



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Saginaw County Community Mental Health Authority CEO to be Honored at Upcoming Ezekiel Project Prayer Breakfast**

SAGINAW, MI – Community organization The Ezekiel Project is holding their 19<sup>th</sup> annual MLK Prayer Breakfast on Saturday, February 14, 2015, at Saginaw Valley State University, where Saginaw County Community Mental Authority (SCCMHA) CEO Sandra Lindsey will be honored with the Rev. Hurley Coleman Award. The theme of this year’s breakfast “People of Faith are People of Action” aims to highlight the accomplishments made in the Saginaw community by citizens and leaders who exemplify faith and action by working together.

“Every year we identify a person who has dedicated and committed their time and efforts to youth and families in the community,” explained The Ezekiel Project President Willie Haynes. “Ms. Lindsey and her staff have made a big difference in this community in regards to mental health awareness – things are being looked at differently now and we wanted to celebrate and honor that with this award.”

“I am most honored to be recognized with the Rev. Hurly Coleman Award,” said Lindsey. “I believe it is my responsibility as the CEO of the Mental Health Authority to not just lead my organizations’ future to better serve folks with intellectual and developmental disabilities, mental illness and those with substance use disorders and their families, but to also be a part of the Saginaw community’s rich character through partnerships and collaborations that not only expand access to quality service but are by design transformational.”

Due to scheduling conflicts Lindsey will not be available to attend the event to accept the award in person; however, SCCMHA Board Member and Saginaw Branch NAACP President Leola Wilson will be attending and accepting on her behalf. “I feel extremely honored as a Board Member to accept this award for Sandy,” Wilson said. “It is a reflection of her commitment to this community and its citizens who desperately need community mental health services. Sandy receiving this award from The Ezekiel Project demonstrates her commitment and ability to work with a cross section of community groups and leaders.”

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### **CEO Awarded at MLK Breakfast**

The breakfast, taking place from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at Curtis Hall on the campus of Saginaw Valley State University will also feature guest speaker Rev. John Welch from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Rev. Welch is currently the Vice President for Student Services at the Metro-Urban Institute of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and President of the Gamaliel Foundation of Chicago, Illinois. Tickets to the MLK Prayer Breakfast are still available for \$18 and can be purchased by contacting The Ezekiel Project member and event organizer Inez Williams or The Ezekiel Project office at (989) 755-1620.

The Ezekiel Project was created to empower congregations through prayer, education, organization, coalition building and skill development to act in faith and love to revitalize the greater Saginaw community. It is part of the Gamaliel Foundation network of congregation-based community organizing projects which connects The Ezekiel Project to similar organizations throughout the U.S. Current Board Members include President Willie Haynes and Vice President Rev. Douglas Leffler.

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*Saginaw County Community Mental Health Authority is the local, separate governmental unit serving Saginaw County, a Community Mental Health Services Program (CMHSP), which provides and manages publicly funded specialty mental health and substance use disorder services.*

*SCCMHA is headquartered at 500 Hancock Street in Saginaw and provides numerous services including evaluations, screenings, treatments and referrals. SCCMHA assists approximately 5,000 Saginaw County citizens each year.*