



**Board of Director's Report  
Willie E. Brooks, Jr.  
January 2021**

**Jail Diversion**

**Jail Diversion Projects**

Updates on the two (2) Jail Diversion projects that I represent.

**Committee 1: Governor's Mental Health Diversion Council**

I received notification of reappointment to the Governor's Mental Health Diversion Council for a second four (4) year term effective February 1, 2020.

Action Plan for Upcoming Year

- Strengthen and expand preemptive diversion by fostering community support services.
- Strengthen and expand law enforcement diversion for individuals with mental illness and co-occurring conditions upon initial encounter.
- Develop strategies to deliver treatment and divert individuals prior to first court appearance.
- Develop strategies to deliver treatment and divert individuals after first court appearance up to and including disposition.
- Improve re-entry outcomes, by enhancing pre-release planning, individualized connections and follow up supports between institutions and community services.
- Promote and implement a continuum of care that enables the individual to maintain long-term community stability to reduce recidivism.
- Oversight and implementation of statewide pilot initiatives and administering best practices through data collected.
- Identify statutory, policy and fiscal barriers to achieving diversion goals.
- Identify specific best practices at each intercept point to create a statewide master model.
- Follow up statewide knowledge sharing conference to share Diversion Council findings and promote technical assistance from the Center for Behavioral Health and Justice.

The Diversion Committee is focused on partnerships with Mental Health Agencies and Law Enforcement Agencies. DWIHN communicated the Detroit Police Department partnership to the council for future plans of expansion throughout the Wayne County area and the state.

The following communication was published in support of partnerships:



For Immediate Release

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## *Michigan’s Mental Health System, Law Enforcement Agencies, Call on Policymakers to Invest in Existing Mental Health and Public Safety Partnerships*

**LANSING, Mich. – November 5, 2020** – Amid continued conversations on racial justice and meaningful support for minority communities, Michigan’s law enforcement and mental health organizations are calling on policymakers to invest in existing, proven state public health and safety programs. In a [joint statement](#) issued today to all of Michigan’s elected officials and policy makers, the organizations highlighted best-practices and longstanding partnerships that merit more attention and more funding.

The letter is signed by the Michigan Sheriffs’ Association, the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police, the Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards, the Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan and the Community Mental Health Association of Michigan. It outlines the vital and productive partnerships between mental health professionals and law enforcement—partnerships that have existed for years but without truly sufficient policy engagement and funding from lawmakers and other leaders.

The mission of law enforcement officers is to preserve peace, address criminal activity and protect the constitutional rights of all citizens while ensuring safe communities. However, law enforcement has been called to address several growing mental health challenges—homelessness, engaging and assessing persons with mental health challenges, resolving domestic disputes, and assisting persons with substance use disorders—that go far beyond law enforcement capacity and training.

“Today’s extensive range of community needs burdens law enforcement with an ever-growing and unfair list of expectations. These expectations far exceed their core responsibilities,” said Robert Sheehan, CEO of the CMHA. “By recognizing and fully funding the partnerships of local mental health and law enforcement professionals in communities across the state, Michigan has the ability to lead the nation in addressing these fundamental issues. We have an opportunity to build on critical partnerships and programs whose promise has been repeatedly undercut by underfunding. It’s time for leaders to take a closer look at what is working and invest in proven approaches to public safety and mental health services.”

Existing initiatives between mental health professionals, law enforcement professionals, prosecuting attorneys and community mental health systems throughout Michigan include:

- More than 50 mobile mental health crisis teams with skilled clinicians, or persons with lived mental health experiences, working in tandem with law enforcement agencies
- Co-responder initiatives—skilled clinicians from the community mental health system participating in local road patrols for immediate and community crises response
- Advanced training for law enforcement and medical personnel on how to recognize and interact with persons facing mental health challenges (tactics covering verbal de-escalation, crisis intervention training for adults and youth, responding to mental health emergencies)—endorsed by the Michigan Mental Health Diversion Council
- Mental health and substance use disorder courts, sobriety courts, in-jail mental health and reentry programs

These initiatives use nationally recognized evidence-based practices and aim to build effective community partnerships while encouraging public safety, mental health support and crisis prevention. The intersection of law enforcement and mental health is now at the forefront of public discussion. To read the joint letter, please visit [CMHAM.org](http://CMHAM.org).

## **Committee 2: Wayne County Diversion Council (WCDC)**

Chief Wayne County Probate Court Judge Freddie G. Burton, Jr. heads this program. The Wayne County Diversion Council (WCDC) is dedicated to diverting non-violent people with Mental Illness and Co-occurring Mental Illness and Substance Abuse (CMISA) from the criminal legal system and into the appropriate level of treatment.

### **Members:**

Hon. Nancy Blount (Chief Judge, 36th District Court), Laura McLaughlin (Special Projects 36thDC), Hon. Freddie G Burton, Jr. (Chief Wayne County Probate Court Judge), Hon. Timothy Kenny (Chief Judge, 3rd Circuit Court), Andrea Cole (CEO Flinn Foundation), Dean Sheryl Kubiak (Center for Behavioral Health and Justice at WSU ) Scott Smith (Center for Behavioral Health and Justice at WSU), Nanci Hambrick (Center for Behavioral Health and Justice at WSU), Stacey Campbell (Center for Behavioral Health and Justice at WSU), Sojourner Jones (Community/Law Enforcement, DWIHN), Julie Black (Clinical Manager, DWIHN) Andrea Smith (Director of Program Services, DWIHN), Reid Wilson (Executive Manager, Detroit Police Department), Amanda Rzotkiewicz (Analyst, Detroit Police Department), Gary Bresnehan (Wayne County Prosecutor's Office) Alisha Bell (Chair, Wayne County Commission) Dr. Debra Pinals (Medical Director, MDHHS) Willie Brooks (CEO DWIHN).

The WCDC discussed extending video conference court hearings indefinitely.

WCDC is looking at methods of alternative settings for individuals with mental illness.

Wayne County currently has 842 inmates, down from +1400 pre-COVID-19.

DPD currently has plans to train 20% of police responders in Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) by the end of 2021. DWIHN funds four (4) training sessions per year.

The group discussed the new jail being built with a capacity for over 2000 beds and whether there was any conversation at the county about re-appropriating the beds.

Wayne County is in the process of filling former Sheriff Napoleon's position.

## **Telehealth Workgroup**

The committee is made up of individuals through the state and is Co-Chaired by myself and Jametta Lily, CEO of Detroit Partner Network.

The purpose of the committee is to evaluate the need for Telehealth within the state and access methods to connect the state.

Some concerns discussed:

1. Lack of infrastructure

- a. 30% of Children within Detroit have no internet
- b. Lack of computer infrastructure
- c. Elderly acceptance and usage of Telehealth
2. Poverty level among minorities
3. Educational shortfalls and need for virtual learning options
4. Support Systems
5. Fraud concerns with providing Telehealth infrastructure
  - a. Assuring equipment and assistance goes to the correct hands
  - b. Assuring equipment is used properly
6. Changing the Culture
  - a. Slow but steady acceptance of Telehealth
  - b. Realistic expectations
7. Segregation creates segregation

#### Facts

1. COVID-19 forced businesses to utilize technology that has already been existence
2. Concerns of work integrity
  - a. Monitoring productivity
  - b. Assuring integrity of services and work
  - c. Credentialing
  - d. Monitoring
3. Exposure
  - a. COVID-19 exposed issues that were already in existence
    - i. Disparity in Economics
    - ii. Disparity in Education
    - iii. Disparity in Health Care
    - iv. Selected ignorance of disparity issues

#### Updates

The committee recently met with DWIHN staff and several DWIHN providers to go over the items that were working with telehealth and items that were not working. This effort was performed to provide recommendations to the state on future telehealth changes.

#### **DWIHN and City of Detroit (COD) Partnership**

The purpose of this workgroup is to improve police and community relationships, along with addressing improved relationships with the people we serve under mental health and substance use with the Detroit Police Department.

#### DWIHN and COD Partnership Goals:

- Pilot a 911 mental health crisis call diversion and response
- Increase police officer access to mental health supports
- Develop adequate places to house individuals in need of crisis services
- Evaluate and expand Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training of police officers

- DWIHN is proposing the approval of funding to assist in this effort. This effort should reduce overall incarceration cost and provide better treatments to the people we serve.

The DWIHN and DPD project was successfully implemented and communicated to the public. DWIHN is currently monitoring the progress and success of this project.

### **Health Plan Integration / MDHHS Behavioral Health Restructure (SIP)**

DWIHN has finalized agreements with two Health Plans. Currently working with clinicians, on the program design and implementation for next fiscal year.

#### **Specialty Integrated Plan (SIP) Model**

MDHHS initially announced a proposal, Specialty Integrated Plan (SIP) to promote integration of care within Behavioral Health and Health Care. This proposal was later cancelled as a result of limited success and detailed involvement with other items such as COVID-19 response and other MDHHS projects.

#### **DWIHN Updates:**

- MDHHS announced that legislature members, led by Representative Mary Whiteford are requesting an evaluation of the Behavioral Health System for potential restructuring and renewed integration efforts of Behavioral Health and Physical Health.
- New initiatives of integration are being considered by the PIHP's.
- DWIHN is working with MDHHS to come up with alternative options.

### **2021 Funding Updates**

#### **Medicaid:**

- Death Audit
  - Potential recovery of \$9 million pending. Currently pushed back as MDHHS analyzes the impacts on the audit to the PIHP system. DWIHN must continue to count this as loss revenue until a decision is made by MDHHS.
- Autism
  - MDHHS is reviewing DWIHN's request to cost settle \$21 million in overspend for Autism. Autism rates and guidelines are set by MDHHS, which makes it somewhat difficult for DWIHN to control. I discussed the Autism circumstances with MDHHS on several occasions and expressed DWIHN's concerns with this process and the lack of a cost settlement by MDHHS. MDHHS is taking a serious look at the impacts of Autism on the PIHP system.
- Provider Rate Reduction

- DWIHN has eliminated the proposed 7% rate reduction. Evaluation of current revenue is ongoing.
- Provider Assistance
  - DWIHN issued approximately \$4 million in Provider Stability funding to counteract provider losses in result to COVID-19.

### **General Fund:**

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) put together a task force made up of Community Mental Health agencies to determine a method of rebasing General Fund dollars to the PIHPs. The group's decision was to lower DWIHN General Fund dollars by \$4.5 million each year to a cumulative total reduction of \$22.5 million by year five. DWIHN is in the second year of this reduction with a slated \$9 million in reductions to occur this fiscal year.

DWIHN is currently pursuing a long-term solution for the overall \$22.5 million slated reduction. I discussed this issue with MDHHS on Tuesday June 2, 2020. There is no resolution as of today.

### **Building**

DWIHN will review the Crisis Continuum project and the building requirements to assure it meets the needs of the new MDHHS proposal. COVID-19 is changing the way DWIHN and the provider network does business.

DWIHN is implementing return to work procedures in result to COVID-19. This process will include:

- Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) usage guidelines for staff as outlined by the Governor's office.
- Assuring social spacing practices are maintained in the work setting
- Provide on-site routine COVID-19 testing for staff
- All staff and security are being tested on a regular basis
- DWIHN is continuously reviewing building policies in light of current COVID-19 situations.

### **Staffing**

DWIHN is reviewing all positions to assure it meets the future needs of the MDHHS integration design along with COVID-19 changes.

This includes:

- Restructuring of Access and Customer Service areas is currently occurring
- Constant evaluating mobile staff and internal staff requirements
- Establishing a functional onsite work force
- Review processes learned from offsite processing.

- Re-examine building requirements
  - New Center One (NCO) potential elimination
  - Update Central Building design with spacing and hoteling needs
  - Online video conference meetings long term goals
  
- Off-site
  - Clearly define functions that can be performed off-site
  - Establish methods of measuring productivity
  - Establish meeting requirements and technology
  - Protocol for returning for providers and staff

## **Provider Network**

### **Provider Contracting**

DWIHN is working out the details and transition of the SUD provider network changes. DWIHN is in the process of evaluating the overall provider network and needs of the community to assure that the provider network meets our community goals of a holistic network for FY 2022.

### **Crisis Center**

DWIHN started the first phase of Asbestos Abatement in December 2020.

## **Communications**

### **In the Media**

DWIHN in partnership with the Detroit Police Department and the City of Detroit’s Housing and Revitalization Department announced a groundbreaking initiative that will bring additional behavioral health support to police officers, 911 dispatch operators, and homeless outreach workers when encountering citizens who are experiencing mental health challenges. DWIHN Deputy CEO/COO Eric Doeh kicked off the press conference, which included DWIHN Board Chair Bernard Parker, Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan and Police Chief James Craig. The story was covered by most of the local media.



**My TV20** – Deputy CEO/COO Eric Doeh was interviewed on the MI Health Mind Show on TV20. This informative and educational discussion about Mental Health and our future during a pandemic. It will also air on other stations throughout the state.



**Channel 7 Mental Health Minutes** - WXYZ-TV 7 reached out to DWIHN asking for several short mental health minute videos that they could air during the week and on their “Managing Mental Health Day”. COO Melissa Moody and CPI/Workforce Development Director Andrea Smith submitted several that aired on Channel 7, social media and on the DWIHN website.



**OutFront Media** – Billboards are up throughout several locations in Wayne County including Detroit, Hamtramck, Dearborn and Southwest Detroit, promoting overall access to Care, coping with COVID-19, and the ReachUsDetroit Covid-19 Therapy line.



**Community Newspapers** - DWIHN partnerships continue with the Michigan Chronicle, The Latino Press, The Hamtramck Review and the Arab American News. Messaging in all publications includes information on mental health resources, the DWIHN Access Center, disability-related information as well as substance use prevention, treatment and recovery.

The latest stories in the Latino Press and Michigan Chronicle focus on Parent Support during COVID-19 and Seasonal Affective Disorder.



**Michigan Chronicle** – Former DWIHN Deputy Attorney Callana Ollie received the distinction of being selected as one of the Michigan Chronicle's 40 Under 40.

<https://michiganchronicle.com/2020-michigan-chronicle-40-under-40-awards-honorees/>

**Fox 2 News Detroit** – DWIHN, along with several other providers and NAMI Michigan, purchased Amazon Echo devices to give away to seniors during the holidays. This was a community outreach opportunity to people we serve who are isolated due to the pandemic and couldn't see their loved ones over the holidays. Media coverage extended to Fox 2 News at 5:00 & 6:00 p.m. and WWJ Newsradio.

<https://www.fox2detroit.com/news/nami-mich-distributing-echo-shows-to-senior-citizens-for-the-holidays>

### **Mindwise Mental Health Check-Up**

DWIHN launched an anonymous free assessment tool available to all members of the community. Mindwise will review their mental health and connect them to resources and assistance if needed. The assessment link is located on the home page of our website.

<https://screening.mentalhealthscreening.org/DWIHN>

### **Opioid Conference**

The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Opioid Abuse and Heroin Overdose Solutions Summit was held Nov. 12-13<sup>th</sup> with over 300 participating in the virtual, two-day conference. The Greater Detroit Area Health Council along with DWIHN held the event which included several presenters and videos from Governor Gretchen Whitmer as well as a session with Detroit Red Wing announcer Ken Daniels who discussed his son's death due to opioids. Also, DWIHN presented

the Collin Rose award to the Lincoln Park Police Department for saving the most lives this year with the life-saving medication, Narcan.



### **Annual Staff Celebration**

DWIHN held a drive through gift distribution for its employees. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Annual Staff Appreciation Winter Party was canceled. Staff received a DWIHN branded tumbler, an Amazon gift card, and a special holiday note. DWIHN executive leadership was on hand to distribute the gifts.



### **Annual Report**

The Communications department has been working on the FY'19-20 Annual Report since October 2020. The final document will be reviewed and approved by the Wayne County Commissioners sometime in February and then will be posted on the website.



## What's Coming Up Videos

Member Engagement, along with the Communications Department, has been producing an ongoing series of videos called "What's Coming Up". These short messages cover a variety of upcoming events and news to keep the people we serve up to date on DWIHN happenings. These videos are published on DWIHN's website and social media including YouTube.



## Provider Meetings

DWIHN has been holding regular virtual meetings for its Provider Network via BlueJeans. The Outpatient/Residential meeting was held of November 13, 2021 and the CRSP meeting was held on December 4. The next meetings for Outpatient and Residential Providers are in February.

## Social Media

The top performing Facebook posts for December included the Self-Care webinar with Friends of the Children – Detroit and United Way (at 1,112 reached and 64 engagements), the DPD Press Conference announcing our partnership to bring additional health support to police officers (485 reached and 60 engagements), and DWIHN's mental health video (286 reached and 35 engagements). Our top performing Instagram posts were the DPSCD Mental Health Town Hall at 23 engagements, our Seasonal Depression graphic at 16 engagements and once more, our Self-Care Webinar at 15 engagements.



## Community Outreach

DWIHN held several community outreach events including Evolve meetings, SOULS Chat including Faith Talk Mondays and Casual Talk Wednesdays, and two, virtual town halls. The first town hall with DPSCD was hosted by Angie Starr of 105.9 Kiss FM. This town hall focused on mental health and resources for parents and students during COVID-19. DWIHN's COVID-19 Resource Guide, ReachUsDetroit.org, Mindwise Mental Health Checkup, and the 24/7 HelpLine were shared with the audience.

The second town hall included a partnership with Friends of the Children-Detroit and United Way. The topics discussed were self-care, and how to handle the emotional, economic and educational challenges during COVID-19. DWIHN Chief Clinical Officer Melissa Moody was invited to present information about DWIHN to The Michigan Association of Service Coordinators. She shared information on access to care and available community resources.



# Key Mental Health Indicators

