



2019

ANNUAL REPORT

WASHTENAW COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY AND
MENTAL HEALTH PRESERVATION MILLAGE

washtenaw.org/millage

EXPANDED
SERVICES

COMMUNITY
COLLABORATION

BRIGHTER
FUTURES



COLLABORATION BUILDS COMMUNITIES

2 Community
Collaboration

3 Strategic Planning

4 CMH Cares Team

5 CMH Crisis Response

6 Diversion Council
NAMI Outreach Grant

7 Families and Youth

In November 2017, Washtenaw County residents voted two-to-one in favor of an eight-year millage that would generate \$5 - \$6 million per year for mental health and public safety improvements beginning in January 2019.

In passing this historic millage, the residents of Washtenaw County made it abundantly clear that in this county, no one is alone.

Building on this spirit of community, administrators of millage funds made it a priority to include a wide range of stakeholders in the decision making process and to build upon the strengths of our behavioral health service providers and public safety partners to ensure that every county resident has access to the help they need, when they need it — regardless of their insurance status or ability to pay.

Washtenaw County is one of the only counties in Michigan to pass a millage like this — a fact for which we are deeply grateful. This year, and in the seven years ahead, we look forward to strengthening our county in ways we would have never thought possible.

Thank you, Washtenaw County residents.

A YEAR OF BUILDING

Over the course of 2018, community leaders spent countless hours gathering input from county stakeholders to plan robust and strategic additions to the county's mental health and public safety infrastructure in three major investment categories:

PLAN. To improve access to mental health services in the community; to enhance crisis, youth, and substance use treatment services; and to ensure a full continuum of health and human services by supporting new community partnerships.

EXPAND. To enhance mental health across Washtenaw County by increasing prevention work, supporting community partners, and providing mental health care navigation services and crisis response and stabilization services to all county residents, regardless of location, socioeconomic status, or insurance type.

EVALUATE AND COMMUNICATE. To both measure the impact of new investments and to engage with and educate the community around stigma, crisis prevention, and crisis response.

The accomplishments outlined in this report could not have been possible without the help of a broad range of community partners including:

- Representatives from two-dozen Washtenaw County organizations who worked with us to develop a road map for better responding to the needs of justice-involved youth experiencing mental health and substance use conditions.
- Five-dozen partners who joined us to participate in the Washtenaw Health Initiative's efforts to improve the county's substance use prevention, treatment, and support system.
- Hundreds of teens, families, and educators who helped us, and the Washtenaw County Health Department, develop a county-wide campaign to reduce stigma around mental health and addiction.
- One dozen community leaders who stepped up to participate in our Millage Advisory Committee; and more.

Washtenaw County's compassion, and its collaborative spirit, informed the millage investments showcased in this report, and will continue to inform the work and accomplishments of the millage in the years ahead.

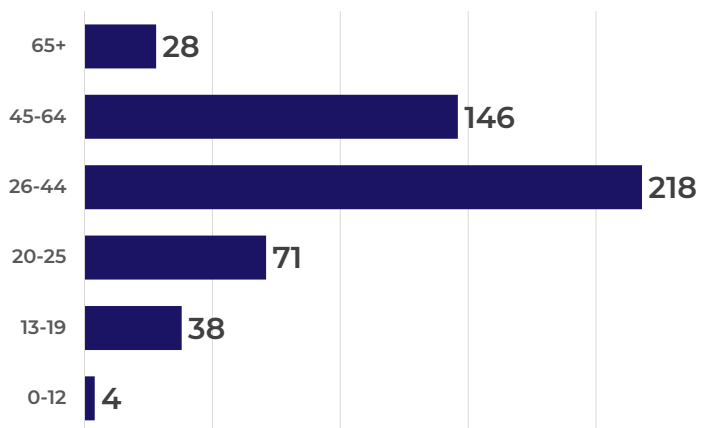
SERVICE EXPANSION

On May 1st, Washtenaw County Community Mental Health (WCCMH) extended services and service-navigation assistance to all county residents who are unable to secure community-based mental health and substance use services in a timely manner, regardless of their insurance type, location, or ability to pay for services.

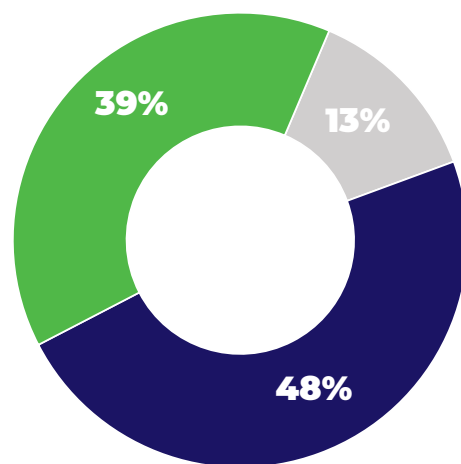
WCCMH hired and trained a number of new staff members—an interdisciplinary team with expertise in nursing, social work, crisis services, psychiatry, addiction treatment, and peer counseling—to build capacity for this service expansion.

This interdisciplinary team works in tandem with existing WCCMH staff not only to support assessment, treatment, and referral needs for the broader community, but also to assist with community outreach and education, prevention activities, substance use disorder treatment and support, and youth services.

Using a person-centered approach, the CARES team provides service to all ages.

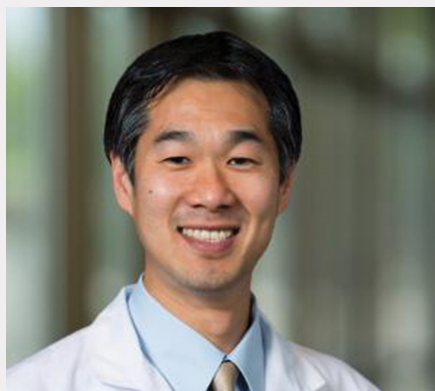


Through partnerships with rural communities, the CARES team has been providing services to more rural clients.



■ Rural Communities ■ Ypsilanti ■ Ann Arbor

637
ADDITIONAL PEOPLE
SERVED SINCE
EXPANSION



“

So far the CARES team has been amazing. Primarily the strengths have been the timely appointments, good response time, and most importantly a “can do” attitude regarding complex cases.

— Dr. Victor Hong, Medical Director, Psychiatry Emergency Services, Michigan Medicine

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MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS CENTER

In 2019, WCCMH used millage resources to renovate and furnish a county-owned building to create an observation and assessment center for individuals in crisis. Funds were also used to hire and train staff, including a medical assistant and peer support specialists, who will oversee services in the facility 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Jackie Campbell, one of the peer support specialists who will work in the facility, is excited to come in at ground level and is looking forward to greeting her first clients. "I'll welcome them, see what immediate needs they have, get them comfortable, talk to them," says Campbell. "Just engage them really, let them know they're safe. Not by saying it, but in the action."

“Many of our county’s 911 crisis calls are fueled or exacerbated by mental health and substance use concerns. This year, the sheriff’s office has been able to reach out to the CARES team to join our deputy sheriffs in response to managing behavioral health crisis in our community. We’re tremendously grateful to Washtenaw County residents for making that possible.

— Jerry Clayton, Washtenaw County Sheriff

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2X

INCREASE IN
CRISIS REFERRALS

5

LAW ENFORCEMENT
AGENCIES
TRAINED IN CRISIS
RESPONSE

CRISIS NEGOTIATION TEAM

In November, five mental health professionals from Washtenaw County’s Community Mental Health agency were tapped by the Sheriff’s Office to join Washtenaw County’s crisis negotiation team.

During the first week of December, the CMH staff attended a one-week FBI crisis negotiation course in Troy, Michigan to learn negotiation tactics for supporting suicidal subjects; communicating safe surrenders of armed, dangerous, and barricaded suspects; negotiating hostage rescue operations; and more.

The mental health professionals build their schedules around a carefully structured rotation that ensures at least one staff clinician and one backup are on call for emergencies 24 hours a day, seven days a week

In January 2019, Washtenaw County's Public Safety and Mental Health Preservation Millage began to provide significant resources to address mental health and substance use treatment needs, but the Sheriff's Office and Community Mental Health agency launched a Mental Health Criminal Justice Diversion Advisory Council in November 2017.

The focus of the group—comprised of county stakeholders—is on developing a comprehensive, community-based diversion system for low-level, low-risk offenders suffering from severe mental health or substance use disorders.

In 2019, the Diversion Council gathered and analyzed data from the Sheriff's Office, Community Mental Health agency, and court system, identifying stark disparities between the general inmate population and the population with mental health and substance use disorders. Using this data as a baseline, the council established objectives for future work.

GOALS

PREVALENCE

Reduce the number of county inmates with mental health and substance use disorders.

RECIDIVISM

Reduce the recidivism rate for inmates with mental health and substance use disorders.

LENGTH OF STAY

Reduce the average length of stay for inmates with mental health and substance use disorders.

\$158,000

AWARDED FOR
OUTREACH AND
EDUCATION

OUTREACH AND COMMUNITY EDUCATION

A Public Safety and Mental Health Millage contract was awarded to the National Alliance on Mental Illness — Washtenaw County (NAMI WC) to design and implement a mental health education and outreach program for youth and families in the underserved communities of Ypsilanti, Ypsilanti Township, and Whitmore Lake. NAMI WC has been active in Washtenaw County for more than 35 years.





#WISHYOUKNEW

The #wishyouknew youth mental health campaign officially kicked off on Monday, November 25, with artwork by local artist Lauren Mills and associated quotes from outreach with hundreds of Washtenaw County youth and adults.



SURE MOMS

With a \$90,000 investment from Washtenaw County's Public Safety and Mental Health Preservation Millage, the SURE Moms program—designed to unite, support, and empower mothers of justice-involved youth—is being extended to more moms across the county.

Under the stewardship of SURE Moms Coordinator Florence Roberson, the program has helped dozens of Washtenaw County mothers help themselves, each other, and their children by offering peer support, trauma training, and life skills training in a safe, judgement-free setting.



NEW PARTNERSHIPS

The Corner Health Center in downtown Ypsilanti is a full-service integrated health clinic that addresses the physical, mental, behavioral, and social needs of local teenagers, young adults, and their children—regardless of their ability to pay.

Since November, thanks to the Washtenaw County Public Safety and Mental Health Preservation Millage, Corner Health has been able to offer evaluations, counseling, and medication to its clients at a significantly reduced cost.

\$107,000

AWARDED TO
FIGHT MENTAL
HEALTH STIGMA

A two-year Public Safety and Mental Health Millage grant of \$107,000 was awarded to the Washtenaw Intermediate School District (WISD) for mental health and anti-stigma activities. In year one, WISD provided mini-grants to 17 area high schools to develop youth-led mental health campaigns.

OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNANCE

“ This first year, Washtenaw County Community Mental Health has been sprinting to forge collaborations with community groups, plan much-needed system improvements, launch new services, and support underserved communities. The millage has already made so much possible for our county. I’m thrilled to play a role.

— Nancy Graebner, Chair, Millage Advisory Council ”

In the spring of 2019, Washtenaw County Community Mental Health established a Millage Advisory Committee (MAC) to provide strategic oversight on Washtenaw County’s Public Safety and Mental Health Millage activities and investments.

The 13-member committee, chaired by St. Joseph Mercy Chelsea President and CEO Nancy Graebner, is a subcommittee of the Washtenaw County Community Mental Health Board and reports to the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners as required.

The MAC meets monthly at the Washtenaw County Learning Resource Center in Ann Arbor (4135 Washtenaw Avenue). MAC meetings are open to the public and include a forum for public comments.

MILLAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS



Nancy Graebner
President and CEO
St. Joseph Mercy-Chelsea



Felicia Brabec
Commissioner
Washtenaw County



Anna Dusbiber
Program Manager
Center for Independent Living



Bob King
Former President
United Auto Workers



Katie Scott
Commissioner
Washtenaw County



Amanda Carlisle
Executive Director
Washtenaw Housing Alliance



Holly Heaviland
Director of Community
Partnerships, Washtenaw ISD



John Martin
Board Chair
WCCMH Board



Rev. George Waddles Jr.
Pastor
Second Baptist Church of Ypsilanti



Carly Collins
Chief Department Administrator
U-M Department of Psychiatry



Derrick Jackson
Community Engagement Director
Washtenaw County Sheriff’s Office



Raymond Rion
Executive Director
Packard Health



Kari Walker
President and CEO
The Guidance Center



LOOKING FOR
HELP?

DIAL 734-544-3050
OUR 24/7 HELP LINE IS
HERE FOR YOU