




2024 ANNUAL REPORT

Improving Lives Through Healthy Minds

Sanilac County Community Mental Health is dedicated to delivering high-quality care to those it serves. We are committed to addressing the needs of each individual comprehensively to improve lives through healthy minds.



810-648-0330 

www.sanilaccmh.org 

facebook.com/sanilaccmh 

227 E. Sanilac Ave. 
Sandusky, MI 48471

Interview with

Wil Morris, CEO

This year's report features an insightful conversation with Wil Morris, CEO of Sanilac County Community Mental Health (Sanilac CMH), regarding the exciting changes occurring within the organization. In the discussion, Wil reflects on Sanilac CMH's new Mission and Vision, explaining how becoming a Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) has transformed the Agency. He also shares how Sanilac CMH continues to raise awareness about its services and expresses pride in the agency's accomplishments over the past year.



THE MISSION STATEMENT AND LOGO AT SANILAC CMH HAVE CHANGED. CAN YOU TELL US WHY?

When we decided to apply to become a CCBHC (Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic), one of the first things we recognized was the need to be more welcoming and inviting to the people in our community. Stigma has always been a barrier for individuals experiencing mental health symptoms, and we wanted to change our image to make it easier for them to access the services they need.

This transformation began with our Mission Statement, which is now “Improving Lives Through Healthy Minds.” For me, this statement inspires hope, positive thoughts, and a pathway for personal growth, ultimately leading to the American Dream of living a happy, healthy, and fulfilling life for everyone. It is a message that both our staff and the individuals we serve can rally behind and feel positive about.

Following the change in our Mission Statement, we introduced a new logo and more inviting brochures. These efforts were aimed at communicating that, as a CCBHC, we have opened our doors wide to assist all citizens who seek behavioral health support. Additionally, we now provide treatment for individuals with substance use disorder (SUD), making us a comprehensive resource for all citizens in need of behavioral health care.

HOW ELSE ARE YOU GETTING THE MESSAGE OUT ABOUT YOUR SERVICES?

In addition to our radio spots, our Community Relations Department aims to participate in at least one activity in each community within the county each year. This enables us to provide information about our services and to promote the Mental Health First Aid training.

This training helps individuals overcome the fear of initiating a conversation with

someone they believe may be experiencing a mental health challenge or showing signs of alcohol use disorder. Its goal is to empower these conversations, potentially making a positive difference in someone's life. We are also updating our social media presence and plan to revamp our website in 2025 to create a more user-friendly space.

WHAT ARE YOU MOST PROUD OF OVER THE LAST YEAR?

I take great pride in our community. I believe we have the potential to unite and tackle the challenges we face when we work together. Time and time again, we have demonstrated this strength, especially when I observe the difficulties other communities encounter in coming together. We actively collaborate with various groups, including our local churches, to combat stigma and ensure that everyone receives the care they need when they need it.

I am also proud of the individuals we serve for their courage and commitment to achieving their goals and dreams. Additionally, I commend our staff for their dedication and perseverance in supporting our community in any way possible.

CAN YOU TELL US HOW BECOMING A CCBHC HAS CHANGED THE ORGANIZATION?

In addition to our rapid staff growth, we served almost 25% more residents in 2024 than in 2023. The number of children we assist has particularly increased, as we are now able to provide early intervention to families, helping children and their families achieve their goals.

We continue to collaborate closely with our community partners, which include law enforcement, various county officials and departments, schools, hospitals, and health clinics. To enhance accessibility, we have staff available at multiple locations throughout the community, offering care at times and places that suit citizens best, including medical clinics in Marlette, Deckerville, and Sandusky. Additionally, we send staff to grief support groups and provide behavioral health assistance to Eva's Place and the Rescue Mission.

DO YOU HAVE ANY FINAL THOUGHTS OR REFLECTIONS?

Yes. As I reflect on this year's accomplishments, I want to take a moment to recognize and thank our amazing staff for their hard work, dedication, and compassion. Their commitment to providing exceptional care and support makes a real difference in the lives of those we serve. It's because of their teamwork and dedication that Sanilac CMH continues to be a welcoming, supportive environment for our community.

We invite you to explore this year's report and celebrate the positive impact Sanilac CMH has had in our community!



Staying Positive

Louisa Hernandez

Louisa's story is about finding strength and holding on to positivity. It's not about the past or who she used to be. Instead, it highlights the importance of knowing who you are now and finding happiness in each moment, which helps you stay on track with what you want to achieve.

After years of battling substance use and facing life's toughest challenges, including the death of her children's father, housing struggles, and job loss, Louisa has emerged stronger than ever. Today, she is sober, employed, and living with a renewed sense of positivity about life.

Staying sober hasn't been easy, but Louisa's determination and promise to her children have kept her focused. Even during her darkest moments, she remained committed to her goals, leaning on the support of her care team at Sanilac CMH, whom she credits with helping save her.

Louisa now feels more confident, proud of the positive changes she has made, and as she puts it, is more levelheaded. She loves her two dogs, a Chihuahua and a Pomeranian, and says they have been her best coping mechanism. They have provided her with stability and unconditional love, helping her stay grounded. With her life on track, Louisa now has stable housing, owns a car, and is growing a successful cleaning business where her hard work is recognized.

Her care manager admires Louisa's ability to see the positive in every situation and her determination not to let her past define her. Louisa hopes her story inspires others to stay strong, seek support, and never give up, even on the hardest days. She wants others to know that they are not alone, and that recovery is possible.

Change is Possible

Michael Brush

Michael's journey shows that change, while hard, can lead to incredible growth. Big transitions, new teachers, and being away from his mom all day left him feeling frustrated and sometimes angry, which led to disruptive behavior at school.

With the support of his mom and his Sanilac CMH team, Michael learned healthier ways to cope, like deep breathing, taking walks, and asking for breaks. His mom also created a reward chart to motivate him with fun incentives like TV time, coloring, and trips to the water pad at the park.

Today, Michael is proud of himself and how far he has come. When he feels upset, he talks to his mom or finds ways to calm himself down. His love for school has grown, too, especially his interest in outer space, astronauts, and planets. Small successes, like beating the goal of four reward stickers and earning six in one week, have built his confidence and show just how much he has accomplished.

A Journey of Perseverance

Donna Warren

Donna's story is a powerful example of perseverance, even when it feels impossible. When she began her journey, she was determined to make life better for herself and her children, even though the path was difficult. "I'd do anything for my kids," Donna says, describing them as her greatest motivation and source of strength.

Over the past year, Donna has made tremendous strides in her personal growth and independence. She now manages her own appointments, takes greater control of her family's finances, and confidently ventures into the community, sometimes with support, often on her own. A big thing for Donna was learning to recognize manipulation and distinguish between healthy and unhealthy relationships. That awareness has allowed her to surround herself with more positive influences, benefiting both her and her children.



One of Donna's proudest achievements is simply being there for her kids, supporting them in ways she once found overwhelming. Something as simple as taking her daughter on a walk, once a source of fear, has become a symbol of her perseverance. She continues to build on that progress every day and takes immense pride in it.

When asked what advice she would give to others working on life skills and confidence, Donna offers a message of hope: "Keep your head up. It's not as hard as it seems."

Michael's mom shares how valuable her support team at Sanilac CMH has been. They help her work through challenges and find ways to support Michael without medication. She is thankful for their teamwork and for helping her feel more empowered as a parent, saying, "I know I can talk to his care manager assistant, and she helps me through hard times."

Thanks to their hard work and strong support system, Michael is much happier. With patience, encouragement, and the right tools, change is possible.



Sanilac CMH Community Partner in Recovery

Aspire Rural Health System *(Marlette ER and Marlette Clinic)*

Aspire Rural Health System's Marlette ER and the Marlette Family Healthcare Clinic have welcomed Sanilac CMH into their facility to establish an office that better serves individuals who can benefit from Sanilac CMH services. They continuously demonstrate compassion to those needing mental health treatment and are open to discussions and collaboration to effectively meet the needs of our community.

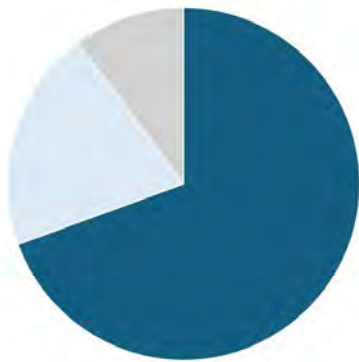
Aspire has focused its vision and mission on providing whole health care. Angie McConnachie and Shannon Swanson play a vital role in helping us coordinate comprehensive health care for the individuals we serve. Additionally, we have worked together to serve as a resource for the clinic, providing information to individuals seeking answers about mental health or substance use disorder (SUD) treatment.

Aspire also has been accommodating in the emergency room. Despite being busy with medical crises, they take the time to address the needs of individuals seeking crisis mental health services. Sanilac CMH staff consistently report that Aspire ER staff are compassionate and always willing to assist.



Why Community Matters *Kindness Goes a Long Way*

In a recent survey distributed to a random selection of 397 individuals who received services from July 22, 2024 to August 9, 2024, people were asked if they felt like they belonged in their community. Only 69% said yes. Feeling like you belong is very important for mental health. Being part of a community gives people support, friendship, and a feeling of connection. These things are especially important for people who are dealing with mental health challenges.



When someone feels like they don't fit in, it can make their struggles worse. They might feel more alone, sad, or hopeless. It can also make it harder for them to talk to others or ask for help.

People living with mental illness often feel left out. That's why it's so important to build a caring and welcoming community.

Even if you don't have a mental health challenge, you probably see someone every day who does. More than 1 in 5 adults lives with a mental health challenge. Small things like a smile, a kind word, or asking how someone is can make a big difference. These simple acts can help people feel noticed and less alone.

Kindness is a powerful way to support mental health. When we treat each other with care, we help create a stronger, more connected community, one kind action at a time.

Calm and Confident

Zoey Bujak



Over the past year, Zoey has worked very hard on improving her mental health. She came to Sanilac CMH to learn how to manage her anger, and since then, she's made amazing progress at home and in school. "When I get really angry, I try to be quiet and walk away," she said. "If I'm home, I go to my room and take some time alone." These tools have helped her feel more in control and less overwhelmed.

One big lesson Zoey has learned is to focus on what she can control and let go of the things she can't. She uses art to relax and to help her focus, especially drawing nature scenes, dragons, and animals. "I used to not finish my drawings," she said, "but now I can focus and finish them. That feels really good." She's proud that her focus has also helped her do better with schoolwork.

She has also grown closer to her family. "I used to stay in my room all the time, but now I come out more and talk with my parents and sisters," she said. Her parents are proud of how far she's come, and so are her sisters, who are now starting to follow her example.

Zoey's team at CMH is proud of her, too. Her care manager says, "She's really learning how to take care of herself. She knows what she can control and works hard to keep getting better." She says she stays motivated by trying new things and doing what she loves, especially art. "Learning gives me excitement. I like adventures and am proud of how far I've come."

Sanilac CMH Staff of the Year

Kendra Parsons

Kendra Parsons has been honored with the Sanilac CMH Staff of the Year award. We would like to recognize her commitment to the Agency, which she demonstrates consistently every day. Kendra is a strong advocate for individuals and prioritizes person-centered decision-making. This past year, she successfully transitioned into her new role as Program Coordinator.

Kendra approaches each task, question, and assignment with a positive attitude. She ensures that her teammates have the resources they need to succeed. Known for her encouragement, Kendra consistently offers kind words to everyone around her. She is frequently seen assisting her peers and providing support.

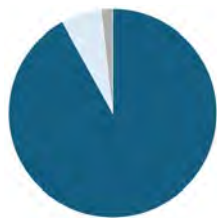
Kendra is detail-oriented and has a talent for anticipating potential issues. She is dependable and an effective problem-solver. Kendra strives for efficiency in her work and takes initiative in her role. She is a valuable asset to our Agency, our team, and our community. As a passionate advocate for mental health, her dedication to serving others does not go unnoticed.



Sanilac CMH

Customer Satisfaction

These responses are taken from a survey distributed to a random selection of 397 individuals who received services from July 22, 2024 to August 9, 2024. Out of these individuals, 156 surveys were completed.



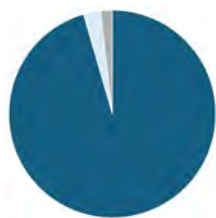
92% of the individuals would recommend Sanilac CMH to a friend or family member.



88% said THEY 'not staff' decided their treatment goals.



95% said services were available at times that were convenient to them.



95% like the services they received at Sanilac CMH.

Board Members 2023-2024

We extend our gratitude to both past and present board members for their dedicated leadership and commitment to guiding Sanilac CMH forward. Your oversight and support continue to shape our mission and impact in the community.

Robert Kozfkay,
Chairman
John Groustra,
Vice Chairman
William Gray,
Auditor
Linda Willis,
Secretary

Angela Weber,
Member
Anna Lopez,
Member
Brett Lester,
Member
Joyce Johnson,
Member
Lynne Brown,
Member
Nanette Susalla,
Member
Robyn Gorringer,
Member
Roger Ballard, BOC Rep.
Member

Sanilac CMH Authority 2023-2024 Financials

EXPECTED REVENUE BY SOURCE

Traditional Medicaid	13,270,348	47.85%
Healthy Michigan Medicaid	784,192	2.83%
State Funds	1,018,651	3.67%
CCBHC Revenues	9,316,614	33.60%
Contract Revenue	868,008	3.13%
Industrial Sales	401,286	1.45%
Local & County	438,938	1.58%
Grants	1,453,492	5.24%
Other Service Fees	180,201	0.65%
Total Revenues	27,731,729	100.00%

EXPECTED EXPENDITURES

Staffing	12,024,568	43.91%
Residential Services	8,091,721	29.55%
Operating Costs	1,972,721	7.20%
Contract Services	3,867,762	14.12%
Inpatient	1,341,528	4.9%
Drawdown	87,952	0.32%
Total Expenditures	27,385,668	100.00%