



Community

MENTAL HEALTH
CLINTON • EATON • INGHAM

COMMUNITY ACCESS COMMITTEE “HYBRID” MEETING MINUTES

812 E. Jolly Road, G11-C, Lansing, MI, 48910

Monday, July 28, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.

Committee Members Present

Dianne Holman, Chair, Jason White, Vice-Chair, Paula Yensen

Committee Members Observing via Zoom

None

Excused

Dwight Washington

Other Board Present

None

Other Board Present via. Zoom

None

Staff Present

Stacy FoxElster, Sara Lurie, Elise Magen

Staff attending via Zoom

Emily Wollner

Staff Excused

None

Public Present

Kara Shirley, ICHD

Public Present (Via Zoom)
Matthew Kelley, MMDHD

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Dianne Holman, Committee Chair at 5:30 pm.

Previous Meeting Minutes

ACTION:

MOVED by Paula Yensen and SUPPORTED by Jason White to adopt the meeting minutes of March 24, 2025 as written.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

Adoption of Agenda

ACTION:

MOVED by Jason White and SUPPORTED by Paula Yensen to adopt the meeting Agenda of July 28, 2025 as written.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

Public Comment on Agenda Items

None

BUSINESS ITEMS

Healthy! Capital Counties 2024 Community Health Assessment

Kara Shirley from Ingham County Health Department, Matthew Kelley from Mid-Michigan District Health Department, and Stacy FoxElster, CMHA-CEI Healthcare Integration Supervisor, attended the CAC meeting to present the Healthy! Capital Counties 2024 Community Health Assessment (CHA) report. The full report can be viewed at the following link: <https://www.healthycapitalcounties.org/>

The Healthy! Capital Counties 2024 Community Health Assessment (CHA) report is a collaborative process that involves input from partners and stakeholders throughout the tri-county area. The CHA assesses the health needs of the community and explores what improvements can be made based on those needs. The current CHA cycle will finish in 2027 and is currently at the stage where strategies and action plans are being developed and implemented.

The CHA is completed due to regional hospital requirements, but also to be a tool

for regional strategic planning (including the CMHA-CEI Strategic Plan), identifying community health needs, encouraging more data collection, identifying where resources should be allocated to meet needs, and to provide real-time data.

The community member survey identified that mental health is the top issue that respondents identified as having the biggest negative impact on the community's health. The top three barriers to getting healthcare included the cost of healthcare, finding a practice that is accepting new patients, and prescription or medication costs.

Kara and Michael highlighted the following information about some of the top health-related issues identified based on community input, focus groups, and surveys:

- **Substance Use and Misuse:** Cannabis use has decreased since 2019. This could be related to education efforts from the health departments and schools. Additionally, Gen Z is not drinking or doing drugs as much overall as previous generations, which also correlates to a decrease in social interaction. Kara also suggested that the region might have hit a peak in cannabis use close to the legalization in Michigan and the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Mental Health:** Youth focus groups were the most focused on mental health as a primary concern.
- **Built Environment/Access to Healthy Foods:** A food desert in a rural area is defined as not having food access within ten miles of where you live. In an urban area, a food desert is defined as not having food access within one mile of where you live.
- **Access to Healthcare:** The most recent data related to this topic was just received today. People without health insurance has declined from 2021 to 2023. There are many changes coming soon related to insurance access and the impact of those changes will be tracked closely.

Action steps developed for the top three identified health needs include the following:

- **Housing**
 - Increase Housing Education and Knowledge
 - Build and Strengthen Community Support to Address Housing-Related Factors that Influence Health and Well-being
- **Access to Care**
 - Promote Health through Better Access to Quality Care

- **Behavioral Health**
 - **Ensure Mental Health and Substance Use Services are Accessible, Available, and Appropriate for All**
 - **Improve and Expand Mental Health and Substance Use Supports to Ensure a Healthy and Effective Workforce**

Individuals can help support the CHA by reviewing the full report, sharing it with others, using the data in grants or reporting requirements, and addressing priority health issues. Kara is able to provide a similar presentation to other community groups – if interested, Kara can be emailed at kshirley@ingham.org.

Paula asked how often the CHA is completed and how the proposed Medicaid changes will be captured in this process. Kara explained that the assessment period is three-years, so the next assessment will start in 2027. Based on the timing of proposed Medicaid changes, they anticipate that the biggest impact will be demonstrated during the next community assessment.

Dianne noted that access to services is the focus of the CAC, which was one of the top barriers identified in the CHA. Kara added that access to care is the only priority that they've had in every assessment. Sara identified that CMHA-CEI has reached new milestones in how many people are receiving services and questioned if similar data is available for the health plans so their progress can also be evaluated. Kara and Matt noted that they do work with their local health plans to review who was enrolled each year and the CHA also asks what type of insurance people have. This is something they dig into further.

Stacy shared information about the strategies CMHA-CEI is implementing related to the priority areas identified by the CHA.

- **Better Access to Quality Care:** Access to insurance has been a big area of focus, including the addition of staff who are specifically trained to help people enroll in insurance.
 - **Behavioral Health:** Zero Suicide has been an area of focus in this area including additional staff training, updated documentation, and the implementation of specific assessment tools. Additionally, to improve staff recruitment, the agency has focused on interns and doing more to engage and support those students during their internships at CMHA-CEI.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Sara reported that at the Eaton County Commissioners meeting last Friday, one of the commissioners made a motion to eliminate all of the funding for all of the external programs Eaton County provides funding for including Community Mental Health. There was not full attendance at the meeting and the motion passed. Legally, the county cannot eliminate CMH funding, so that will have to be addressed at some point, but it is disappointing that some of our commissioners don't understand or value the services CMH provides to very vulnerable people in their community. Their next meeting is on August 8th and stakeholders will be in attendance. Legally, counties in Michigan can't go below the funding they provided the first year CMH was an authority. Each county has a formula they typically follow, based on the number of people served, to calculate the amount of funding they provide each year.

Public Comment

None

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:36 pm. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 29, 2025 at 5:30 p.m., G11-C, 812 E. Jolly Road, and Lansing, MI.

Minutes submitted by:

Emily Wollner

QCSRR Administrative Assistant

