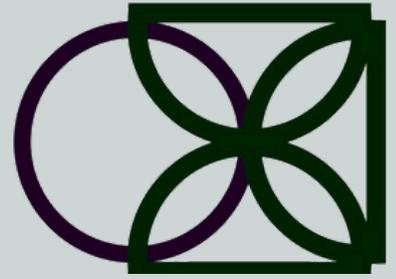


# SCCMHA PROVIDER NEWS

December 2025



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## Message from CEO Sandra Lindsey

Happy Holidays SCCMHA Staff and Network Members,

I hope like me, you are looking forward to a joyful holiday season with family and friends.



If you joined Saginaw County Community Mental Health Authority (SCCMHA) as a staff employee or as an employee at one of our contracted Network Provider Agencies this past year – Welcome! You have joined a group of talented professional and paraprofessional staff committed to people of all ages with mental illness – substance use disorders, intellectual and developmental disabilities, and children and youth with serious emotional disorders served by the public mental health system. Perhaps you are working in administrative or technical support positions in our service delivery system and though not front-facing for service delivery, your support to those that provide care and treatment directly really matters and keeps our system functional.

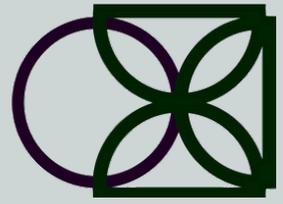
In any case, if you have worked in our network for years or joined us this past year, on behalf of the SCCMHA Board of Directors, SCCMHA leadership and myself, our thanks to all of you for once again delivering exceptional services to the people we

serve, their families and the greater Saginaw County community.

My special thanks to those of you working after regular business hours during the weeks of Christmas, New Year's, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa in our crisis services, working on call or covering extra shifts in residential programs. As you know, the needs of those we serve and their families do not stop for national or religious holidays.

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# SCCMHA PROVIDER NEWS



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Besides offering my thanks for all that you do to support the mission of SCCMHA, do make some time to be with those you care about and take good care of yourselves. The change of pace in the public mental health system directed by ever-changing rules and regulations from Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) and from the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) have always been challenging, but this last year has been exceptionally demanding and 2026 is likely to bring even more of the same.

Even more reason to find your best way to rest, reset and recharge.

In closing, my thanks again to you all and my hope that you all have a wonderful and safe holiday season with those you care about.

Sincere regards,

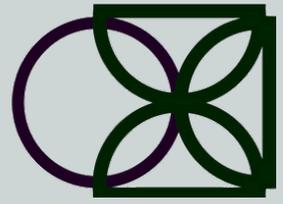


A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sandra M. Lindsey". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Sandra M. Lindsey,  
SCCMHA CEO



**SUICIDE PREVENTION LIFELINE CALL OR TEXT: 988**



## SCCMHA launches Community Enhancement initiative

Saginaw County Community Mental Health Authority is proud to announce the launch of its Community Enhancement initiative.

SCCMHA has always put a strong focus on community and outreach to ensure that all peoples in Saginaw County feel welcome to seek out mental or behavioral health services with us. In this, our Community Enhancement initiative will work to strengthen those efforts, building on our previous mission to instill a sense of belonging, while engaging with our many Saginaw County residents of varying backgrounds and experiences to learn how we can better serve them.



**Community**  
ENHANCEMENT  
Saginaw County Community Mental Health Authority

This initiative is an effort to engage and connect with our Saginaw County community further and serve with excellence, by fostering growth and strengthening organizational culture within our agency.



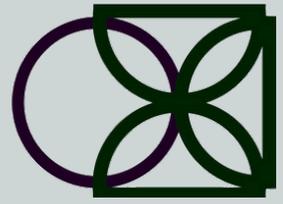
We will also work towards engaging with individuals and families to ensure a sense of belonging at SCCMHA for those who need help and are seeking out services.

Furthermore, we will leave space for open, respectful and honest conversations that lead to understanding and progressing solutions for staff and persons served alike.

Inside the agency, SCCMHA will encourage staff to achieve excellence and contribute to a work environment that values fairness and equal opportunities to succeed as they grow in their careers.

As much of our staff comes from different backgrounds, we want to celebrate those differences and treat each other with respect, dignity and unity within our organization, reflecting that with our persons served who would seek the same treatment.

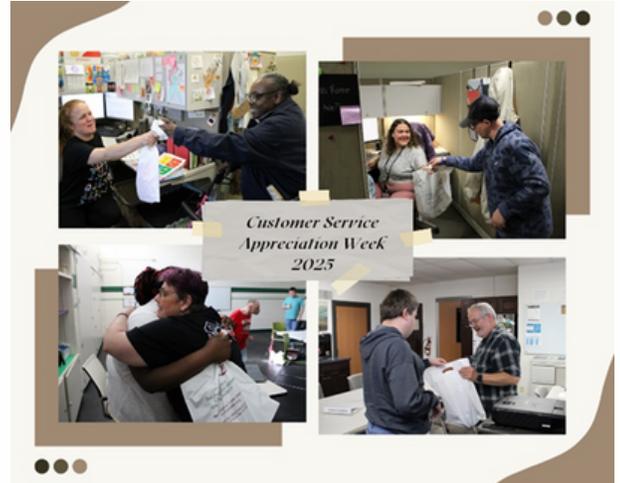
SCCMHA has always been about making sure all people feel welcome reaching out for services through our agency. Through our Community Enhancement initiative, we hope to continue having conversations to further grow and learn about our residents and take the needed steps to be more present in our Saginaw County communities.



## SCCMHA celebrates Customer Service Appreciation Week

Saginaw County Community Mental Health Authority celebrated the accomplishments and contributions of our staff with those we serve by recognizing October 6-10 as Customer Service Appreciation Week.

During the course of the week, SCCMHA's Customer Service Team and persons served by Community Ties North and South visited our facilities and handed out goodie bags with coffee mugs, notepads and pens with uplifting messages to every staff member at SCCMHA.



Customer Service Week serves as a reminder of the vital role played by staff in delivering exceptional care and support and also gives an opportunity for those we serve to meet some of the staff who provide service to them to say thank you in person.

The work done by SCCMHA staff is invaluable and we cannot express how grateful we are for their dedication and service.

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## First Choice of Saginaw hands out gift cards to AFC residents in need

The holiday season brings many opportunities to help those in need. And First Choice of Saginaw is grateful to have provided that assistance again this year.

On Friday, Dec. 5, we handed out \$50 gift cards to persons served living in adult foster care homes to buy whatever their heart desired.

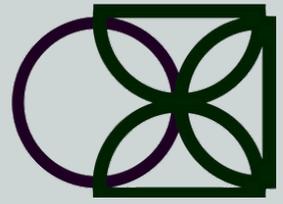
An annual tradition, funds were raised for the gift cards at various events throughout 2025, such as ice cream sales, popcorn sales and others.

Some residents plan on using the cards for clothes, some for art and writing tools, others for hats, gloves or other things to help keep warm through the winter season.



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# SCCMHA PROVIDER NEWS



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Over 300 cards were given out at the event on Dec. 5, where persons served by SCCMHA were able to play some festive games, making holiday cards, or even met The Grinch!

Plans for 2026 fundraisers are underway to raise money again for gift cards to be distributed next December.

First Choice of Saginaw would like to send a HUGE thank you to everyone who gave for this event or any of the fundraisers throughout the year. We want to thank all the volunteers who so generously assisted with fundraising events, whether you helped with transporting items from one location to another or donated your time through cookie packing, candy packing, or hot dog and ice cream sales.

Thank you to all who so generously donated items and time to the various fundraisers for the Holiday Event. Thank you to all of the staff who donated from their paychecks each week and give generously to First Choice, those who gave a little extra during the fundraisers or just gave money to help support this great cause. Your efforts made a big difference in the lives of those we serve this holiday season.



If you would like to donate for 2026, please contact Jennifer Keilitz at (989) 797-3486.

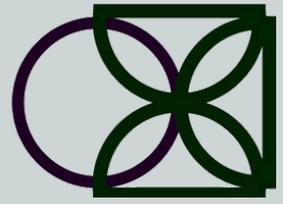
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## Residential Placement Process

"It takes a village" as the saying goes for life in general. That can also be applied to moving. Here at SCCMHA, it requires several team members to assist our individuals we serve with moving. Whether an individual is moving from their home to a general AFC or specialized AFC, communication is imperative to facilitate a smooth transition and successful move.

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# SCCMHA PROVIDER NEWS



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When the Case Holder recognizes the need for a specialized residential referral, they are to ensure all progress notes, Individual's Plan of Service (IPOS) and other documentation are up-to-date. Documentation should reflect current needs of the person served that justify a referral to the Placement Committee. The person served should have an up-to-date assessment showing their change in needs. Once those updates are made, the Case Holder can submit a request to the Placement Committee to seek a specialized placement or see what options are available.



The Placement Committee is then able to review the case and see if the need for a specialized placement is appropriate for that individual. The Case Holder will be asked further questions regarding the individual as needed to find the appropriate placement and will be notified within 7-10 days if their individual is supported to move to a specialized residential home. It is important that the Case Holder check communications regularly to allow a timely response from the Committee. If supported, the Case Holder will be provided with contact and referral information to specialized AFC homes from the Residential Coordinator.

Please note that it is very important that the individual's case is presented to the Placement Committee by the Case Holder and/or their supervisor. There are several individuals needing specialized placement at any given time. The Placement Committee assists with management of resources as well as assuring priority placements, such as those that are homeless, receiving eviction notices, or moving from hospital settings are reviewed and addressed as quickly as possible.

We also ask that our Providers double check with the Case Holders and ensure that the specialized placement has been reviewed and approved by the Placement Committee. Communication from all parties will ensure a smooth transition for our individuals!

As always, please direct all placement questions to the Residential Coordinator.

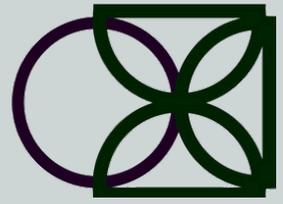
Thank you for your continued cooperation and commitment to quality care!

**Ashley M. Blackmer, OTRL**

*Residential Coordinator and Provider Network Auditor*

Tel: 989-797-3504 • Mobile: 989-988-9600 • Fax: 989-498-4219

Email: [ashley.blackmer@sccmha.org](mailto:ashley.blackmer@sccmha.org)



## SCCMHA Training Updates

*Written by Continuing Education Supervisor Alecia Schabel*

CEU continues to troubleshoot the LMS setup, daily.

We understand your learner record may not accurately reflect completed training courses. We appreciate the continued patience while we continue to transition.

Severe Weather & SCCMHA CEU: a reminder SCCMHA does not follow Saginaw government closures. Please reference this online link [SCCMHA Emergency Closure Information](#) or call CEU directly – 989-797-3445 – for training information if there is severe weather.



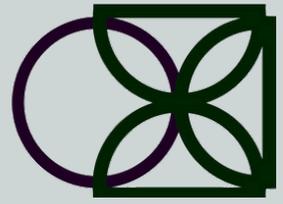
### **AFC Home Managers:**

- Please be sure you are utilizing both the most recent report sent from CEU in April 2025 and the LMS to align your staff training completions.
- Staff training is STILL required during this transition and your staff MUST be making an effort to complete. If someone is struggling, please reach out to CEU for assistance. Not completing training at all is not an option.
- Please be sure you are referencing the Direct Care button of the Continuing Education tab on the SCCMHA website [Direct Care Provider Training.](#) | [SCCMHA](#)



### **Business Office Administrators:**

- Administrative LMS users now have access to the Learner Experience. You can better support your staff with their LMS experience through this access. Enroll in a New Learner Navigation session in order to become familiar with this new access.



## Season's Greetings and Happy Holidays from the OBRA and EHS teams

*Written by EHS/OBRA Supervisor Michelle Vance*

### **History**

*Federal Nursing Home Reform Act from the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1987*

- 1987: Congress enacted legislation to strengthen the protection of nursing facility/home residents' rights (OBRA).
- This legislation was the product of more than 10 years' work by a coalition of advocates, nursing facility/home residents and families, representatives of business and labor, and nursing facility/home providers.
- April 1, 1990: States had to conduct Preadmission Screenings and Annual Resident Reviews (PASARR) to determine whether individuals with mental illness, intellectual/developmental disability, or a related condition were appropriately placed.
- Individuals identified as having a "PASARR condition" must not be placed into — or remain in — a nursing facility/home unless they meet criteria for nursing facility/home care or criteria for Transfer Trauma or the 30 Month Rule.
- Required nursing facilities must meet specific standards to qualify for Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement.
- The Medicaid Rules regarding long-term care facilities and the implementation of the OBRA requirements were finalized in December 1992.

Friendly reminder that if you have a person served go into any of the following skilled nursing facilities/homes (SNFs), please give someone in the OBRA team a call or Sentri message letting us know so we can follow up accordingly:

- |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| 1. Adira                 | 7. Medilodge of Frankenmuth                |
| 2. Avista                | 8. Saginaw Senior Care                     |
| 3. Chesaning             | 9. Optalis Healthcare aka St. Francis Home |
| 4. Great Lakes Rehab     | 10. Wellspring Lutheran Center             |
| 5. Health Source Saginaw | 11. Wellspring Transitional Care Community |
| 6. Hoyt                  |  |

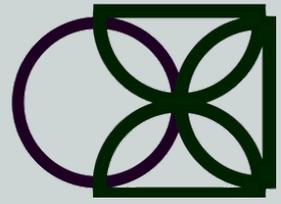
If you have any questions or want to know more about OBRA and our process, feel free to email or call us.

Amanda Pennell-OBRA Coordinator • (989) 797-3419

Jordan Schantz-Clinical Social Worker Assessor • (989) 272-7209

Michelle Vance-Supervisor • (989) 272-7207

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## **EHS: Occupational Therapy (OT), Physical Therapy (PT), and Dietary/Nutritional (RD) Services**

EHS addresses health conditions related to the person's mental health or intellectual disability and are composed of collaborative and integrative programs striving to promote both improved mental and physical health. This will result in overall functional improvement that is significant to the individual's ability to perform daily living tasks appropriate to their chronological, developmental, or functional status.

Services may include direct treatment, staff monitoring, family and caregiver training/education, and monitoring of established home programs, recommendations for specialized equipment and supplies, assistive technology, and enhancing community integration.

Goals and outcomes established with the EHS staff will be integrated into the Individual's Plan of Service (IPOS) by the case holder. While these services are available for persons served over an array of populations – i.e., children, adults, and the aged – SCCMHA is the payor of last resort. Therefore, persons served must exhaust their medical benefit for these services prior to beginning the referral process.

If you have any questions or want to know more about EHS and our process, feel free to email or call us.

Michelle Vance  
Supervisor  
(989) 272-7207

Felicia McRae  
Occupational Therapist  
(989) 797-3449

Suzanne Perkins  
Physical Therapist  
(989) 272-0218

Patricia Ruth  
Registered Dietitian  
(989) 272-7220

## **Happy Retirement to Occupational Therapist Janet Giem, who has been with SCCMHA for 36 years.**

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## **Keeping Your Home and Family Safe During the Holidays**

*Written by Security Coordinator Kyle Lipp*

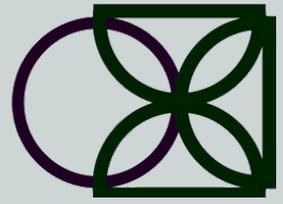


During the hustle and bustle of the holiday season, home safety can often take a backseat. However, it's essential to prioritize safety to ensure you and your family can enjoy the holidays without worry. Here are some simple safety steps to protect your home and loved ones during this busy time:

### 1. Preventing Holiday Fires

- Inspect holiday lights for damaged wires or broken sockets before using them. Avoid overloading electrical outlets and turn off all decorations when leaving home or sleeping.

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- Keep your live Christmas trees well-watered to avoid drying out. Keep them away from heat sources and make sure to throw them out promptly after the holidays
  - When using candles, make sure they are not left unattended or near flammable objects. Use candle holders that won't tip over and make sure to extinguish candles before leaving or going to bed.
2. Cooking Safety
- Stay in the kitchen while food is cooking. Always keep flammable objects away from the heat sources.
  - Never pour water on a grease fire. Use a pan lid to smother the fire or have a fire extinguisher specifically designed for grease fires.
3. Travel Precautions
- Avoid posting travel plans on social media until you return home. This will not allow people to know that you are not home.
  - Ask a trusted neighbor or friend to check on the home regularly, gather mail, and take out trash. If nobody is available, stop mail and newspaper delivery until you return. This will avoid it stocking up while you're not home.
  - Double-check to make sure all doors and windows are locked before you leave.

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## **SVRC receives three-year CARF accreditation**

In October, SVRC Industries was issued their three-year accreditation through the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF).

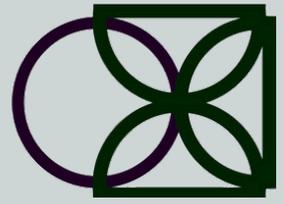
This certifies SVRC as an agency that delivers the highest level of safe and effective services, performance improvement and quality care for persons served.

The accreditation applies to programs offered through SVRC, such as:

- Community Integration
- Assessment and Referral: Mental Health (Adults)
- Assessment and Referral: Mental Health (Children and Adolescents)
- Case Management/Services Coordination: Mental Health (Children and Adolescents)
- Outpatient Treatment: Mental Health (Adults)
- Outpatient Treatment: Mental Health (Children and Adolescents)

Receiving the accreditation demonstrates that service providers like SVRC continue to provide quality services and meet internationally recognized organizational and program standards.

The accreditation for SVRC will extend through October 31, 2028.



## SCCMHA Art Contest accepting submissions in January 2026

Calling all artists!!

The Community Mental Health Association of Michigan's (CMHA) "Creative Minds Changing Minds" Traveling Art Show is coming soon and SCCMHA is seeking artwork created by persons served to display in our Hancock lobby to display for all to see!

Submissions will be accepted at 500 Hancock from Monday, Jan. 5 – Friday, Jan. 30 and all artwork will be displayed to be voted on by those who visit our building throughout the month of February.

The winning piece will receive \$100 from CMHA and have their work submitted for their traveling art show, beginning at the CMHA Summer Conference in Traverse City. The art show will then travel to various other CMHs around the State of Michigan from June 2026 – September 2027.

If you are/know a person served (must receive services through SCCMHA) who would like to enter the contest, we encourage you to begin working on your submissions as soon as possible to submit your piece in January!

Please see the flyer on page 16 for rules and guidelines about the contest.

All submissions will need the following forms filled out to be entered:

- Submission form
- Artist biography

Those forms are available by contact Andrew Ferguson at [andrew.fergerson@sccmha.org](mailto:andrew.fergerson@sccmha.org).

To learn more about the contest, go to Art Show – CMHAM – Community Mental Health Association of Michigan.



*2024 Winner*



SAGINAW COUNTY  
COMMUNITY MENTAL  
HEALTH AUTHORITY

# MAKE AN IMPACT!



## WE ARE SEEKING APPLICATIONS FOR NEW CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC) MEMBERS!

Interested individuals should download the application at:  
[www.sccmha.org/about/citizens-advisory-committee.html](http://www.sccmha.org/about/citizens-advisory-committee.html)

Meetings held 1st Thursday of most months at 6:00PM  
SCCMHA, 500 Hancock St, Saginaw, MI 48602

**\$30.00 Meeting Stipend**

TO RETURN FORM OR FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Ryan Mulder, Executive Assistant to CEO

PHONE 989.797.3501 EMAIL [ryan.mulder@sccmha.org](mailto:ryan.mulder@sccmha.org)

FAX 989.799.0206

[www.sccmha.org](http://www.sccmha.org)

*Form on next page...*





# NON-EMERGENCY MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION

If you have Medicaid insurance and are enrolled in one of the Medicaid Health Plans below, and need a ride to your SCCMHA appointment or to your physical health care doctor's appointment you can schedule a taxi ride at no cost.

## How to Schedule a Ride:

- 1 Contact your Medicaid Health Plan
- 2 Have your Medicaid and appointment info ready
- 3 Schedule at least 24-48 hours in advance



Visit Our Website:



More Details Here!

SAGINAW COUNTY COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH AUTHORITY



Available 24 hours a day,  
7 days a week  
(989) 272-0275



SAGINAW COUNTY  
COMMUNITY MENTAL  
HEALTH AUTHORITY

**MRSS is a team of mental health professionals trained to assist you through a mental health crisis. We can provide phone or virtual support, or a team of two can respond in-person to wherever you are within Saginaw County.**

**If you are feeling anxious, stressed or depressed and need someone to talk to, help is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.**



For more  
information



500 Hancock St.  
Saginaw, MI 48602  
[www.sccmha.org](http://www.sccmha.org)

24-Hour Mental Health  
Emergency Services  
(989) 792-9732  
Toll Free: 1-800-233-0022

# Calling All Artists!

SCCMHA is seeking art pieces to submit for the CMHAM Traveling Art Show for 2026!

We are looking for paintings, drawings, photos or other framable artwork to be displayed in the Hancock lobby.

Submissions will be accepted at SCCMHA's Hancock building from

**Monday, Jan. 5 - Friday, Jan. 30**

The pieces will be voted on in February to determine a winner.

The artwork that receives the most votes will be purchased by Community Mental Health Authority of Michigan (CMHAM) for \$100!



2024 SCCMHA Winner



SAGINAW COUNTY  
COMMUNITY MENTAL  
HEALTH AUTHORITY

## Rules:

- Must be family-friendly
- Limit two submissions per person served
- Must be a Saginaw County resident
- Must be an active recipient of SCCMHA services
- All artwork should be submitted with artist's name and address.

For any questions, please contact

**Andrew Ferguson**

(989) 498-4200

[andrew.fergerson@sccmha.org](mailto:andrew.fergerson@sccmha.org)

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SCCMHA requires a consent form to be signed to display artwork

\*Please inform if unsold artwork should be donated to First Choice of Saginaw or returned

# Learning Links

Tuesday, January 27 - 10 a.m. & 11 a.m.  
Andersen Enrichment Center  
120 Ezra Rust Dr., Saginaw, Michigan 48601



## Healthy Eating Habits with SCCMHA Dietitian Patricia Ruth

Join us as Patricia talks about healthy food options and how to eat better on a tight budget!

For questions, contact Lauri Brown at (989) 272-7701.

SCCMHA Staff can use Better Together hours to attend.

\*By entering a Learning Links event, you consent to being photographed, granting SCCMHA the right to use your image in any media for any purpose in perpetuity\*

# Learning Links

Tuesday, February 24 - 10 a.m. & 11 a.m.  
Andersen Enrichment Center  
120 Ezra Rust Dr., Saginaw, Michigan 48601



## Supported Employment with SCCMHA Rocky Archangeli

Join us as Rocky talks through steps to help people prepare for a job hunt, write a resume and succeed in the workforce.

For questions, contact Lauri Brown at (989) 272-7701.

SCCMHA Staff can use Better Together hours to attend.

\*By entering a Learning Links event, you consent to being photographed, granting SCCMHA the right to use your image in any media for any purpose in perpetuity\*



SAGINAW COUNTY  
COMMUNITY MENTAL  
HEALTH AUTHORITY

# Learning Links

Tuesday, March 24 – 10 a.m. & 11 a.m.

Andersen Enrichment Center

120 Ezra Rust Dr., Saginaw, Michigan 48601



## Bayside Clubhouse and Friends for Recovery

Learn about these two fantastic organizations, how they have helped people in Saginaw County and the impact agencies like them have in the community.

For questions, contact Lauri Brown at (989) 272-7701.

SCCMHA Staff can use Better Together hours to attend.

\*By entering a Learning Links event, you consent to being photographed, granting SCCMHA the right to use your image in any media for any purpose in perpetuity\*



SAGINAW COUNTY  
COMMUNITY MENTAL  
HEALTH AUTHORITY