

THE LRE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Fall 2024



Community Advisory Panel

The Lakeshore Regional Entity's **Community Advisory Panel** (CAP) is a group of people who are passionate about the behavioral health system in West Michigan and have partnered with Lakeshore Regional Entity to improve and enhance the quality of these services.

Please take some time to read the wonderful stories inside our spring newsletter highlighting some of the events, activities and resources available in our West Michigan Community!

We love to share encouraging stories and inspiring artwork from all over West Michigan! If you would like to have your artwork, stories, or poetry featured in a future issue, please send it to **LRE Customer Services: 5000 Hakes Drive, Norton Shores MI, 49441**. You can also email written pieces and pictures to marih@lsre.org.



Decentralization and the Lakeshore Region: What's the Difference?

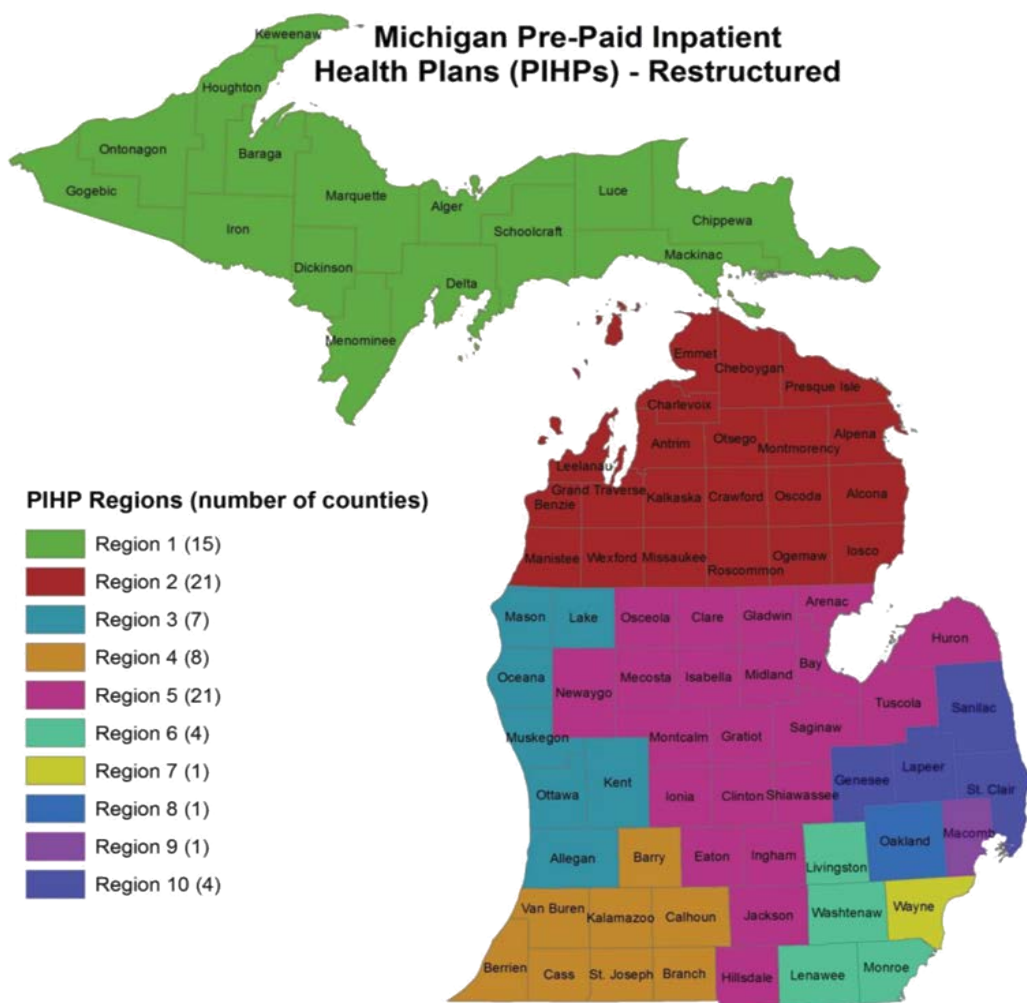
You may have heard the term "Decentralized" when someone talks about the Lakeshore Region, but you may not know what it means or how it makes our region different from the others in the state.

The Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) has divided the state into 10 regions for the purpose of managing services and funding for people with Medicaid health plans. Each region is made up of many adjoining counties. There are a couple regions that have such a large population that there is only 1 county. An example of this is Wayne County. At the head of each Region is a PIHP (Prepaid Inpatient Health Plan). Lakeshore Regional Entity (LRE) is a PIHP. Under the PIHP are the Community Mental Health Service Providers (CMHs). Each Region has several CMHs. LRE is region 3 and has 5 CMHs that serve Muskegon, Lake, Mason, Oceana, Kent, Ottawa, and Allegan counties. Every CMH contracts with several providers who serve the community.

Every PIHP has a central access center which serves individuals who are looking to get into Substance use or Mental Health services. People can call this center 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and get help. These PIHP's/ Centers also manage the Medicaid funds for these services. Here is where the Lakeshore region is different: LRE does NOT have a central access center. Instead, we have an access center at each of our 5 CMHs. They are responsible for taking the access calls as well as making the payments for these services. This is why we are considered "Decentralized"; because we don't have a central access center like the rest of the regions. This is the reason that someone who calls the LRE looking for services is forwarded to the CMH that serves their county.

This type of structure makes it much easier to manage the huge amount of clients and providers in the state. It also allows for better attention to specific regional differences, like whether an area is rural with a small population or urban with a large population. When administrators and state leadership can focus on a region rather than an entire state, they are able to take into account the special needs of communities and allocate funding appropriately.

For further information about decentralization and the organizational structure of state Medicaid services, please contact Customer Services at 1-800-897-3301.



No matter where you live, there is a CMH/PIHP ready and willing to serve you!

Upcoming Events



September 17, 2024 – Mark Your Calendar!!

Each year, we draw more than 2,000 advocates from across Michigan to the Capitol Building to support public behavioral healthcare. This rally aims to highlight the need for increased funding for mental health services, raises awareness of behavioral health needs in health and policy discussions and works to banish behavioral health stigmas.

There are more than 300,000 citizens in Michigan who seek behavioral health services. Join us on Tuesday, September 17, 2024 as we rally together on the Capitol Lawn for increased mental health funding and the need for behavioral health to be continually included in policy discussions.

Local Artist's Work Selected for Walk-a-Mile Rally Button

By Lori Schummer, Director of Public Relations and Customer Services at West Michigan Community Mental Health

Dawn McHale, a local artist and member of the Consumer Advisory Panel at West Michigan Community Mental Health, has received a significant honor. Her abstract artwork has been chosen to be featured on one of four buttons commemorating the 20th anniversary of the Walk-a-Mile rally in Lansing, Michigan.

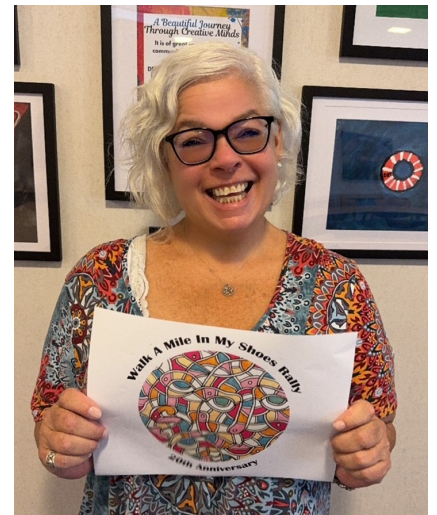
McHale, who has been creating abstract drawings since high school, rediscovered her passion for art during the height of the Covid-19 pandemic. "Drawing again during the pandemic helped me deal with my anxiety and depression," said McHale. "I was drawing one a day at times. It was my art therapy."

Her work, known for its ability to spark diverse interpretations and conversations, has been previously showcased at the Ludington Area Center for the Arts (LACA) and The Sketchbook Project at the Brooklyn Art Library in New York City.

"I love how everyone sees something different in my artwork. They are conversation starters and give me great joy to observe people respond to them," McHale shared.

McHale's achievement not only highlights her personal journey but also underscores the therapeutic power of art. Her selection for the Walk-a-Mile rally button is a testament to her talent and the impact of her work within the community.

West Michigan Community Mental Health celebrates McHale's success and looks forward to seeing her art represent an important cause at this year's rally.



CMH Events Coming Up!



West Michigan
CMH

JOIN US FOR A WALK OF HOPE

Walk of Hope is an event to:
 Raise awareness about suicide prevention
 Promote mental health and wellbeing
 Share resources

Please join us for this FREE community event to raise awareness, promote hope and healing, and break the stigma around suicide! Open to the public!

WHEN: THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2024

2:30 PM – 3:30 PM Registration, conversation, sign making
 3:30 PM Welcome and send off
 3:30 PM – 4:00PM 1 mile walk
 4:00 PM – 4:30 PM Rally: Speakers including survivor story & moment of silence in remembrance

WHERE: Meet at WMCMH, 920 Diana St., Ludington, MI

WHAT: 1 mile walk

**Event will move to Ludington Area Center for the Arts in case of rain.*

WEAR PURPLE OR TEAL TO SHOW YOUR SUPPORT

Transportation available with advance arrangements made with your WMCMH care team or request assistance on your registration form.

QUESTIONS? Contact Lori Schummer at 1-800-992-2061

THIS PROJECT WAS FUNDED BY THE LEE & JOAN SCHOENHERR FUND OF THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FOR MASON COUNTY



You're Invited to Join us for a Safety Awareness Presentation
Friday, October 4th, 2024 10:00 – 11:00
OnPoint Training Room: 540 Jenner Dr, Allegan

Join us on Friday, October 4th for a morning of fire safety awareness information provided by the Allegan Fire District. There is no cost to attend, and we encourage all attendees to share this opportunity with others who may be interested. Coffee and light breakfast foods will be provided. Please RSVP by Friday, September 27th and secure a spot. You may call, fax, or email customer services at the contact information below:

Phone: 269-686-5124 / Toll Free 877-608-3568
 Email: customerservices@onpointallegan.org
 Fax: 269-673-2738

Community Opportunities Advisory Panel (COAP)



ART OF RECOVERY

SEPTEMBER

27TH

CELEBRATING MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE RECOVERY

12-4PM

ART FAIR AND FOOD

JOIN US FOR RECOVERY-FOCUSED CRAFTS, FOOD TRUCKS (TO INCLUDE SOBER EATS), AND LIVE MUSIC

HEAR OUR STORIES

LISTEN TO AMAZING RESILIENT COMMUNITY MEMBERS SHARE THEIR RECOVERY STORY ON THE MAIN STAGE

1PM

12-4PM

EXPLORE RESOURCES

VISIT THE RESOURCE TABLES FOR AVAILABLE IN AND AROUND ALLEGAN COUNTY FOR SUPPORTING RECOVERY

DAY PROCLAMATION

WATCH AS THE CITY OF ALLEGAN ADOPTS THE FIRST EVER "DAY OF RECOVERY" FOR OUR COMMUNITY

3PM

ALL AGES

12-4PM

ALLEGAN RIVERFRONT PARK

The LRE Board of Directors

The Lakeshore Regional Entity Board of Directors **meeting is on the 4th Wednesday of each month.** Unless otherwise noted, prior to each Board meeting a Work session is scheduled for 11am. The Board meetings are held in person at the GVSU-Muskegon Innovation Hub, 200 Viridian Dr., Muskegon, MI 49440.



Upcoming Board Meetings

Sept. 25, 2024

Oct. 23, 2024

Nov. 20, 2024

For more information on the LRE Board meetings please visit www.lsre.org

The LRE Website

For more information on your Consumer rights, please visit www.lsre.org. Once there you will be able to:

- [File an Appeal](#)
- [File a Grievance](#)
- [Learn More about the CAP](#)

For more information or to talk to our Customer Services specialist, please call 800.897.3301

