

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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For more information contact:

Tom Caylor

tcaylor@sccmha.org



**SAGINAW COUNTY
COMMUNITY MENTAL
HEALTH AUTHORITY**

Saginaw County Community Mental Health Authority Participates in 17th annual “Walk-A-Mile in My Shoes Rally”

More than a dozen consumers and staff members of Saginaw County Community Mental Health Authority (SCCMHA) joined nearly 1,000 people from throughout the state on Wednesday, September 29 at the Michigan Capitol in Lansing for the 17th annual “Walk-A-Mile in My Shoes” Rally. The event, sponsored by the Community Mental Health Association of Michigan, was held to raise awareness for behavioral health needs and help banish the stigma.

During the rally, attendees heard speakers focus on the benefits of public mental healthcare. Deb Nagel, a Saginaw resident, spoke during the event, telling the crowd that “SCCMHA has helped with everything I need for mental health and includes me in leadership.” She added, “We need our local CMHs (community mental health agencies) that care about our community to run public mental health services, not private, for-profit insurance companies.”

Michigan legislators have been considering privatizing the mental healthcare system, which serves more than 300,000 families from across the state annually with affordable care. The system is one of the best in the country, with controlled costs, community-based care and proven outcomes for patients.

“It was great to see consumers able to once again attend this annual advocacy event and share their voices and opinions on topics that impact their day to day lives and recovery outcomes,” said Sandra M. Lindsey, SCCMHA Chief Executive Officer. “Services provided by local CMHs are essential for our state. CMHs across the state work to ensure those who have intellectual / developmental disabilities and behavioral health disorders have the best chance to live productive and fulfilling lives.”

During the rally, SCCMHA consumers and staff met with Amos O’Neal, State Representative from Michigan House District 95, and three representatives from the office of U.S. Senator Gary Peters – Eric Keller, Mid-Michigan Regional Director; Carlee Knott, Mid-Michigan Regional Coordinator; and Sophie Sears, Intern.

SCCMHA is a local and independent governmental unit serving Saginaw County. It is a Community Mental Health Services Program and has been a mental health authority under contract with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services since 1997. In Fiscal Year 2020, SCCMHA served almost 7,300 people.

The Community Mental Health Association of Michigan is the advocacy organization for CMHs, CMH-governed public health plans and CMH provider networks throughout the state.

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