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Tri-County Mental Health Agencies to Host Educational Event in Lansing Advocates Educate Lawmakers on the Importance of Mental Health Funding

Tri-County mental health agencies from Macomb, Oakland and Wayne counties will sponsor a mental health care forum, along with legislative hosts, on Wednesday, February 6th from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the State Capitol House Office Building, Mackinac Room.

Sponsoring agencies include Detroit Wayne Mental Health Authority, Macomb County Community Mental Health, and Oakland Community Health Network. Host legislators include: Senator Stephanie Chang, Detroit-Wayne; Senator Adam Hollier, Detroit-Wayne; State Representative Diana Farrington, Macomb; State Representative Kevin Hertel, Macomb; State Representative Christine Greig, Oakland; State Representative Mike Webber, Oakland. About 100 individuals and family members who are served by those organizations will be in attendance.

“Advocacy and having our voices heard is the cornerstone of freedom,” said Peer Mentor and speaker Emma Avery. “I am grateful for events like this where new legislators can hear from people receiving services as to why funding for community mental services is vitally important to the lives of people served.”

The agenda includes:

- Overview of community mental health by Kevin Fischer, executive director of the National Alliance on Mental Illness, Michigan Chapter
- Presentations from each county and service area (Detroit- Wayne, Oakland, Macomb) on intellectual and developmental disabilities, substance abuse disorder, and mental health
- Advocates speaking with their legislators
- Question and answer

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