Park Elementary School
260 Madison St., Oak Park, IL 60302

Presenter: Claudia Evenson

Claudia has worked as a senior addiction counselor for many years in treatment centers and psychiatric hospitals. Claudia works with Rosecrance Community Relations.

Please register for this free event at rosecrance.org/drugfreekids

Join us to learn more about teaching resiliency and responsibility at an early age. Parents are the first line of defense in preventing their children from experimenting and using drugs. It is never too early to lay the foundation for a drug-free lifestyle.

Rosecrance is a leading provider of treatment services for individuals with substance use and mental health disorders. More than 30,000 children, teens, adults, and families in Illinois, Wisconsin, and Iowa received help this past year.

CELEBRATE NATIONAL
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
AWARENESS MONTH



PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES DESERVE MORE IN ILLINOIS

THEY DESERVE
MORE

www.theydeservemore.com

The Oak Park Developmental Disabilities Consortium, a partnership sponsored by Oak Park and River Forest Townships, helps our residents with developmental disabilities reach their dreams and positively connect to our community. The Consortium is proud to support *They Deserve More*, a statewide coalition of advocates for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their caregivers.

Thousands of caregiver positions go unfilled every year, and direct support professionals (DSPs) are leaving their jobs in droves to take retail, warehouse and fast food positions – just to make ends meet. Caring, compassionate people who want to do this important work simply cannot afford to.

During National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, support those affected by the statewide staffing crisis by taking action on www.theydeservemore.com.



\$10.59

Average hourly starting wage for a direct support professional in a community setting



\$0.75

Wage increase that direct support professionals received in this year's state budget – first such increase in ten years – far from keeping up with the rate of inflation



18%

Cumulative rate of inflation over the last ten years



50%

Turnover rate of direct support professionals in Illinois in the last year based on a national survey

Oak Park DD Consortium Agencies

Aspire
aspirechicago.com

Community Support Services
cssservices.org

Oak-Leyden Developmental Services
oak-leyden.org

Oak Park Township Senior Services
oakparktownship.org/departments/seniors

Opportunity Knocks
opportunityknocksnow.org

PACTT Learning Center
pactt.org

Riveredge Hospital
riveredgehospital.com

Seguin RCA
seguinrca.org

Suburban Access, Inc.
subacc.org

The Answer, Inc.
theanswerinc.org

UCP Seguin of Greater Chicago
ucpseguin.org

West Suburban Special Recreation
wssra.net

Sponsored by the Community Mental Health Board of Oak Park Township and River Forest Township.

facebook.com/OakParkDDC
cmhb.networkofcare.org
riverforesttownship.org/mhservices



It's time we end homelessness

In Oak Park, we have about 50 people who are chronically homeless. In our schools, more than 100 kids are homeless. That means they are couch surfing or living with friends or relatives. And another 5 percent of people in Oak Park live below the extreme poverty line of \$9,000 per year, making Oak Park inaccessible for many.

At the Oak Park Homelessness Coalition, we are working to end homelessness in Oak Park by making it rare, brief and one time. In 2017, more than 35 public and private sector organizations developed a plan, and in the past year significant progress has been achieved. Working with a core team from Housing Forward, Community Mental Health Board of Oak Park Township, the Oak Park Public Library, the village of Oak Park, and a5, we held quarterly meetings with the coalition to execute the plan.

Oak Park has long held affordable housing as one of its values. In 2017, the Affordable Housing group submitted a response to a village of Oak Park RFP requesting \$500,000 for a short-term rental assistance fund. The group also supports the village plan to invest dollars in affordable housing units.

In addition, the Affordable Housing Work Group submitted a grant proposal to Housing Action Illinois for a staff member to work on behalf of the coalition and with Housing Forward on a coordinated entry program.

While many organizations provide help to those in need, enhanced coordination is a goal of the coalition. The Service Intersections Group collaborated to create a standardized screening tool designed to identify needs and keep individuals from slipping through the cracks. The tool also provides referral resources to the agencies providing services for food programs, public assistance, early childhood, behavioral health, domestic violence, developmental disabilities, seniors, immigration and medical and dental care.

Next step: developing a referral database that provides updated, interactive resource information and a closed-loop referral system.

Once implemented, the referral database will help the providers link clients to the

OAK PARK HOMELESSNESS COALITION

One View

appropriate services, allow different providers to coordinate services and follow up on the outcome of the referral. The database will provide analytics to help planning bodies and advocates close service gaps and advocate for needed services.

More than 100 students

in Oak Park elementary schools and high school are homeless. This can have devastating impacts on the students' overall development. The schools serve as critical and important touch points for connecting families to services in order to stabilize their financial and living arrangements as quickly as possible.

The Community Touchpoints Group worked with District 97 over the past year to identify ways to connect families to services, and entered into an agreement between Housing Forward and D97 to implement referral strategies so that the D97 registrar and other key staff can share a family's contact information with Housing Forward, which can now work to shorten the amount of time students and families endure the detrimental stress related to housing instability.

To generate community awareness and support, the coalition made presentations across the village, developed a website and grew its social media presence. Sponsors Oak Park Apartments and Waterton helped the coalition reach more people in Oak Park — yet there is much more to do.

In 2018, we will also begin working on another goal: providing education, employment and career opportunities for the homeless.

On March 1 at 7 p.m. at the Oak Park Public Library 834 Lake St., the Oak Park Homelessness Coalition will hold its second annual meeting.

Join us to learn more about our progress and this year's goals for the Plan of Action. To RSVP, please email Chloe at czuberbuhler@a5inc.com. Pre-registration is encouraged but not required.

The core team of the Oak Park Homelessness Coalition includes Lisa DeViva, John Harris, Vanessa Matheny, Jim Madigan, Carolyn Neuberry-Schwartz, Lynda Schueler, and Dawn Stockma.