



THE LRE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Summer

Contact us:
customerservice@lsre.org

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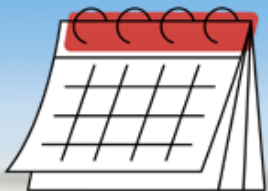
Community Advisory Panel

The Lakeshore Regional Entity's **Community Advisory Panel** (CAP) is a group of people who are passionate about the behavioral health system in West Michigan and have partnered with Lakeshore Regional Entity to improve and enhance the quality of these services.

Please take some time to read the wonderful stories inside our spring newsletter highlighting some of the events, activities and resources available in our West Michigan Community!

We love to share encouraging stories and inspiring artwork from all over West Michigan! If you would like to have your artwork, stories, or poetry featured in a future issue, please send it to **LRE Customer Services: 5000 Hakes Drive, Norton Shores MI, 49441**. You can also email written pieces and pictures to marih@lsre.org.





Events and Announcements



Upcoming Events

September 23rd:
Walk-A-Mile Rally
Lansing State Capital

ADA Celebration: July 22: 3-7:30
160 68th St SW, Cutlerville 49548

Tuesdays from 10:00-11:30 am
Autistic Adult Peer Support Group

June 25th 8:30-1:30
Allegan Senior Expo
1290 32nd St, Allegan

Healthwest Community Picnic
August 13th; 11-2
Hackley Park, Muskegon

September 8, 5pm
Walk of Hope
Ottawa CMH

Recovery Fest
Sept. 9th, 3pm
Network 180, Holland

Spirit Club- Virtual Exercise Class

Spirit Club is a FREE 1-hour exercise program offered through the Disability Network of SW Michigan. Classes are specifically designed to present a range of options to suit everyone! All are welcome!

To sign up, please go to <https://autismallianceofmichigan.org/event/spirit-club-virtual-exercise-2/2026-03-09/>

Autistic Adult Peer Support

This group provides an opportunity for adults with Autism to enjoy authentic social interactions and build genuine friendships in a safe and non-judgmental space. Open to all Autistic adults! Please visit <https://autismallianceofmichigan.org/event/autistic-adult-peer-support-tuesday-2/2026-03-17/> for more information.

Health, Wellness, and Recovery Picnic

Through this free community picnic, residents can access more than 100+ local health and human service providers. This event is completely free and offers activities for the kids, live music, raffles, giveaways and a free picnic lunch! There will also be resources for people seeking a career in health or human services. <https://healthwest.net/health-wellness-recovery/> for more information

WGVU Kids Day at the Zoo

Bring the kids for a fun day at the John Ball Zoo; August 6th from 8:30 - 4:30!

Hispanic Festival: Calder Plaza

Friday August 7th 2-8
Saturday August 8th: 12-8



AI in Mental Health: A Helpful Tool, Not a Replacement for Clinicians!

Clinical

Artificial intelligence (AI) is becoming more common in behavioral health care. It can help with tasks like writing draft clinical notes, improving communication, and making work processes more efficient. In our region, four out of the five CMHs are using either Clinical AI or Eleos as part of their clinical work. These tools can help create first drafts of notes, turn complex language into simpler terms, and make useful information easier to find for care planning. When used well, AI can reduce paperwork and give clinicians more time to focus on patient care.

At the same time, AI has important limits. People need to review its work carefully. AI can only use the information it was trained on, and that information may be incomplete, inaccurate, or biased. AI also does not fully understand tone, sarcasm, culture, context, or complicated clinical situations. These are very important parts of behavioral health assessment and treatment. There is growing concern that using AI without enough oversight in mental health care could lead to harmful results. This is why clear rules, training, and professional review are needed.

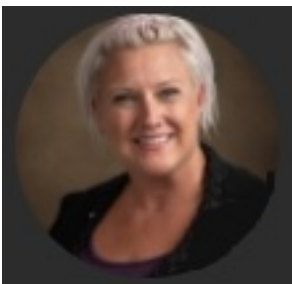
AI cannot replace the most important parts of clinical care. Clinical judgment, trust between the clinician and patient, trauma-informed care, and real-time risk assessment are human skills. They depend on relationships, ethics, experience, and professional judgment. These parts of care are central to effective mental health treatment and cannot be copied by an automated system. Tools, models, and structured practices are only useful when skilled clinicians apply them through strong clinical relationships. Evidence-Based Practices are important, but they cannot replace the value of the therapeutic relationship. The relationship is where much of the healing work happens.

AI-generated responses can sound confident, helpful, or supportive even when the information is wrong, incomplete, or not appropriate for a situation. AI creates responses based on patterns in data and the prompts it receives. It does not truly decide whether a thought, belief, or action should be supported, questioned, or redirected. In behavioral health care, not every statement should be validated, and not every idea should be encouraged. Clinicians must be able to ask questions, assess risk, recognize distorted thinking, and respond with professional judgment. AI cannot do this reliably on its own.

AI in Mental Health Continued.....

For these reasons, many organizations are focusing on using AI as a support tool with clear limits. Organizations like LRE are placing importance on staff training, human review, and accountability. They are also making sure that AI does not replace the development of basic clinical skills. AI use should also include strong privacy protections. This includes clear guidance about protecting confidential clinical information, using only approved AI platforms, and regularly reviewing documentation practices. This balanced approach shows that AI should support clinical work while protecting the quality and integrity of care.

The main question is not only whether AI will replace clinicians. It is also how AI may affect clinical thinking, documentation habits, and professional judgment over time. AI can reduce paperwork and help make documentation more consistent. However, relying on it too much can weaken clinical reasoning, create too much confidence in notes, and pull clinicians away from the careful thinking that supports quality care. AI offers helpful ways to improve efficiency and support behavioral health systems, but it must remain secondary to clinical expertise and human connection. Effective mental health care still depends on clinicians who can build trust, understand complex situations, and respond to people with empathy and informed judgment. These abilities remain uniquely human.~



Welcome to Clinical Corner. My name is Sandi Stasko and I am the Clinical Manager at LRE. I've been in this role for just over a year and worked in a CMH for more than 10 years prior to joining the LRE team. I am passionate about helping individuals become their best selves and have gained significant insights into the behind-the-scenes work involved in a public mental health system. I'll be dropping in a few paragraphs about all things Mental Health for each Newsletter.

Sandi Stasko MS LPC

Clinical Manager, LRE

Take A Break!

Rest is not idleness, and to lie sometimes on the grass under trees on a summer's day listening to the murmur of the water, or watching the clouds float across the sky, is by no means a waste of time". ~John Lubbock



SUMMER



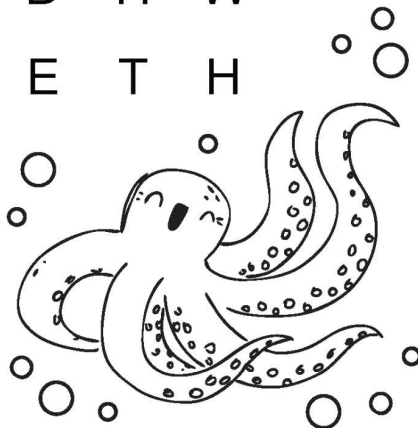
WORD SEARCH

Level 1: Tiny tracker Directions: → ↘ ↓

I	C	E	S	I	C
E	R	X	Q	E	H
B	A	L	L	G	A
Y	B	N	W	V	U
S	A	N	D	H	W
D	U	W	E	T	H

WORD LIST

SUN	HOT	CAP
FISH	BEE	CAMP



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"What do sheep do on nice summer days?"

"Go to a baa-baa-cue."

BOREDPANDA.COM



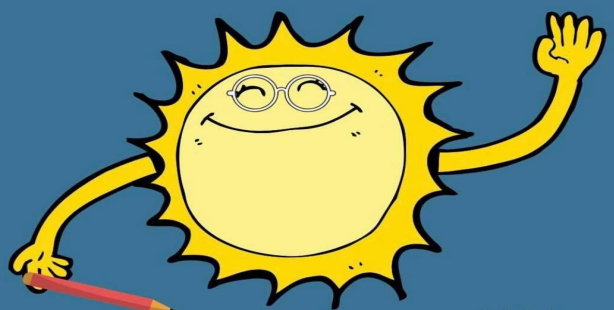
When is a pool safe for diving?

It deep ends.



Why did the sun go to school?

To get brighter!



Credit: funology.com

The Mental Health Framework:

A Solution in Search of a Problem?

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services recently announced their intent to move forward and implement the Mental Health Framework (MHF) policy on October 1, 2026. The MHF will alter how people on Medicaid access behavioral health services.

Don't be fooled, the MHF is not supported by key stakeholders or people receiving services, it is a bureaucratic shell game that shifts roles and responsibilities which increases administrative burdens and costs while not improving care for people receiving services.

Please take immediate action and call on MDHHS to STOP their work on the Mental Health Framework. **It is truly a solution in search of a problem.**

The Mental Health Framework DOES

- MHF DOES create fragmentation in care, instead of one coordinated public system, responsibility is split between CMH, Medicaid Health Plans (MHPs), and PIHPs depending on a person's classification. That means more handoffs, more confusion about who pays, and more time spent navigating the system rather than receiving care – this will slow down admissions, approvals, and treatment initiation
- MHF DOES add additional barriers to care by requiring providers to become certified in new lengthy assessment tools for Medicaid recipients and creating complex billing structures that will make it harder for individuals to access services.
- MHF DOES increase the cost of providing Medicaid services by turning over control of large portions of Michigan's Medicaid behavioral health system to private health plans that have higher administrative costs and profit. Hospitals, CMHs, and providers have raised serious concerns about the operational strain this framework would create—requiring new contracts, duplicative processes, and shifting payment responsibilities.
- MHF DOES circumvent the Michigan legislature by making significant policy changes through administrative rules as the proposal appears to conflict with Michigan's Mental Health Code and recent Court of Claims rulings.

The Mental Health Framework DOES NOT

- MHF DOES NOT offer better access to care
- MHF DOES NOT identify a clear problem that is attempting to be solved
- MHF DOES NOT better clarify roles and responsibilities
- MHF DOES NOT speak for thousands of persons served across Michigan as MDHHS has stated – they do NOT want this change

JOIN THE FOLLOWING GROUPS IN OPPOSING THE MENTAL HEALTH FRAMEWORK





The LRE Board of Directors

The Lakeshore Regional Entity Board of Directors **meeting is on the 4th Wednesday of each month.** Unless otherwise noted, prior to each Board meeting a Work session is scheduled for 11am. The Board meetings are held in person at the GVSU-Muskegon Innovation Hub, 200 Viridian Dr., Muskegon, MI 49440.

Upcoming Board Meetings

June	24,	2026
July	22,	2026
August	26,	2026

For more information on the LRE Board meetings please visit www.ltre.org

The LRE Website

For more information on your Consumer rights, please visit www.ltre.org. Once there you will be able to:

- [File an Appeal](#)
- [File a Grievance](#)
- [Learn More about the CAP](#)

For more information or to talk to our Customer Services specialist, please call 800.897.3301

