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New Oakland NEWS

Fall 2017, Issue 27



In this issue

1. As New Oakland Grows, We're Looking for Great Mental Health Professionals to Grow With Us!
2. New Oakland Earns Three-Year CARF Accreditation in 10 Program Service Areas
3. New Oakland Opens New Ingham County Location
4. State House Panel Examining Issues Affecting State's Most Vulnerable Residents
5. My New Oakland Experience: the Opportunity to Meet the Needs of People . . . and Build an Organization
6. Why It's So Hard to Find a Mental Health Professional

As New Oakland Grows, We're Looking for Great Mental Health Professionals to Grow With Us!



by Julia Schiappacasse
 Director, Human Resources

We're excited to share with you the news that New Oakland Family Centers is growing the number of locations across Michigan from which we are able to serve you and the thousands of people we help every year. Already in 2017, we've opened new sites to serve communities in the Flint and Lansing areas. And there's more to come soon!

Do you know someone who works as a mental health professional who would like to join our team? If you do (or maybe you are a Michigan mental health professional yourself), we hope you'll reach out..

For mental health professionals, it's also a great time to be starting or developing your career. There are lots of opportunities to consider because behavioral health is one of the fastest growing professional areas in the U.S.

today. Among those opportunities, we at New Oakland have set a goal to become an even more outstanding **employer of choice** among mental health professionals in Michigan.

It's the right thing for any organization to do, but for us, as we continue to grow, it's also what we have to be to attract the right kinds of talent.

Among the great feedback we receive from New Oakland consumers and families, we're always so pleased to hear about the strong connections and relationships our clients develop with their therapists, doctors, nurses and the entire New Oakland team.

Those person-to-person connections are what New Oakland is all about . . . And we're looking for more talented professionals to help build our team for the future.

So I hope you'll visit our website (www.NewOakland.org/employment-opportunities) or contact me directly at JuliaS@newoakland.org to learn more about opportunities with our team!

Why It's So Hard to Find a Mental Health Professional

By Lena H. Sun (from *The Washington Post*, Oct. 22, 2015)

The demand for mental health services is growing nationally, and comprehensive mental health legislation is gaining momentum in Congress for the first time in years. But both forces could run up against a counter-force: a shortage of psychiatrists, psychologists, counselors and therapists in much of the country.

More than half of U.S. counties have no mental health professionals and so "don't have any access whatsoever," according to Thomas Insel, director of the National Institute of Mental Health. The implications are significant.

Nearly one in five adults — about 43 million people — had a diagnosable mental disorder within the past year. For nearly 10 million, the condition was serious enough to affect their ability to function day to day.



Many people have become eligible for mental health coverage under the 2010 Affordable Care Act. Yet finding the professionals to deliver that care is increasingly tough.

Merritt Hawkins, a physician search firm, conducted more searches for psychiatrists this past year than at any time in its 27-year history, according to a recent report. Psychiatrists trailed only primary-care doctors on the list of the

firm's 20 most in-demand medical specialties.

States with the highest rates of mental illness and the lowest rates of access to care are in the South and the West, according to the patient advocacy group Mental Health America. Rural areas face some of the biggest deficits.

"It is a serious shortage, especially in certain parts of the country," said Renee Binder, president of the American Psychiatric Association.

The lack of mental-health providers is part of an overall shortage of physicians in the United States. A 2015 study by the Association of American Medical Colleges concluded that the nation will face a deficit of between 46,000 and 90,400 doctors within a decade. While primary care doctors will certainly be in short supply, it said, the biggest deficits may be among specialist physicians, including psychiatrists.

New Oakland Earns Three-Year CARF Accreditation in 10 Program Service Areas



by **Kevin Sendi, JD, MBA**
President
New Oakland Family Centers

New Oakland Family Centers has received three-year accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF). The latest accreditation is the sixth consecutive three-year accreditation that the international accrediting body has awarded to New Oakland.

The CARF review and three-year accreditation is based on an exhaustive review of New Oakland policies, procedures, documentation and an on-site visits by CARF reviewers conducted in early September. New Oakland has received its three-year accreditation in each of the 10 program services areas CARF reviewed, including:

- **Crisis Intervention** (for children, adolescents and adults)
- **Crisis Stabilization** (for children, adolescents and adults)
- **Day Treatment** (for children, adolescents and adults)
- **Outpatient Treatment** (for children, adolescents and adults)
- **Partial Hospitalization** (for children, adolescents and adults)



“We are deeply honored and inspired by this accreditation from CARF,” said New Oakland Medical Director David Harris, MD. “It not only recognizes our efforts to meet high clinical and organizational standards, it also lets our partners in the community know New Oakland is a place dedicated to create an environment of quality and dignity in the delivery of mental health services.”

This accreditation decision represents the highest level of accreditation that can be awarded to an organization and shows the organization’s substantial conformance to the CARF standards.

An organization receiving a three-year accreditation has put itself through a rigorous peer review process. It has demonstrated to a team of surveyors during an on-site visit its commitment to offering programs and services that are measurable, accountable, and of the highest quality.

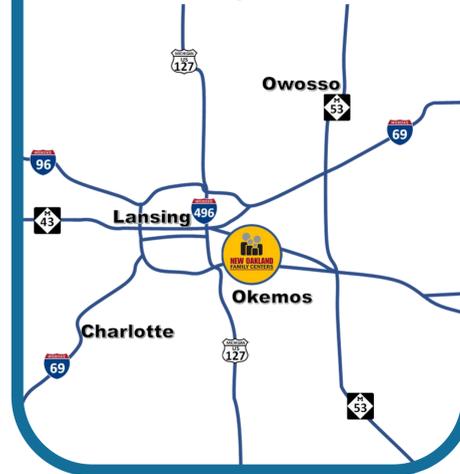
CARF is an independent, nonprofit accrediting body whose mission is to promote the quality, value, and optimal outcomes of services. CARF establishes consumer-focused standards to help organizations measure and improve the quality of their programs and services. For more information about the accreditation process, please visit the CARF website at www.carf.org.

New Oakland Opens New Ingham County Location

New Oakland is proud to announce the opening of our ninth location serving southeast Michigan — in **Okemos**. The map below shows our new Okemos location at **2300 Jolly Oak Rd.** near the intersection of I-96 and Okemos rd. (exit 110).

As always, you can reach our office by phone directly (at 517.679.2050) or by calling our new appointment intake line at **800.395.3223**.

We’re excited and proud to be serving the Lansing community and mid-Michigan. More exciting news to come as we continue to grow!



My New Oakland Experience: the Opportunity to Meet the Needs of People . . . and Build an Organization



By **Lisa Kalinski, MA, LPC**
Senior Clinical Director
Wayne/Ingham County

When I joined New Oakland in 2005, I was a only a few years out of college. I had already had some experience as a counselor and clinical therapist, but I hadn’t yet found the “right fit” for a career where I could really fulfill the personal and professional goals I had set for myself.

Joining New Oakland really changed all that for me.

Under the leadership and guidance of our founder, Dr. Ismail Sendi, I realized my new role as a clinical therapist was the beginning of a great new career adventure . . . an adventure that continues right up to this day.

Being a mental health professional isn’t an easy job. Anyone who says it is . . . well, he or she just isn’t doing it right. But at New Oakland, it became (as some people say about parenting), the “toughest job you’ll ever love.”

For me, it wasn’t just about the opportunities I had to help thousands of kids, teens and adults every year, although, of course, that was a major part of what I loved about my job. Like many mental health professionals, that’s why I became a clinical therapist in the first place.

It was also the opportunities I discovered (and developed for myself) to take on even greater leadership within the organization.

Dr. Sendi would always say (not just to me, but to everyone helping build our team in those early days of New Oakland), he’d say, “If you really love what you do and care about people, opportunities will find you.”

And he was right.

Today, I’m lucky to lead three of our nine New Oakland locations — Livonia (where I started), Southgate and, now, our newest location in Okemos, near Lansing.

In other words, it has become more than a job for me. I’m actually able — every day, in large ways and small ways — to help shape the growth of New Oakland into one of our region’s most impactful providers of mental health services.

That’s a pretty special thing.

And there’s never been a better time to be a young mental health professional. Behavioral health practitioners of all credentialing and background — from counselors to psychologists to psychiatrists — are expected to represent the fastest growing and most in-demand professions in the coming decades.

This means individuals with backgrounds in mental health will enjoy many of the same opportunities I was so fortunate to experience earlier in my career.

So, if you’re a newly-minted mental health professional like I was, it’s an exciting time to be starting your career in this important area of healthcare.

Or maybe you know someone who’s just starting his or her career as a counselor, social worker, psychologist, nurse or psychiatrist.

Either way, it’s a great time to consider a future opportunity with New Oakland. If you did, I think you’d find an organization that does a really good job of offering a career that can be as ambitious and rewarding as you are.

“Toughest job you’ll ever love”? Sure. But if you’re like me, you wouldn’t want it any other way.

If you are interested in a career with New Oakland Family Centers or know someone who may be, please visit the employment section of our website www.NewOakland.org/employment-opportunities or contact our Human Resources Director, Julia Schiappacasse at JuliaS@NewOakland.org.



**New Oakland Founder
Dr. Ismail Sendi**

State House Panel Examining Issues Affecting State’s Most Vulnerable Residents

Michigan State Representatives Hank Vaupel and Klint Kesto are leading a Michigan House task force to explore ways to enable Michigan residents facing mental health challenges to live happier, healthier and more independent lives.

Vaupel and Kesto co-chair the **House C.A.R.E.S. task force**, named for the key elements the panel hopes to address in order to support vulnerable citizens: **Community, Access, Resources, Education and Safety**.

“We’re taking a comprehensive approach to address challenges vulnerable people face each and every day,” said Vaupel, chair of the House Health Policy

Committee. “This could include veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder, victims whose lives are forever altered by traumatic crimes or prisoners who struggle with underlying mental disorders. We want to hear from anyone who struggles to succeed due to inadequate access to mental health care or confusing regulations.”

The task force will hold public meetings during July and August to receive input from individuals and professionals around the state. Additionally, the task force will tour facilities to gain a better understanding of programs already available. Current plans include visits to Meridian Health in Detroit, which offers

government health plans, and a state mental health care facility. “Holding meetings and visiting facilities all across Michigan will allow us to gather feedback on a wide variety of topics related to mental health care, rehabilitation programs and vocational training,” said Kesto, chair of the House Law and Justice Committee.

The information gathered will help develop reforms that result in more consistency in mental health services across the state, better support for our veterans, additional attention to substance abuse, improvements to mental health courts, enhanced training for law enforcement, and any other ideas brought forward.

New Oakland locations to serve you

Center Line Center
26522 Van Dyke Avenue
Center Line, MI 48015
586-759-4400

Clarkston Center
6549 Town Center Drive
Clarkston, MI 48346
248-620-6400

Clinton Township Center
42669 Garfield Road
Clinton Township, MI 48038
586-412-5321

Farmington Hills Center
32961 Middlebelt Road
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
248-855-1540

Flint Center
2401 South Linden, Suite A
Flint, MI 48532
810-957-4310

Livonia Center
31500 Schoolcraft Road
Livonia, MI 48150
734-422-9340

Okemos Center
2300 Jolly Oak Road
Okemos, MI 48864
517-679-2050

Southgate Center
13305 Reeck Road
Southgate, MI 48195
734-225-2090

Warren Center
8150 E. 13 Mile Road
Warren, MI 48093
586-825-9700

FACE to FACE Crisis Services
877-800-1650
(24 hours/day)