

## Recent News:

- Bradley Casemore, CEO SWMBH, MHSA, LMSW, FACHE has been reappointed to the Michigan Health and Hospital Association Behavioral Health Integration Council for another year June 2024 – June 2025. The MHA Behavioral Health Integration Council guides the MHA’s policy efforts for behavioral and physical health integration. They develop recommendations addressing access to behavioral healthcare services and foster integration with the greater healthcare delivery system.

- On July 10, 2024, SWMBH had the privilege of hosting individuals from MDHHS. SWMBH was able to show them around our region with stops at Haven of Rest in Battle Creek to see the Women’s Life Recovery Program, Victory Clinical Services in Kalamazoo to talk about the Opioid Treatment Program, and COPE Network in Kalamazoo to discuss the Harm Reduction and Overdose Prevention. They were able to learn about what each of these programs have to offer and the needs within the SWMBH region. After these provider visits, SWMBH welcomed MDHHS back to our local office for an overview of SWMBH and a presentation by Prevention Works. This trip was an opportunity for SWMBH to share current initiatives in our region and allow them to see firsthand the hard work of our provider network.



Pictured above: Joel Smith, SWMBH Director of Substance Use, Prevention & Treatment with the MDHHS Chief Medical Executive for the state and her Opioid Task force team

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**REMINDER:** If you have a compliance-related question or concern, or to file a compliance report, you can do so in the following ways. Contact Mila Todd, SWMBH’s Chief Compliance Officer, email Compliance at [swmbhcompliance@swmbh.org](mailto:swmbhcompliance@swmbh.org) or report anonymously by calling 1-800-783-0914. You can also file a report directly with the MI Office of Inspector General, by using the information on their website: <https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/inside-mdhhs/office-of-inspector-general/contact-us>

## Call Center Corner

Beth Guisinger, Director of Utilization Management

### Level of Care and Medical Necessity Criteria

Southwest Michigan Behavioral Health (SWMBH) is committed to ensuring each Medicaid beneficiary receives the services best designed to meet their individual needs as identified through the Level of Care assessment process. Any individual requesting treatment services are screened for the most appropriate level of care based on their presented needs.

The current level of care placement tools used as required by Michigan's Department of Health & Human Services (MDHHS) are the following:

- LOCUS (Level of Care Utilization System) for adult mental health
- ASAM-PPC (American Society for Addiction Medicine – Patient Placement Criteria) for substance use disorders
- MichiCANS (Michigan Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths) for children
- CAFAS/PECFAS (Child and Adolescent Functional Assessment Scale/Preschool and Early Childhood Functional Assessment Scale) for 1915(i) and SEDW eligibility determinations

- MCG (Milliman Care Guidelines) for emergent/urgent inpatient hospitalization, partial hospitalization, and crisis residential medical necessity determinations

*The SIS (Supports Intensity Scale) has not been replaced by MDHHS since the contract lapsed for use in 2022. The current MDHHS plan to implement the use of WHODAS (World Health Organizations Disability Assessment Schedule) is not scheduled to begin until SFY26, October 1, 2025.*

To ensure adequate and uniformed benefits for members, SWMBH utilizes medical necessity criteria to ensure service authorization requests are appropriate based on level of care principles and ensure the intensity of services provided are consistent with the severity of illness. The current medical necessity criteria being utilized through SWMBH's Central Care Management and Outlier Management processes are MCG (Milliman Care Guidelines) for emergent behavioral health services and ASAM-PPC for substance use services. MCG and ASAM-PPC medical necessity criteria may be obtained by providers by request, if needed. To obtain the most current medical necessity criteria, **please contact the Utilization Management Provider line at (800) 676-0423. Press prompt 1 for Providers.**

## Changes to Joint Care Expectations Shared by Medicaid Health Plans and PIHPs

Jeannette Bayyapuneedi, MA LPC CAADC, Behavioral Health & Integrated Care Manager

Medicaid contracts have been awarded by MDHHS and go into effect Tuesday, October 1, 2024. There will continue to be nine Medicaid Health Plans represented in Michigan however, there were some changes to their service areas. MDHHS awards these contracts based on the state's Prosperity Regions which breaks the state into 10 regions. The majority



of our PIHP region falls within Region 8 - Southwest Prosperity Region while Barry County is included within the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance. The Southwest Prosperity Region no longer includes Molina [Healthcare](#) or Priority Health Medicaid health plans bringing the total Medicaid health plans to 4 with Aetna, McLaren Health Plan, Meridian and United Healthcare remaining. Molina Healthcare and Priority Health remain part of the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance which saw no changes and includes 6 total plans. From the PIHP perspective, our partnerships with

the 7 Medicaid health plans serving the members of Southwest Michigan Behavioral Health will continue. We anticipate the volume of members with complex medical and behavioral health needs coupled with high emergency and inpatient service utilization will increase at joint integrated care team (ICT) meetings within the prominent 4 Medicaid health plans. The other 3 Medicaid health plan ICT meetings will only include members of Barry County.

There are a couple of additional changes, effective October 1, 2024, impacting these same integrated care team (ICT) meetings. Adult members aged 21 and older, who meet CareConnect 360 (CC360) risk stratification criteria will have a joint care plan opened or updated. Previously, evidence that such activity took place met expectations whereas beginning in October, a threshold of 25% will make this a more measurable and meaningful activity. Another welcomed change is the addition of youth risk stratification, including youth involved in the foster care system, for greater awareness and identification of care coordination needs.

## Coming Together Conference: Raising Awareness & Removing Stigmas

### Removing the stigma surrounding substance use disorders

The annual Coming Together Conference enhances public and professional knowledge of Substance Use Disorders (SUD) and Recovery. The event discusses the most current tools and methods of treating SUD/co-occurring mental health disorders, and aims to reduce the stigmas associated with addiction and recovery. Professionals from medicine, law, criminal justice, social work, counseling, and education are joined by national experts and spokespersons in a full day of presentations and workshops. The conference facilitates conversation and partnerships with a variety of community organizations, while sharing community resources, programs, and outreach services available for SUD and Recovery in our region.



#### When:

##### Conference Kick Off

Tuesday, October 29 | 5:30 pm – 8 pm  
Two Hours of Accredited Sessions Available!

##### Conference Continued

Wednesday, October 30 | 7:30 am – 4 pm

#### Where:

Delta Hotels Kalamazoo Conference Center  
2747 S. 11th St.  
Kalamazoo, MI 49009

**CONTINUING EDUCATION** In support of improving patient care, this activity has been planned and implemented by Western Michigan University Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine and Community Healing Centers. Western Michigan University Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine is jointly accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME), the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE), and the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC), to provide continuing education for the healthcare team. Credit amount subject to change.

**CREDITS** AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™ (8.00 hours)

ACE CE Credits (8.00 hours)

APA CE Credits (8.00 hours)

Continuing Nursing Credit- ANCC (8.00 hours)

Continuing Pharmacy Education ACPE (8.00 hours)

General Attendance (8.00 hours)

IPCE Credit (8.00 hours)

Other Learner Attendance (8.00 hours)



[Coming Together Conference | Substance Use Disorders \(communityhealingcenter.org\)](https://communityhealingcenter.org)

# SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

## Quality and Excellence through Partnerships

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**WE'RE ON THE WEB!**

[WWW.SWMBH.ORG](http://WWW.SWMBH.ORG)

*Check out the SWMBH Provider Manual and Provider Directory, on our SWMBH website: [www.swmbh.org](http://www.swmbh.org). The website contains information about the SWMBH policies and procedures as well as helpful information on topics such as provider responsibilities, customer rights, utilization management and other helpful material.*

Southwest Michigan Behavioral Health (SWMBH) is the Prepaid Inpatient Health Plan (PIHP) for eight Michigan counties, and is in partnership with the Community Mental Health (CMH) agencies of these counties. SWMBH, in partnership with the CMH's and local providers, provides mental health services to adults with severe and persistent mental illness, children with severe emotional disturbance, individuals with developmental disabilities, and individuals with substance use disorders. As the manager of services, SWMBH will make sure that services are provided to you based on your needs and goals and are within the guidelines set by the state of Michigan. SWMBH strives to ensure that you and your family members are treated with dignity and respect.



**Do you wish to stay up-to-date on SWMBH Trainings? If YES,** please submit your name and the organization you work for to [traininginfo@swmbh.org](mailto:traininginfo@swmbh.org) with a request to be added to the training email list. This will allow SWMBH to send to you information on all the latest and greatest training/webinar opportunities.