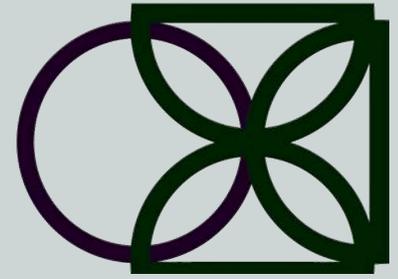


SCCMHA PROVIDER NEWS

September 2025



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Message from CEO Sandra Lindsey

Greetings SCCMHA and Members of the Contracted Provider Network:

As of this article, it looks like the Michigan Legislature has arrived at a 2026 State Budget that Gov. Whitmer will sign and the feared Michigan government shutdown will be avoided, which is really good news.

The looming federal government shutdown is another matter entirely.

As we are only a day away from the end of the fiscal year (as of this publication), I want to thank you all for your service to SCCMHA and those we serve this past year. Whether you are delivering services directly or supporting those that do behind the scenes, your work matters.

These are uncertain times to say the least. The finalization of the State Budget is always an important time, but the delays in arriving at a final budget, only days before the September 30 deadline, have been unsettling.

PIHPs and CMHSPs need to have balanced budgets in place by the end of September, and the system still does not have Medicaid rates for FY 2026, so our actual starting revenue for this next year is uncertain. The entire public mental health system is making revenue estimates with nothing concrete from MDHHS.

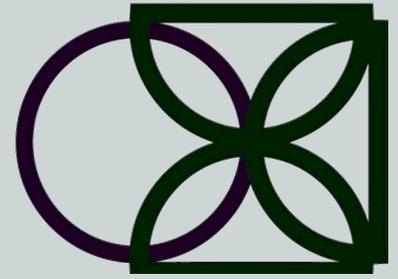
In order to prepare the 2026 SCCMHA Budget by September 30, 2025 we have only incorporated 2025 revenue into our "Preliminary Budget."

We will be holding our Public Hearing on the Preliminary 2026 Budget including the best assumptions on revenue and expense the evening of October 2, 2025 at our Hancock Building.

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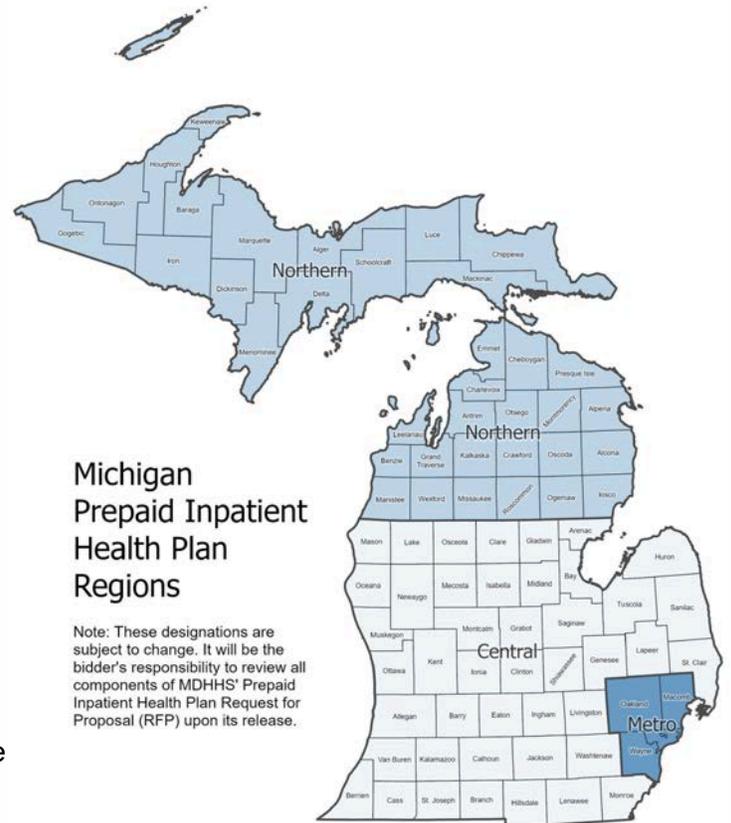


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Honestly, though the biggest uncertainty is the plan MDHHS has for major changes to the Public Mental Health System in our state.

You may have heard that on August 5, through a public Press Release that directed readers to the MDHHS website, the State announced a Request for Proposals (RFP) and related procurement process that would replace the current 10 Prepaid Inpatient Health Plans (PIHPs) with new private companies that would hold the Medicaid Specialty Contract for the public mental health system and reduce the number of PIHPs organized across the state from 10 to 3 regions.

The new Region 1 represents counties in Northern Michigan and the Upper Peninsula, Region 2 represents Wayne, Oakland and Macomb Counties and Region 3, represents the balance of the state geography across 44 counties that will consolidate five current PIHPs and 34 CMHSPs including SCCMHA.



Originally the RFP Submissions were due on September 29. However, due to the voluminous questions from potential bidders and the obligation for MDHHS to provide answers, the deadline for submission has been delayed to October 13, 2025.

The governance structure described in the RFP excludes current PIHPs from applying. Instead, bidders must be a private non-profit organization. Winning bidders must be prepared for a contract start date of October 1, 2026.

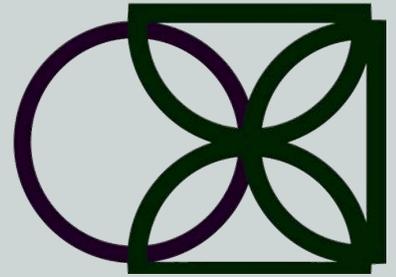
The RFP maintains the Medicaid Specialty Benefit carve-out separate from the Medicaid Managed Care Physical Healthcare Benefit, but that is just about all that remains the same.

Obviously, there are overwhelming concerns from the 46 CMHSPs and the 10 PIHPs about this MDHHS plan.

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There have historically been transformational changes to the public mental health system in the past 25+ years. The most recent was in 2014 when 18 regional PIHPs worked together through their CMHSP partners to consolidate to the 10 current PIHP Regions. At this same time, change also included the transfer of responsibilities for the management of Substance Use Disorder (SUD) treatment and prevention activities. This change involved moving management of these services from SUD Coordinating Agencies to the new 10 PIHP Regions, with revenue support coming from Medicaid, Federal SUD Block Grants and PA-2 fund sources.

The recent actions by MDHHS for the procurement of new PIHPs into three new extremely large regions, is fundamentally different than how transformative, collaborative and voluntary change has ever occurred in the public mental health system in state history. I should add too that the Michigan legislature was not consulted or involved in the procurement decision.

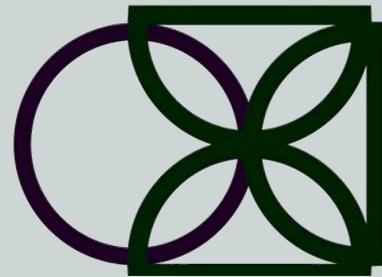
Serious Concerns for Changes to the Public Community Mental Health System include:

- RFP allows/encourages private health plans/insurance companies with not-for-profit subsidiaries including out-of-state firms to establish bidder status.
- Future PIHPS may not delegate managed care functions to contracted providers of CMHSPs.
- Dramatically reduces access by removing \$500 million for the system due to higher overhead by health plans than the current PIHPs.
- Eliminates local county governance and oversight.
- Removes the local voices of those served and their families.
- Weakens accountability and transparency surrounding financial management and managed care decision making.
- Questions about the future authority for the Local Appeal Process.
- Questions about the authority of the Local Office of Recipient Rights Authority and remediation of substantiated complaints.
- Eliminates the public behavioral health safety net for local communities.
- Fails to address root causes of services access issues.
- Fails to address the local community partners that will also be impacted including hospital emergency rooms, local courts, local law enforcement, local jails and other local service agencies.
- Community Mental Health Service Programs like the Saginaw Co. Community Mental Health Authority (SCCMHA) will still have a role but only as a provider.
- Most importantly, this Procurement Process is not what the people of Michigan want.

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All of the 46 CMHSPs and 10 PIHPs have come out in opposition to the Procurement Plan.

Most all of the state advocacy agencies that represent the historic sub populations served by the existing PIHP/CMHSP System Boards have come out publicly in opposition to the MDHHS Procurement Plan and all that it implies in terms of the impact upon those served and the local communities where service delivery occurs.

The Michigan Association of Counties is in opposition, as are most of the 83-member county commissions, including the Saginaw County Board of Commissioners.

Most importantly, those served by current PIHP/CMHSP systems and their families do not want the changes represented in the PIHP Procurement.

Litigation Steps in Process to Challenge the MDHHS RFP and Procurement Process

These serious concerns about changes to the public mental health system represented in the MDHHS Procurement Plan cannot go unchallenged. In response, 3 PIHPs and 3 CMHSPs have collectively filed litigation against MDHHS to halt the PIHP Procurement Plan.

On August 27, 2025, litigation against MDHHS was filed on behalf of the following plaintiffs in the State of Michigan Court of Claims.

PIHPs Plaintiffs

- MidState Health Network/PIHP Region 5
- Southwest MI Behavioral Health/ PIHP Region 4.
- Region 10 PIHP

CMHSP Plaintiffs

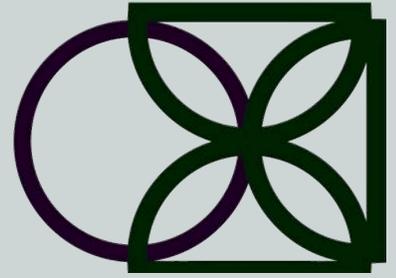
- Saginaw County Community Mental Health Authority
- Integrated Services of Kalamazoo
- St. Clair County Community Mental Health Authority

A hearing in the State of Michigan Court of Claims in Grand Rapids, has been scheduled for October 9, 2025, in front of the Honorable Christopher Yates.

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The court will take up two motions, one from the plaintiffs and one from MDHHS the defendant, as follows:

1. The August 29, 2025 motion from PIHP/CMHSPs for preliminary injunction, to halt the MDHHS Procurement Plan.
2. The September 8, 2025 motion for summary disposition for the defendants (MDHHS), to move forward with the Procurement Plan.

There are so many things wrong with the Procurement Plan, and when stakeholder concerns are ignored, action had to be taken and the litigation from the plaintiffs from the public mental health system as described was inevitable. This is likely not the only group of plaintiffs filing litigation against MDHHS in this matter. We are just the first.

With federal cuts to the State of Michigan's Medicaid Program on the horizon, this is not the time for the full assault on the public mental health system represented by the MDHHS PIHP Procurement Plan.

MDHHS has stated publicly that the PIHP Procurement will not harm the CMHSP System and those we serve, but nothing could be further from the truth.

Meanwhile dialogue with Michigan legislators about the impact of the RFP on the local CMHSP System, persons served, their families, and local community partners continues.

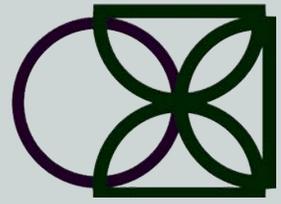
Because you all work in the public mental health system as employees, consultants, providers and vendors of all sorts, I believe you have a right to know what changes are represented in the MDHHS PIHP Procurement. I will work to keep you informed of developments.

Regards,

Sandra M. Lindsey, CEO

SUICIDE PREVENTION LIFELINE CALL OR TEXT: 988

SCCMHA PROVIDER NEWS



SCCMHA releases 2024-25 Annual Progress Report

Saginaw County Community Mental Health Authority recently completed their 2024-25 Annual Progress Report. This report highlights the accomplishments of SCCMHA over the last year, growth in the agency, new developments and goals for the next year.



The progress report also discusses the recognition of SCCMHA as a Certified Community Behavioral Health Center (CCBHC) and the steps taken to earn the recertification.

To learn more about how SCCMHA has grown over the last year, follow the link to read the 2024-25 Annual Progress Report.

<https://www.sccmha.org/news-and-information/annual-progress-report.html>

National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month t-shirt sales helps to raise funds for First Choice

This September, First Choice and SCCMHA partnered to provide National Suicide Prevention Month t-shirts for sale to SCCMHA staff. On Wednesday, Sept. 10, staff were encouraged to wear the shirts for World Suicide Prevention Day.



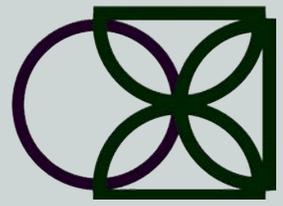
September is recognized as National Suicide Prevention Month, observed to remember those lost to suicide, the millions of people who have been affected and the families and friends impacted.

Sales raised over \$1100 which went to benefit First Choice and their efforts to assist persons served by SCCMHA.

SCCMHA staff members wore their shirts on Wednesday, Sept. 10 in support of those affected by suicide. For every person who dies by suicide annually, there are another 316 people who thought about it and nearly 60 who survive a suicide attempt.

Reaching out to someone can make all the difference and may save a life.

If you or someone you love is struggling with mental health or suicidal thoughts, call 988 or SCCMHA's 24-hour Crisis Hotline at (989) 792-9732 or (800) 233-0022.



SCCMHA attends Walk A Mile In My Shoes Rally in Lansing

Persons served and volunteers from Saginaw County Community Mental Health Authority (SCCMHA) attended the 2025 Walk-A-Mile in My Shoes Rally hosted by the Community Mental Health Association (CMHA) of Michigan on Wednesday, Sept. 17, 2025.

Over 50 persons served by SCCMHA, as well as staff and other volunteers traveled to the State Capitol in Lansing to raise awareness for community behavioral health services, encouraging lawmakers to learn and do more for Michigan residents living with an intellectual or developmental disability, mental health challenges or substance use disorders.

The rally is attended by representatives from all over the state of Michigan who make statements on how their County Community Mental Health (CMH) service providers help them, as well as an advocacy walk around the Capitol building.

"In times like this, it's important to make our voices heard by legislation that mental healthcare is vital to all who live in the State of Michigan," said Public Relations Specialist Andrew Ferguson. "SCCMHA is

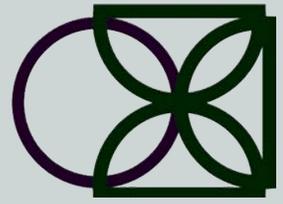


committed to fighting to ensure our persons served have all the resources they need to live their lives to the fullest."



CMHA's Walk-A-Mile in My Shoes will take place again next year, with the date yet to be determined.





SCCMHA concludes Community Needs Assessment survey in August

SCCMHA recently concluded their Community Needs Assessment survey to gain a better understanding of behavioral health needs in the Saginaw County community, reaching out to the general public, community partners and SCCMHA staff throughout the month of August.

The survey was conducted as a part of SCCMHA's state and federal certification as a Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC).

The Community Needs Assessment survey sought insight into the most pressing behavioral health disorders, knowledge about awareness and navigation to care access and treatment, what barriers are being experienced as well as potential improvements in service access, delivery and partnerships.

Three different surveys were distributed into the community, one for specific groups seeking specific information:

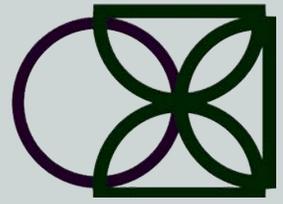
- Saginaw County Community/Lived Experience: 117 responses
- SCCMHA Partner Agencies: 46 responses
- SCCMHA Staff: 87 responses

To reach the public and community partners, SCCMHA provided ads and press releases to publications around Saginaw County, such as the Saginaw County Chamber of Commerce newsletter, The Michigan Banner, Tri-County Citizen and Word Up Magazine. We'd like to thank these publications for their assistance in getting the word out about this survey.

We'd also like to thank those who participated in the survey to assist SCCMHA in learning more about where the needs are in our community that we will be able to further address going forward with our work in Saginaw County.

Survey results will be posted to the SCCMHA website to guide our strategic planning and for submission to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services by the end of the fiscal year.





SCCMHA Training Updates

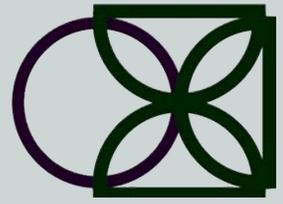
Written by Continuing Education Supervisor Alecia Schabel

CEU Reminders:

- As of 6/27/25: SCCMHA is no longer requiring DEI training
- Direct care providers who need to complete Basic Medications:
 - Basic Health is, again, required to be completed before staff can enroll in Basic Medications
- Suicide Intervention Training for Clinicians: *Autism Behavior Specialists, Case Managers/Client Service Managers/Case Holders, Supports Coordinators, MH Therapists/Tele-therapists, ACT (non-peers), OBRA Coordinator, Behavior Intervention Coordinators, EC Court Coordinator, Crisis Staff, CAI staff, MRSS staff, Psychologists, SUD Treatment staff*
 - Step 1 Completion of all 3 trainings: PHQ-9 Screener / C-SSRS Assessment / Lethal Means Trainings
 - Step 2 Clinical Intervention Training = AMSR is required of all clinicians. Those who have completed ASIST will be required to complete AMSR for the 'managing suicide' portion of the Zero Suicide training requirement. *For staff who have already completed prior ASIST step 2 requirement: AMSR training be used to meet Step 3 if renewal is needed. You have 1 year from the completion of ASIST to complete AMSR training.*
 - Step 3 Renewal Training = 1 hour annually EBP/Zero Suicide Approved Clinical Level Suicide Education.
- ANSA-DD Training
 - Training is mandatory for beginning, intermediate and advanced level social workers, Case Managers, Support Coordinators and Therapists serving adults in the *Supports Coordination Services* program. The training will provide clinicians with the information necessary to use the existing adult outcome tool Adult Needs and Strengths Assessment (ANSA) with specific focus on the Intellectual/Developmental Disability domain.



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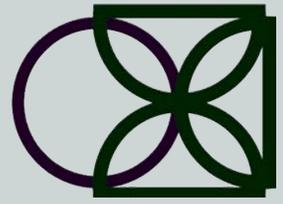


SCCMHA Training Updates (continued)

Written by Continuing Education Supervisor Alecia Schabel

- Assessing and Responding to Acute Behaviors of Concern
 - Required of all Crisis and MRSS staff. One time training requirement.
- Motivational Interviewing Step 3: Competency (Video Observation)
 - No longer required
- New Absorb Learning Management System (LMS)
 - SCCMHA officially transitioned to the Absorb LMS 7/9/25. All SCCMHA training will be placed in the LMS for completion.
 - CEU offers both New Learner Navigation sessions, as well as Manager/Admin Navigation sessions. These sessions are available in-person or virtual. Directions on how to find and enroll in LMS Navigation sessions can be found at this link: [New Learner Navigation Session Enrollment Instructions](#)
 - Be sure you are logging into the correct link: internal for CMH Board-Operated Staff or external for contracted providers.
 - CEU is in the process of transferring all training completed prior to 5/21/25 to the new LMS, we appreciate your patience during this transition.
 - An Admin or Manager must request to add all new contracted staff to the LMS via this link: [Absorb LMS - External Provider Add/remove Staff](#)
 - There are many How To tutorials available within the Resources Tile of the LMS.
 - CEU has an information tab on the SCCMHA Website: [Continuing Education & Training | SCCMHA](#)
 - Any Instructor-Led Course (ILC) – you MUST select a SESSION date & time in order to be enrolled in a course. If you do not see a session date and time within your enrollment, you are not enrolled in a course.
 - If you are not able to add a session = there are no dates currently scheduled, please check back
 - Board Operated Providers with dual roles in the network: if you are already established with an LMS record under a contracted provider you will continue to use that LMS record. CEU will be notified to update the required training curriculum for the secondary role.





Auditing Department Update: Credentialing and Training

Written by Provider Network Auditing Supervisor Melynda Schaefer

Credentialing Reminder: Vendor Vetting & Sanction Checks

It is the responsibility of each CMHSP to thoroughly vet any third-party vendors used for background checks and sanctions reviews. Recently, the Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA) division clarified that the Michigan Workforce Background Check (RapBack) program only provides ongoing monitoring for criminal history.



As a result of this clarification, any provider utilizing the RapBack program must also conduct independent monthly sanction checks to remain compliant with SCCMHA standards. These checks must be:

- Completed independently of the RapBack system.
- Documented with the exact date the sanction check was performed.

Please ensure that all administrators responsible for background and sanction checks are informed of this requirement and have procedures in place to meet it.

Training Reports: Transition to LMS Absorb

With the implementation of the new LMS Absorb system, the Auditing Department will no longer run training reports for providers prior to their annual review. It is now expected that providers will access and monitor their own training reports directly through the LMS Absorb platform.

This change supports greater transparency and provider accountability in maintaining training compliance.

If you have any questions or need assistance with these updates, please reach out to the Auditing Department.

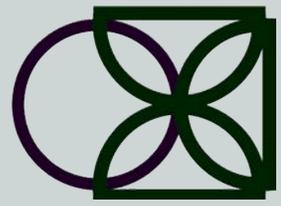
Melynda Schaefer

Provider Network Auditing Supervisor

Tel: 989/797-3491 | Fax: 989/498-4219

Email: Melynda.Schaefer@sccmha.org

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



See something? Say something! Keep your community safe!

Written by Security Coordinator Kyle Lipp

September 25th is recognized as National See Something Say Something Day, a campaign spearheaded by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. This day is dedicated to raising awareness about identifying and reporting potential threats of violence. The initiative encourages individuals to stay alert and inform the appropriate authorities if they notice any suspicious activities.



The aim is to strengthen community safety by promoting vigilance and proactive reporting, helping to prevent incidents of violence and terrorism.

Make sure you are aware of the signs of suspicious activity.

- Expressed or Implied Threat – Communicating a spoken or written threat to commit a crime that could harm or kill people or damage a building or secure site.
- Observation/Surveillance of a Site – A prolonged or unusual interest in specific buildings beyond casual or professional interest. This could be somebody parking at the building without entering for extended periods or days.
- Photography – Taking pictures or videos of persons, facilities, or infrastructure covertly. This can include entrances not normally used, security equipment, or personnel as they are coming and going.
- Theft/Loss/Diversion – Stealing items that belong to the facility. Items can include uniforms, badges, and equipment. This allows them to blend in and penetrate a facility to cause damage.
- Breach Attempt – A non-authorized person trying to get into restricted areas. This also can be used to test the facility's security.
- Eliciting Information – Asking questions about a facility more than what the average person would need to know to be there. This is done so they can gain information on the most vulnerable times/places to attack.

If you notice any signs of suspicious behavior or potential threats, it's essential to report them immediately. At work, inform your supervisor about any concerns or unusual activities right away. If you observe these signs outside of the workplace, contact the local authorities to address the situation. In cases of immediate danger or emergencies, call 9-1-1 without hesitation. Remember, maintaining safety and security is a collective responsibility that involves everyone, not just a specific department. It's important that all individuals are vigilant and proactive in ensuring a safe environment.



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

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

FAX 989.799.0206

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

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



SAGINAW COUNTY
COMMUNITY MENTAL
HEALTH AUTHORITY

Learning Links

Tuesday, October 28– 10 a.m. & 11 a.m.
Andersen Enrichment Center
120 Ezra Rust Dr., Saginaw, Michigan 48601



Ceramic Art with Painterly Pottery

Paint some ceramic works of art with Faith Nesbitt and Jeff Ward of Painterly Pottery and create your own masterpiece!

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, November 25 – 10 a.m. & 11 a.m.
Andersen Enrichment Center
120 Ezra Rust Dr., Saginaw, Michigan 48601



Public Transportation with STARS

Learn about the public transportation system in Saginaw
from STARS Director of External Affairs Jamie Forbes

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, December 16 – 10 a.m. & 11 a.m.
Andersen Enrichment Center
120 Ezra Rust Dr., Saginaw, Michigan 48601



Painting Holiday Ornaments with Lauri Brown

Explore your artistic and creative side and ring in the holidays with Lauri Brown as you paint your own ornaments for the season!

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