

County Administrator's Digest

June 14, 2013

Alan G. Vanderberg, County Administrator

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CMH EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MICHAEL BRASHEARS TO MOVE TO NEW POSITION

Dr. Michael Brashears is leaving his post as Ottawa County Community Mental Health Executive Director for a position with Hope Network. Michael has done an outstanding job and will be missed. Deputy Executive Director Lynne Doyle is expected to be named Interim Director by the CMH Board later this month and will assume these duties after June 28, Michael's last day.

The Holland Sentinel article and Hope Network Press release follow:

Hope Network hires Ottawa County mental health leader

[Greg Chandler | The Grand Rapids Press](#) By [Greg Chandler | The Grand Rapids Press](#)

on June 13, 2013 at 7:45 PM, updated June 13, 2013 at 7:46 PM

GRAND RAPIDS, MI -- Ottawa County's Community Mental Health director has stepped down to take an executive position with Grand Rapids-based Hope Network.

Dr. Michael Brashears, who had served as Ottawa's CMH director since 2007, resigned earlier this month to become Hope Network's vice president of national clinical systems.

"It's a good transition for me," said Brashears, 43. "It's a lot of what I've been doing (with Ottawa County), but on a larger scale."

Brashears has 25 years' experience in the behavioral health and developmental disability field. He will oversee Hope Network's clinical and quality programs, and will be instrumental as the organization prepares for the new health care environment.

"Michael has extensive experience in the provision and development of clinical services, systems and outcome development," Hope Network President and Chief Executive Officer Phil Weaver said in a prepared statement. "His expertise will be a vital asset in Hope Network's future."

Ottawa Administrator Al Vanderberg praised Brashears' work with the county



during his tenure.

“His innovative leadership and results-oriented management style has resulted in CMH and Michael being recognized as statewide leaders in many areas of CMH management,” Vanderberg said.

Before coming to Ottawa County, Brashears served as director of adult mental health services for Community Mental Health of Clinton, Eaton and Ingham counties, and worked at Alhambra Hospital in California leading multiple clinical, performance improvement and youth service programs.

Brashears holds a master's degree and a doctorate in clinical and family psychology from Azusa Pacific (Calif.) University.

Hope Network offers care in treatment of brain and spinal cord injuries, mental illness and developmental disabilities. It also provides specialized transportation and residential services, as well as job training and placement. Hope Network provides services to more than 20,000 people in 240 locations around Michigan.

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New Hire Announcement

For Immediate Release

Contact: Craig Clark, (616) 550-2736, craig@clarkcommunication.com

Hope Network Hires Former Community Mental Health Director to Leadership Team

Grand Rapids, MI | June 12, 2013 – Hope Network announces Dr. Michael Brashears, former Executive Director for Ottawa County Community Mental Health, as Vice President of National Clinical Systems to help advance the organization's healthcare strategy.

“Michael has extensive experience in the provision and development of clinical services, systems and outcome development,” said Phil Weaver, Hope Network President and CEO. “His expertise will be a vital asset in Hope Network's future.”

Dr. Brashears will oversee the statewide nonprofit's Clinical and Quality programs and be instrumental as Hope Network prepares for the new healthcare environment. As a long-time provider of behavioral health services, Hope Network's vision includes a greater alignment between mental and physical healthcare to improve services for the community and the people they serve.

Dr. Brashears has more than 25 years experience in the behavioral healthcare and developmental disability field. He has worked in the community mental health field for the past 12 years, including Ottawa, Clinton, Eaton and Ingham counties. Prior to that, Dr. Brashears was at Alhambra Hospital (Arden Health Services) in California leading multiple clinical, performance improvement and youth service programs.

Dr. Michael Brashears holds a Masters (MA) and Doctoral degree (Psy.D) in Clinical and Family Psychology from Azusa Pacific University.

About Hope Network

Hope Network is a non-profit Christian organization founded in 1963 to provide individuals a greater level of independence through Specialty Health and Community Services. We offer a broad continuum of care in our areas of expertise – the treatment of brain and spinal cord injuries, mental illness, and developmental disabilities. In addition, Hope Network provides specialized transportation and residential services, as well as job training and placement. Hope Network cares for the whole person addressing the social, mental, physical, emotional, and spiritual needs. With corporate offices in Grand Rapids, Michigan, Hope Network provides services in 240 locations, by 2,700 staff, to more than 20,000 people annually throughout Michigan. For more information, please visit www.hopenetwork.org.

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OTTAWA COUNTY FLOODING – PRESIDENTIAL DECLARATION UPDATE (Beth Thomas and Shannon Felgner)

On June 13, the Ottawa County Sheriff's Office of Emergency Management received word from the Michigan State Police and Homeland Security Division that Governor Snyder's request for a Disaster Declaration was granted by the US Small Business Administration (USBA). This declaration affected eight counties in Michigan including Ottawa County. As a result, low-interest disaster loans for uninsured losses are available to homeowners, renters, businesses and nonprofit organizations who incurred flood damage. Documents providing information and direction for those that are interested in applying for these loans are available on at miOttawa.org. The USBA will also be opening a Disaster Loan Outreach Center at the Kent County Sheriff Department in Grand Rapids where service representatives will be available to answer questions and assist individuals in completing their loan applications. Information on this center is also online.

Ottawa County is awaiting further information on the Request for Presidential Declaration that was also made by Governor Snyder. This was a separate request which will determine if Ottawa County will receive public assistance. Please help us in our efforts to ensure the local disaster victims receive this important message and are aware of the available assistance. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Ottawa County Sheriff's Office of Emergency Management.



SAVE THE DATE - MACATAWA GREENSPACE DEDICATION (Shannon Felgner)

Save the Date for the Macatawa Greenspace dedication on June 27 at 4 pm. The dedication will begin with a brief ceremony celebrating the history and features of the reclaimed wetland-- formerly the site of Holland Country Club. Bring the family as festivities will continue with disk golf demonstrations and nature activity stations for all ages. The neighboring American Legion Post 6 will be on hand selling hot dogs, chips, and soda. Macatawa Greenspace is located on Paw Paw Drive east of 112th in Holland.



DON'T LET BUG BITES RUIN YOUR OUTDOOR FUN (Kristina Wieghmink, Health Dept.)

Summertime is here and so is the outdoor fun and activities! Watch out for those annoying (and sometimes hazardous) pests. Most bug bites are harmless, but some mosquitoes and ticks carry diseases. You can get serious diseases from mosquitoes, like West Nile virus, Eastern equine encephalitis, and dengue fever. Lyme disease and Rocky Mountain spotted fever are 2 of the serious diseases you can get from ticks. The good news is that you can take easy steps to protect yourself and your family from mosquito and tick bites.

Take steps to avoid bites from mosquitoes and ticks.

- Get rid of still water around your home to keep some types of mosquitoes from laying eggs.
- Cut back brush and tall grasses and get rid of fallen leaves to keep ticks away.
- Wear long-sleeved shirts, long pants, and socks.
- Use bug repellent with DEET or Permethrin on skin and clothing.
- Check everyone for ticks after spending time outside.
- Take a shower after going inside to help get ticks off of you before they bite.
- If a tick has bitten, remove with tweezers and clean with rubbing alcohol or soap and water.
- Use a tick collar or other repellent product on your pets. Remember to check your pets for ticks.



Lyme Disease prevention: http://www.cdc.gov/lyme/resources/brochure/508_LD_Brochure.pdf or <http://www.cdc.gov/ticks/avoid/>

West Nile Disease prevention: http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/wnv_factSheet.htm

Ottawa County Public Health Department: <http://www.miottawa.org/Health/OCHD/wnv.htm>

Kristina Wieghmink, M.Ed.

Ottawa County Health Department

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SURPLUS MANAGEMENT REDISTRIBUTION PROGRAM (Christine Miller)

The County recently started a Surplus Management Redistribution Program. It is an intranet based system which allows County departments to efficiently communicate surplus availability or a desire for goods or services to other departments for redeployment. Similar to Craigslist. This program is expected to streamline the manual communication processes currently being used. It will also improve control over redeployment of County assets between departments and disposal.

Items that are conducive to the program are items such as toner from retired copy machines, furniture no longer being utilized, office supplies and office equipment. The system is expected to save the County up to \$60,000 annually.

The program is found on miottawa.org under the WEBSITE area by selecting "Employee Login". The program uses the same login as employees digital paystub and can be accessed by all County employees.

LEGISLATURE ADOPTS INDIGENT DEFENSE REFORM

The Michigan Legislature had a busy day yesterday approving Indigent Defense Reform and Medicaid Expansion. The County lobbying effort has three prongs, County officials and staff; the Michigan Association of Counties; and GCSI, our contracted lobby firm in Lansing. We were heavily involved with testimony early in the life of this issue. MAC ended up taking the lead and doing a very good job with negating almost all of the provisions that were causing us heartburn. At the end, MAC went neutral on the bill. We did not and remained opposed simply because any reform was going to detract at least some from the very effective system we have in place here in Ottawa County today. The following summary from MAC lists the changes that were accomplished that they spearheaded and that we, GCSI and others worked with them on.

To: The Honorable John Walsh, State Representative

From: Ben Bodkin, Director of Legislative Affairs, Michigan Association of Counties

RE: Indigent Defense, HB 4529 (H-3) and HB 4530

MAC is neutral on the H-3 version of HB 4529, and on HB 4530.

The H-3 version represents a compromise, and if implemented as a partnership between counties, trial courts, and the state it can be beneficial. Counties remain concerned about the state upholding its funding requirements, and the creation of a new state commission to send mandates to local units of government, regulate their implementation, and have final say on the amount needed by each local system to achieve them. That said, we have won many safeguards and clarified the county's statutory funding role.

MAC has won many safeguards included in the H-3 version of the bill as follows which have led to a neutral position:

- A seat for local funding units on the MIDC
- Required that any new standard must be approved by the Michigan Supreme Court
- Included language requiring local funding of indigent defense to no less than the local annual average over 3 years prior to creation of the MIDC (current expenditures), rather than a per capita amount set by the state.
- Included language indicating any new costs associated with an MIDC standard over and above the local share to be paid for by the state (approved by MIDC).
- Required state funding for local data collection and plan development over normal costs (approved by MIDC).
- Included ability for a local system to expend less than its local share if service is not hampered (approved by MIDC).
- Included an appeal process by which the local system can challenge a decision by the MIDC (first through mediation and then the court).
- Included language stating that if the legislature fails to fund new local costs agreed to by MIDC, the local system is not out of compliance with the act.
- Eliminated the decision to take over a local system from the MIDC and placed it in the court.
- Restricted the option to take over a local system to noncompliance or to enforce a court order.
- Reduced penalties if a take over of the local system is ordered by a court.

- Included language making the bill subject to the Headlee Amendment to the Constitution.
- Included language limiting lawsuits to Constitutional matters and to disputes between the local system and the MIDC.

Finally, MAC believes the process by which this bill was developed was valuable, and allowed all stakeholders to come to the table to build a better bill on behalf of their members, including counties. This is an entirely new system and we hope that the legislature will continue to keep a watchful eye on it in the future in case changes need to be made.

GVMC WEEKLY UPDATE (John Weiss)

[Click here](#) for the most recent updates.