



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NATIONAL MENTAL HEALTH MONTH CELEBRATED LOCALLY

***Saginaw County Community Mental Health Authority honors Consumers and
Community Partners at Twelfth Annual Everyday Heroes Banquet***

SAGINAW, MI – Saginaw County Community Mental Health Authority (SCCMHA) celebrated its twelfth annual Everyday Heroes Banquet on May 21, 2015 at Horizons Conference Center in conjunction with National Mental Health Awareness Month. The banquet honors consumers and their families for successes, personal growth, participation and leadership skills, as well as community volunteers and organizations who contribute to the mission and vision of SCCMHA. More than 20 area individuals and organizations were honored.

Awards were presented in two categories: Everyday Heroes and Special Heroes.

Everyday Heroes honored included Carl Booker, Sparkles Dixon, Nicholas Fowler, Yvette Gonzales, Irene Gray, Monique Latimore, Michael McGovern, Annette Sian, and Brion Younk.

Special Hero Awards were presented to:

1. Agnes Rambo Quality of Life Award to Saginaw Meadows Crisis Residential Unit
2. Bernice Barlow Community Partnership Award to Michigan Public Health Institute
3. Improving Practices Champion Award to Ruth Frais, LLPC, CACD

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2-2-2

SCCMHA HONORS CONSUMERS AND PARTNERS

4. Carolyn Rapson & Ted Rapson Living the American Dream Award to Warren “Ben” & Sue Leonard
5. Eileen & Lou Vescio Leadership, Advocacy and Family Support Award to Judith Taylor, Ph.D.

Other Special Hero Awards were presented to Jean Colby and her therapy dogs Joey and Mia; Sgt. Gary Fitzmaurice; Julie McCulloch; Kathleen Meyer; Peers are Linked for Social Success (PALSS) of Freeland Schools; Sharon Patton; Officer Doug Stacer; Susan Smith, Judge Janet Boes, and Judge James Borchard of the Saginaw County 10th Circuit Adult Felony Drug Court; Tanya Blehm, Tom McGarrity, and Mike Bacigalupo of Temple Theatre; and Lynn White.

“These recipients have inspired us to live well despite life’s adversities. They have been leaders in changing the way help is provided to those with mental illness and developmental and intellectual disabilities. They are advocates, consumers, providers and community partners who are paving the way for a brighter future,” says Sandra Lindsey, CEO of SCCMHA. “They are heroes that go above and beyond. Our organization and our community are richer for their many contributions.”

According to the National Mental Health Association, one in five Americans experience a mental health disorder in any given year. Less than eight million seek treatment. For more than 50 years, *May is Mental Health Month* has been observed to raise awareness of mental health issues and importance.

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