

# Great Lakes Bay Region Mental Health Partnership



## Mission

*Collaborate with stakeholders to proactively tackle the mental health crisis as a community to help people obtain the best possible care.*

## Vision

*Ensure that everyone in the Great Lakes Bay Region:*

- *Knows where to turn for help when struggling with a mental health issue;*
- *Seeks help without fear of stigma;*
- *Receives prompt access to excellent care.*

## Collaborative Action

We want to thank you for your interest and participation in the Great Lakes Bay Region Mental Health Partnership. Working together, we're making important connections, increasing awareness of mental health, identifying available resources and gaps, challenging stigma, and seeking solutions that will positively impact the mental health of our population.

We are excited to announce that the collaborations that began immediately after the [Addressing the Mental Health Crisis in the Great Lakes Bay Region](#) workshops have already led to tangible results. Below are just three of many examples of the collaborative action taking place:

### **Fisher Contracting Company**

The Fisher Contracting Company has developed and implemented a program to address stigma, provide education and resources, raise awareness and expand availability of mental health services through the company's Employee Assistance Program.

"This is a start," said J.W. Fisher, president of Fisher Contracting Company, "We will continually monitor and improve our offerings to assure that we are doing all we can to support mental wellness in our employee family. We will collaborate with other companies so they may implement similar mental health initiatives to help their employees and broaden the impact." The program will be made available and scaled across the Great Lakes Bay region in 2020.

### **Saginaw Valley State University**

Saginaw Valley State University started a new advanced degree psychiatric nurse practitioner program to help meet the demand for mental health professionals in the region. The first cohort of 16 students will graduate in May of 2020 and will be specially trained to manage mental health care.

Don Bachand, president of Saginaw Valley State University, stated, “As leaders in our neighborhoods, it is our responsibility to do all that we can to meet our region’s greatest health needs. That is why we take great pride in our new advanced degree: the psychiatric nurse practitioner program. This is just one of many programs in the region designed to move the needle in mental health in the Great Lakes Bay Region.”

### **Youth Information**

The Youth Information work group, led by Lisa Thompson, Self Love Beauty, and Lori Flippin, Great Lakes Bay Regional Alliance, have developed a mental health information toolkit that will be shared and made available to all K-12 schools in the Great Lakes Bay Region at the beginning of the 2019 school year.

The toolkit intends to raise awareness regarding mental illness and provides resources to those seeking mental health support. The toolkit includes a public service announcement video, posters, wallet/business cards with important resources for those seeking mental health support, a letter to superintendents from the youth information work group and editable examples of the following:

- Letter to parents, from superintendents
- Letter to counselors, from superintendents
- Letter to staff, from superintendents
- Social media posts
- Morning announcements

The Great Lakes Bay Region Mental Health Partnership greatly appreciates the many people who are teaming up to make this community a beacon of mental wellness. It is our goal that the solutions we identify and put in place will become a model for other communities across the nation – and beyond. Together, we can lead. Together, we can make a difference.

Dr. Matt Samocki

*Director* | Great Lakes Bay Region Mental Health Partnership

## Learn More

We invite you to visit the following links, which contain a variety of information about mental health, the work being done through the Partnership, data from the region and more:

- [Friends of Chad William Dunn Video](#)
- [Worthwhile Partnerships Aren't Easy: Partnering to Address the Mental Health Crisis in Michigan](#)
- [Publications](#)
- [Community Mapping](#)
- [Infographics](#)
- [Data Dashboard](#)

## Connect

Questions: [info@greatlakesbaymentalhealth.com](mailto:info@greatlakesbaymentalhealth.com)

Website: [greatlakesbaymentalhealth.com](http://greatlakesbaymentalhealth.com)

University of Michigan Depression Center Resources: [depressioncenter.org](http://depressioncenter.org)



## About the Great Lakes Bay Region Mental Health Partnership

The Great Lakes Bay Region Mental Health Partnership is a collaborative initiative to address the mental health crisis in the Great Lakes Bay Region. The Partnership is working with community stakeholders and resources to ensure that everyone knows where to turn for help when struggling with a mental health issue, seeks help without fear of stigma and receives prompt access to excellent care. Key supporters of the Partnership include the Family and Friends of Chad William Dunn, Central Michigan University College of Medicine, University of Michigan Depression Center and The Dow Chemical Company Foundation.

