LIVINGSTON COUNTY
COMMUNITY
MENTAL HEALTH

FALL Newsletter 2026

WALK A MILE 2026

WALKING TOGETHER, MAKING OUR VOICES HEARD



Livingston County Community Mental health consumers and staff joined the 2026 Walk a Mile in My Shoes event at the State Capitol in Lansing. This event provides an opportunity for individuals who receive services with Community Mental Health to share their experiences. It also raises awareness, decreases stigma, and advocates for the importance of quality care. Our group was proud to stand together on the Capitol steps. We shared a message developed by our Consumer Advisory Panel:

"Mental health is health.
It's something we all share.
Our experiences may be different
but the connections we make at
CMH remind us we aren't alone.
Walk a mile in my shoes!"

The day was about advocacy, but more importantly, it was about connection. Clients and staff had the opportunity to travel together. Staff and individuals participated in the walk. We were able to hear the voices and experiences of others. We were part of a large community working together to reduce mental health stigma.

We are grateful to everyone who participated and helped to make this a meaningful day. Events like this remind us of the importance of listening to lived experience. It is our goal to continue to ensure that every voice is heard!



Try one (or more) of these today:

- Smile at someone
- Check in with a friend
- Thank someone
- Learn one new mental health fact
- Practice speaking kindly to yourself

STRONGER TOGETHER

CONNECTING, LEARNING, AND GROWING THROUGH WRAPAROUND

BY REBECCA DERAS

In August, Livingston County Community Mental Health and our system partners attended the 26th Annual Wraparound Conference. Along with the Wraparound Team, we were joined by members of Wraparound's Community Consultation Team, including first-time Wraparound Conference attendee, Tiffni Rankin, and our Community Consultation Team parent representative. We were also joined by a Livingston DHHS Child Welfare Specialist and two Livingston County Juvenile Probation Officers that frequently team with Wraparound.

The Wraparound Conference is a great opportunity for all that serve youth and families to learn together, collaborate with Wraparound facilitators from across Michigan, and gain knowledge to support resilience, belonging, and positive outcomes for youth and families. It's also a great time to build connections with coworkers and local partners and meet with our Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and statewide coworkers.

This year our team was proud to present, "Stronger Together: Building and Sustaining a High-Impact Local Community Consultation Team," at the conference. We shared the history, unique structure, and successes that have sustained Livingston Community Mental Health's Wraparound Program since the early 1990's when Connie Conklin was the first Wraparound Facilitator in Michigan here at Livingston Community Mental Health. It gave us a great opportunity to speak to a packed room about how Livingston Community Mental Health and our system partners share responsibilities & resources with a Blended Funding model. We shared ways this collaboration has led to successful teaming for over 30 years and how these relationships have benefited the youth, families, and systems that we work with.

We concluded with a panel discussion that included Tiffni as our Community Consultation Team Substance Use representative, our MDHHS and Juvenile Court system partners, and our Community Consultation Team parent representative. They discussed how active Community Consultation Team and Wraparound participation supports youth and families. They also discussed how it benefits them as individuals, workers, and the systems they work in. They provided excellent talking points for the audience to take back to their communities. Additionally, our own Wraparound Facilitators were able to share positives about the process and provided examples of the benefits of Wraparound teaming.

This year's Wraparound Conference provided a great opportunity to come together to build connections and celebrate the great work that we have been doing at Livingston Community Mental Health for over 30 years.



CLUBHOUSE EXCELLENCE

CELEBRATING A COMMITMENT TO QUALITY AND COMMUNITY

BY MIKE LEAHY

Genesis House, a program of Livingston County Community Mental Health, received some special visitors in July. Genesis House is a program for adults living with mental illness, and it follows the Clubhouse model. Clubhouses are dynamic community centers where members use their talents and work side by side with staff in all of the operations. Genesis House is located in Howell next to Planet Fitness.

Clubhouse International has an accreditation process to ensure that the model is being followed so that the best opportunities are available to members. Clubhouse International sends a team to Clubhouses every three years for an accreditation visit. The team consists of one member and one staff who have been trained as faculty.

On July 6-8th, James from Yahara House in Madison, Wisconsin and Taylor from Fresh Start Clubhouse in Ann Arbor visited Genesis House to learn more about our operations. They evaluated our work-ordered day, our relationships, our space, our employment and education programs, and our wellness activities. They talked with members and staff, and also with our administration and Advisory Board. On the last day, they conducted a findings meeting to share their initial thoughts.

James and Taylor were so positive about our Clubhouse community. They talked about the warm relationships they saw between people here, and they were happy to see our determination to follow the Clubhouse model. They found that we were in compliance with all of the standards, and they gave us a few suggestions for increasing our employment partnerships and expanding our Advisory Board.

We felt that they did a good job of understanding our community, and we appreciated their ideas and feedback. Their report is sent to Clubhouse International, and a final report will be issued in the next few months. We were proud to see our community come together, and we look forward to using the feedback to grow even stronger and provide the very best opportunities to members.

SPOTLIGHT ON INDIVIDUALS WITH INTELLECTUAL/DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY TEAM ONE

BY ELIZABETH TINCHER

Tell us about your program and who it serves:

We are Team One. I/DD stands for Intellectual/Developmental Disability. Our department has three different teams with three different supervisors supporting 19 staff. Staff work directly with individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. Our different teams have different specialties. They work with Individuals with IDD conditions across the lifespan and many different disabilities. The most significant difference between the teams is that Team One has six Supports Coordinators that work primarily with Children and a Parent Support Partner. The Parent Support Partner works with the parents of consumers who are under the age of 21. Supports Coordinator is the title given to a Case Manager in the IDD system. Supports Coordinators link, monitor, and coordinate services within the Community Mental Health system and community. They seek to enhance and support the growth of the individuals we serve. For many of the people on Team One this looks like attending Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) Therapy, which is one of the largest evidenced based therapies for individuals with Autism. Other supports include, but are not limited to Occupational Therapy, Speech Therapy, Respite, Community Living Support Staffing, Behavioral Consultations, and Mental Health Therapy.

How old is your program?

Our Program is as old as CMH and has had many iterations. Currently there are an estimated 675 individuals being served in the IDD programs.

What impact are you hoping to make in the community?

Our impact goal for this Team is to normalize and destigmatize what it means to have an IDD diagnosis. This can look like ensuring our consumers are able to engage with the community in meaningful ways and having work opportunities that are appropriate for their skill levels. We hope that the people we get to serve are able to live full and meaningful lives in whatever way that looks for them.

What is something you wish everyone knew about the people you serve?

A developmental disability does not take away the individual's humanity and that individuals with IDD diagnoses are no different than anyone else. The people we serve have all of the same range of emotions, desires and needs as everyone else. Very often working with someone with an intellectual disability the accommodations can be as simple as presenting the information in different formats (including visuals is a big one!) and asking more open-ended questions to ensure the individual's understanding.

What do you enjoy the most about your team?

The passion and determination that my team brings to everything they do. This often looks like advocating in many arenas for the individuals (schools, medical needs, and housing to name a few); as well as discussing the person as a capable person with their own strengths and abilities. I appreciate that my team is able to work with the family and support the parents too! My team is creative and always working for the best solutions that support the consumers and families. Team One is always focused on making the lives of those we serve as meaningful as possible.

What is new or coming soon?

A Self-Determination Coordinator that will strengthen our ability to serve individuals and families with the Self-Determination model for Community Living Services and Respite Staff.

INTERNATIONAL SURVIVORS OF SUICIDE LOSS DAY 2026

FINDING CONNECTION AND HOPE

On Saturday, November 21, our community is invited to come together in recognition of International Survivors of Suicide Loss Day.

International Survivors of Suicide Loss Day is a time for people who have lost someone to suicide to gather in a supportive environment. It's an opportunity to remember those we have lost, connect with others, and find hope and healing through community.

Throughout the event, participants will have opportunities for remembrance, reflection, connection, and supportive activities. Attendees will have the opportunity to hear from suicide loss survivors and view a special film produced by the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. Light refreshments will be provided, and participants will be invited to take part in a meaningful craft. Attendees are welcome to participate in the ways that feel most meaningful for them. There is no expectation to share personal experiences or speak in front of others.

Most importantly, the day serves as a reminder that **you are not alone.**

NOVEMBER 21, 2026

9:30AM-11:30AM

LIVINGSTON CMH

622 E. GRAND RIVER HOWELL, MICHIGAN

***STAFF WILL HELP YOU ENTER THROUGH THE NORTH DOOR (FACING CLINTON ST.).**

YOU CAN REGISTER AT: HTTPS://HOWELL-MICHIGAN.ISOSLD.AFSP.ORG/

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS, PLEASE REACH OUT TO:

Diane Heinlein
Email: dheinlein@cmhliv.org
Phone: 517-546-4126

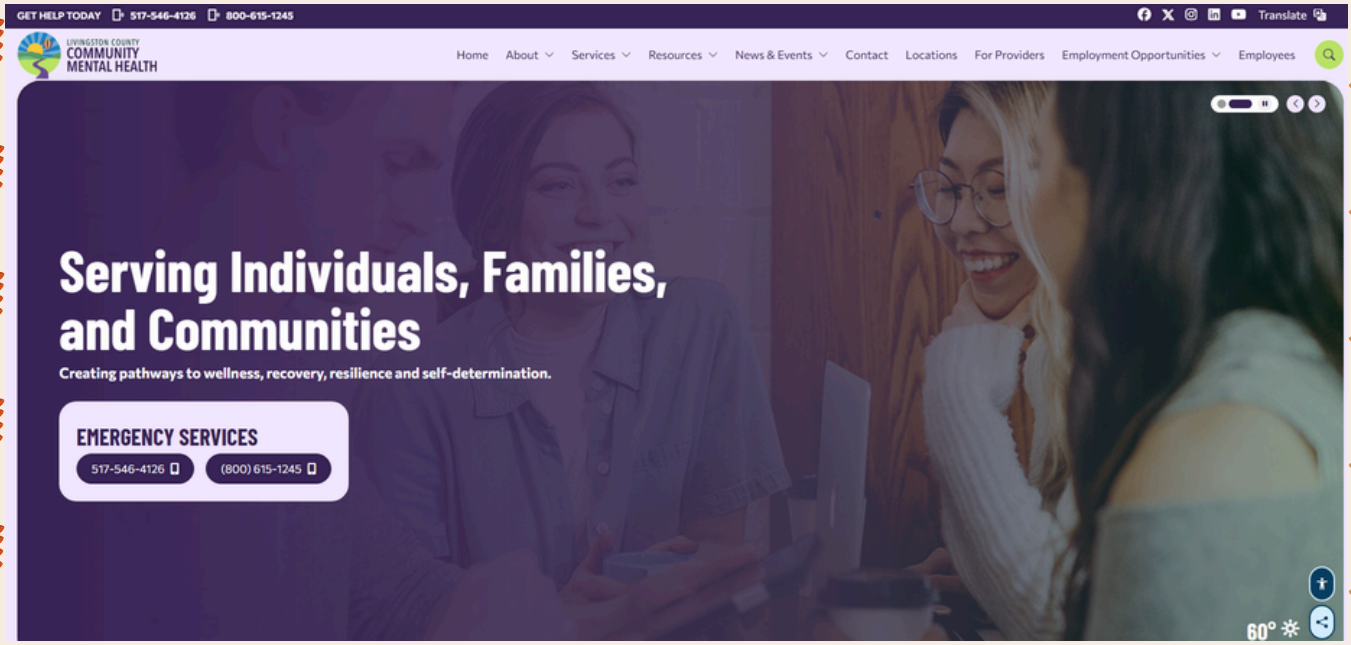
Melanie Watson
Email: mwatson@cmhliv.org
Phone: 517-546-4126





LIVINGSTON COUNTY COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH ANNOUNCES NEW WEBSITE LAUNCHING NOVEMBER 2026

REDESIGNED ONLINE RESOURCE WILL MAKE SERVICES, INFORMATION, AND COMMUNITY EVENTS EASIER TO FIND



We are excited to announce the launch of a new website for Livingston County Community Mental Health. Our website was ready for a fresh look and an improved experience so we could better connect our consumers and residents with helpful information and resources.

The redesigned website will provide more information about our services while also highlighting community events and other opportunities to stay informed and involved. With clearer organization and updated content, visitors will be able to find the information they need more easily.

We look forward to sharing this improved resource with the community and invite everyone to explore the new website, learn more about available CMH services, and discover upcoming events throughout Livingston County.

VISIT US AT: HTTP://WWW.CMHLIV.ORG/

UPCOMING

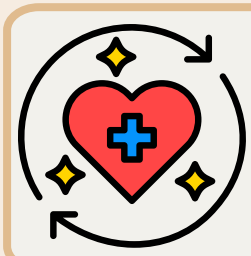


Craft Group

The last Thursday of each month at 1 PM at the 2280 E. Grand River building. Craft group is free to any community member and offers an opportunity for creativity and socialization.

Mental Health First Aid (MHFA)

MHFA helps community members recognize and support people with mental health symptoms in the community. If you are interested in having us teach your group, please reach out.
Contact MHFAlivingston@cmhliv.org to register.



Smart Recovery

This group is offered every Tuesday, Wednesday and Sunday at 7 pm and Thursday at 6:30 am at **Stepping Stones Engagement Center**, 2020 E. Grand River, Ste. 102, Howell. It's a cognitive-based model to promote change with any addictions. Just stop in.

Customer Service Survey

If you receive services from Livingston CMH, we want to hear from you. Complete our Customer Service Survey to share your feedback and help us improve our services!

Survey Link: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/788JSPQ

Raising Awareness

The Homeless Continuum of Care is hosting a Youth Art Show: “Home - Where the Street Ends and Your Story Begins” on Thursday, November 4, 2026, at LESA from 4:00pm - 7:00pm. This event will shine a light on student perspectives and their perception and understanding of homelessness in Livingston County. This event is free; however, donations are accepted and raffle tickets will be available for purchase to support the Barrier Buster fund.
Have a consumer aged 7-21 who would be interested in participating and submitting an art piece for the show?
Contact Candice Olrich at candiceolrich@livingstonesa.org.

Professional Development

Stewards of Children Training: Thursday, November 12, 2026, from 9:00am - 12:00pm in the Lower Level Boardroom at CMH (622 Building). 2.5 NASW credits approved. Registration will be required, space will be limited to 20 participants.

Register here: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/StewardsCC2026



Your Voice Matters!



We are excited to introduce our **Your Voice Matters** customer service feedback boxes, now available in each of our lobbies!

We believe the voices of individuals served are an important part of providing quality services. The Your Voice Matters boxes offer an easy way for individuals, families, and visitors to share feedback about their experience with us.

We encourage you to share what is working well, recognize a staff member who made a difference, or let us know where we have opportunities to improve. Your feedback helps us work toward the best possible experience for the community we serve!



2280 E. Grand River Ave
Howell, MI 48843