

Lapeer County
Community Mental Health
is located at
1570 Suncrest Dr. in Lapeer.
Contact them at
810-667-0500.

National Suicide
Prevention Lifeline
1-800-273-TALK (8255)



SUPPORT & CARE FOR COMPLETE WELLNESS

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LETTER FROM THE CEO

A year of reorganization and key staffing changes

By Lauren Emmons, CEO

CMH remained open during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic and continued to serve the individuals and families enrolled in our services. The agency pivoted to a blend of virtual and in person services that used creative strategies to meet the needs of persons served.

The agency was reviewed by CARF (Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities) and achieved Three Year Accreditation — the highest level available. CARF accreditation signals a provider's commitment to continually improving services, encouraging feedback, and serving the community. The agency Quality

Department takes the lead ensuring the agency is compliant with CARF Standards and is prepared for the triennial site reviews. The agency added capacity in our Quality Department promoting Michelle

While we focused on revamping and reorganizing things at Lapeer CMH over the past year, we also continued to focus on providing stigma-free mental health care to ensure the overall health and wellness of the people we serve.

Gould-Rice, LMSW to the new position of Quality Management Supervisor and backfilling the Quality Coordinator position with Lisa Ruddy, BS. Michelle is a macro-licensed social worker in Organization and Community

Practice with over 27 years working in human services. She has worked at Lapeer County Community Mental Health for over 10 years in Quality Improvement. Lisa has five years' experience in health education

and Quality Management. She has recently completed a Master's in Public Health (MPH) with a focus on healthcare management, administration and policy.

The agency added an Adult Services Clinical Director position



Lauren Emmons, CEO

and in July of 2021 Brooke Sankiewicz, LMSW was promoted into this role, leaving her role as Assertive Community Treatment Program Supervisor. In this new role, Brooke oversees all the adult services programming including Outpatient Services, Triage/MICCS, Co-Occurring Disorders, Case Management, Assertive Community Treatment, Harmony Hall, Stepping Stone Skill Building, Behavior Psychology and SIS Assessments. Brooke

SEE [CEO PAGE 4](#)



Lapeer County Community Mental Health announces new brand

To better serve as the county's leader in mental wellness, the Lapeer County Community Mental Health (CMH) team is proud to reveal their newly-created brand to the community.

The new brand includes the updated tagline, "Support and care for complete wellness," which builds on the increasing need to see mental health as part of one's overall health and wellness and remove the stigma sometimes attached to seeking help for one's mental health.

"As the need for mental health care continues to increase in our community,



the CMH board and team knew it was time for a new brand, something that would help our organization as we grow our outreach efforts in the county," said CMH CEO Lauren Emmons. "We enlisted the help of VIEW Group, the branding division of View Newspaper Group to get the job done. It's increasingly important that mental health care become stigma-free and our new brand helps reinforce that message to community members."

The rebranding process included a number of surveys for CMH team members, board members, current persons served, and the community. A controlled focus group was held to tap into the thoughts of community leaders when it came to what a new brand for CMH should include. Research on other community mental health organizations was also part of the process.

"Our team is so thankful to have been a part of the rebranding process for

CMH," said VIEW Group brand manager Emily Caswell. "CMH is a vital resource in our community and a strong brand ensures the community knows what CMH is, what services are available at CMH, and most importantly, helps CMH lead the way when it comes to complete wellness in our community."

Along with a new tagline, the updated brand includes an updated mission, vision, brand promise, elevator speech, and logo. CMH has launched its newly designed website at www.lapeercmh.org.

"The new logo is fantastic," said Emmons. "Our team loves the way it looks on our business cards, letterhead, and more throughout our organization. We'll also create some type of give-away item with the new logo to hand out at community events."

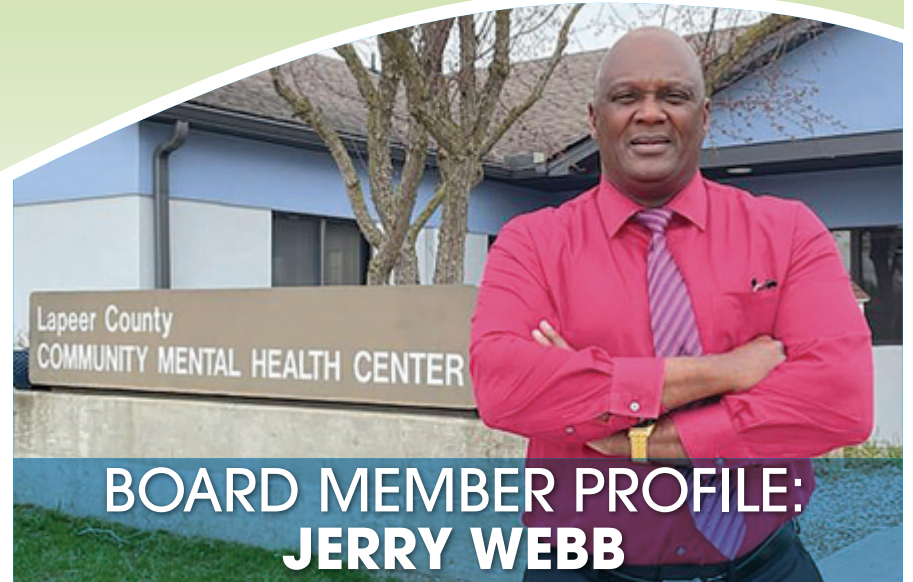
The new logo includes the colors blue and green. Blue is said to represent freedom, imagination, inspiration, trust, and stability. Green is said to represent tranquility and is also the international color of mental health awareness. The logo image

represents people coming together to help one another. It could be seen as a caregiver and a person served at CMH or perhaps two community members helping each other. The circle surrounding the "people" represents the ideas of complete wellness and community.

"The new logo uses colors and symbols to really tell the story of CMH," said Caswell. "In time thanks to the consistent messages within the new brand identity people will see that logo and associate it with stigma-free complete wellness."

CMH looks forward to a community open house celebration of the new brand this summer.

"Keep an eye out for more information about a celebration," said Emmons. "We're proud of the new brand, but more importantly, we're hopeful for what the new brand will help CMH accomplish — providing stigma-free mental health care to ensure overall health and wellness for the community."



BOARD MEMBER PROFILE: JERRY WEBB

Just who exactly is Jerry Webb?

What we can tell you is that he's a father of three children and is no stranger to serving his community. He's lived in the area for three decades now and has been an insurance agent for American Automobile Association (AAA) since 1990. He's also served on several boards, like the Lapeer County Habitat for Humanity, Kiwanis Club of Lapeer, United Way and Foster Care Review Board.

More importantly, Webb is now CMH's newest board member and is dedicated to making sure CMH clients get connected with the best programs depending on their needs.

While Webb may be new to the CMH board, he's had ties to Harmony Hall for a while now. Harmony Hall is a CMH satellite program dedicated to supporting people with serious mental illness and offering them skill building opportunities.

Some of those opportunities include helping club members learn how to handle money or food, or learning how to edit videos, create social media content or learn how to use a computer. Then club house staff help members use those skills to help find them a job within the community.

He first learned about Harmony Hall and the services they provide during a Kiwanis Club meeting in 2014, and he was interested in

helping club members get placed in jobs throughout the community.

That was also around the time that he identified the need for a receptionist in his office and when he had met a Harmony Hall club member who needed some help finding an affordable insurance policy. Word quickly spread throughout the clubhouse about how helpful and kind Webb was.

"I'm not a celebrity but they treated me like one. At the end of the day, I am just me. It was a humbling experience," said Webb.

He was also introduced to former clubhouse member Janet Pratt, who worked in his office from 2014 up until the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020.

"I knew right away that she was going to be a great fit," said Webb.

Her main duties were to answer the phone, sort mail, assist

with follow up phone calls and take clients' information, but one day during a lull in activity she did something unexpected: she prayed for the phones to ring.

"She was one of the best employees that I've ever had," said Webb.

Webb adds that he would like to partner with Harmony Hall again to help a clubhouse member find employment in the future and looks forward to doing so.

"I'm not a celebrity but they treated me like one. At the end of the day, I am just me. It was a humbling experience."



Emma Lyons: CMH Employee of the Year

Having a big heart, patience and endless amounts of energy will often times lead you right where you need to be in life, and that's especially true for Lapeer County Community Mental Health's Employee of the Year, Emma Lyons.

And for her, it was CMH's Autism Benefit Services at Maple Grove.

To understand more about what Lyons does on a daily basis, we first wanted to share some facts about autism. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) says that Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a developmental disability caused by differences in the brain and affects how that person talks, learns, acts and makes friends. Both kids and adults can have ASD.

Additionally, The CDC says that early intervention is key to helping kids with ASD because it can reduce the challenges they face and help them learn new skills.

That's where Lyons and her coworkers come in — the entire department is dedicated to teaching and caring for children with autism spectrum disorders and their families. They do that by putting plans in place both at home and at school to increase the level of understanding when it comes to certain behaviors.

Lyons is an Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) technician, and she works one-on-one providing ABA services to children with autism, helping to tailor therapy to meet a child's specific needs and to help them work toward various goals.

"We are here to help guide children and their families through rough times, and to celebrate success," said Lyons.

Lyons admits that she jumped up and down when she learned that she was nominated as Employee of the Year.

"I was so thankful and happy. It's a huge honor for me."

She has spent the past five years being someone that kids and families can count on and helping them meet milestones.

"I feel good knowing that I get to wake up every day and go pour myself into these kids and be a part of their journey," said Lyons.

Lyons adds helping them learn and grow each day is the best part of her job.

"Seeing their faces on a daily basis means everything to me," said Lyons.

Being a part of a child's journey in the Autism Department means getting creative

and sprinkling in a healthy dose of glitter while working on a project.

"I've done everything from making cardboard robot costumes, building volcanoes and getting covered in slime," said Lyons. "Working on projects like that with the kids brings me joy."

If you need more information about Autism Benefit Services, visit our website at lapeercmh.org, or call 810-667-0500.

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LAPEER COUNTY COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH FY 2020/2021

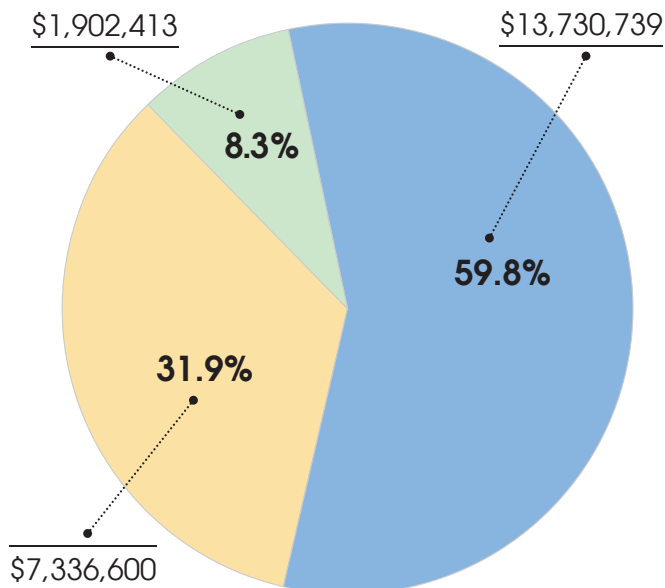
TOTAL COST:
\$22,969,752

Persons with Developmental Disabilities
428

Adults with Mental Illness
995

Children with Serious Emotional Disturbances
377

TOTAL PERSONS SERVED
1,800



Full Time & Contractual Employees	156
Outpatient Therapy Visits	7,196
Family Therapy Visits	711
Group Therapy Visits	61
Paid Days in Local Hospitals	1,754
Units of Case Management.....	20,970
Persons Served in Skill Building Environments	165
Persons Served with Autism Spectrum Disorder	37

Success stories from

harmonyhall

There's no simple way to describe Harmony Hall Clubhouse because it has so much to offer its members.

As a recovery based program dedicated to supporting people with serious mental illness, Harmony Hall aims to provide members experience in independent living, social opportunities and effective life management skills. The program is open to residents of Lapeer County who are over 18 years old, diagnosed with a serious mental illness and have a desire to participate in various aspects of the program. Members and staff work together on life skills as well as participate in group activities, social outings and membership meetings.

Club members Delores, Tammy and Tori were excited to have the opportunity to tell people in Lapeer County why they love going there.

Delores' Story

Delores Kalar, who has been a club member since 2019 says that Harmony Hall helps keep her on track.

"If I hadn't started coming here, I would probably still be struggling with depression," said Kalar.

Since becoming a Harmony Hall club member, she has experienced a lot of firsts.

One of them was finding a job.

Kalar currently works at Metamora

Market, and her job duties include cleaning and taking outdated products off the shelves.

"It's a really nice place to work, and I like the people I work with," said Kalar.

Harmony Hall also gave Kalar the chance to go on her first vacation — which was to the Toledo Zoo.

She's also looking forward to going to Mackinac Island this summer, which will be her second vacation.

She also learned how to use a computer for the first time at Harmony Hall too.

"I didn't know much about computers before coming here, but now I know how to edit video," she said.

Kalar said the thing she likes the most about coming to Harmony Hall is the friendly atmosphere.

"I have made a lot of great friends here, and they're like my family, staff included."

She credits her case manager, Dena Kautz, for introducing her to Harmony Hall family.

"Without Dena, I wouldn't have any of this, and I wouldn't be where I'm at today."

Tammy's Story

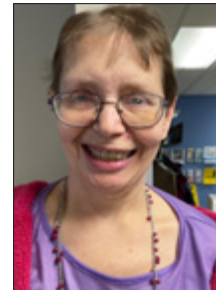
Tammy Zuhlke is a longtime member of Harmony Hall — she's been going there for over 30 years.

She also has no plans on stopping anytime soon, either.

"I'll come here for another 30 years if I can," said Zuhlke.

She says the best things about Harmony Hall are the activities she's gotten to participate in over the years.

She's done everything from working in the kitchen, cleaning a local church,



Tammy

learning how to use a computer, decorating for holidays and helping plan socials.

She's also built strong bonds with other club members and staff over the years, too.

"Everyone is family now, and I

know can lean on them if I'm having a bad day," said Zuhlke.

Tori's Story

Tori Lewis is fairly new to Harmony Hall; her time there began in November 2021.

She says that Harmony Hall has helped her mental health tremendously.

"Coming here has given me a sense of self-worth," said Lewis.

She said that she didn't quite know what to expect on her first day at Harmony Hall, but she stuck with it because she wanted to get to know the members and staff.

"I have made a lot of friends in just a short amount of time, and I feel welcome," said Lewis.

Lewis adds that Harmony Hall is a great place to gain experience, especially with technology.

She really enjoys the media lab and working on the computer, and loves editing video and helping put monthly newsletters together.

She also likes the aspect of the clubhouse being run by staff member and club members.

"I like that we can all work together on big and small projects," said Lewis.

Do you know someone who might like to be a Harmony Hall Clubhouse member? Visit lapeercmh.org, select the Programs and Services tab, and then the Harmony Hall PSR section.

CEO FROM PAGE 4

is a member of the Michigan Fidelity Assessment Support Team (MiFAST) and reviews community mental health centers in Michigan to assist in their compliance with various Evidenced Based Practices

Laura Moore, LMSW joined the agency as the Assertive Community Treatment Program (ACTP) supervisor. Laura has a wealth of experience in ACTP and is a member of Michigan Department of Community Health team that trains ACTP staff across the state. Laura is also a member of the state MiFAST team.

Kevin Mountz, BA the agency's Integrated Employment Lead Staff added Individual Placement Services (IPS) an evidenced based practice that focuses on assisting persons with a serious mental illness achieve employment goals to the agency continuum of care. Kevin and his new team, Kelly Turner and Rosa Mendez, demonstrated the success of IPS interventions as they assisted persons served in achieving employment goals in spite of the pandemic.

Amy Morrison, BS hired in as the agency HR Manager. Amy has over 25 years of professional experience in Human Resources. She has extensive experience in employee recruitment and has done a great job recruiting staff for the agency. Kelly North, BS joined the HR department as the assistant to the HR Manager. Kelly has a degree in Human Resource Management.

Taylor Volpe, LMSW was promoted to Triage/MICS Clinical Supervisor. Taylor has seven years' experience working with persons with health issues. Four years prior to receiving her Masters in Social Work and three years post masters in the agency's Triage/MICS Department.

Alice Stoelzl-Fiebelkorn, MA, LLP retired from her position as Case Management Supervisor. Alice joined the agency in September of 1985 as an Aftercare Therapist. Over the years, she provided leadership in various programs including Harmony Hall, Assertive Community Treatment and was the agency's Hospital Liaison. Sarah Reynolds, LMSW was promoted to Case Management Supervisor to replace Alice. Sarah has over 18 years' experience as a social worker in various settings and has previously held supervisory positions.

While we focused on revamping and reorganizing things at Lapeer CMH over the past year, we also continued to focus on providing stigma-free mental health care to ensure the overall health and wellness of the people we serve and will continue to do so moving forward. We are always ready to serve residents of Lapeer County, and want you to know help is just a phone call away.



Starting from left: Clubhouse board member- Ed Shafer, Clubhouse staff- Jesse Councils, Clubhouse member- Delores Kalar, Senator Kevin Daley, Metamora Market Produce Manager- Cathy Jeans, Metamora Market Store Director- Kisha Remillard