

**Van Buren
Community Mental Health Authority
Ends Monitoring Report (Part 2)
September 2024**

SUBJECT: Adults with Serious Mental Illness, Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities or Substance Use Disorders

POLICY:

There will be an improvement in the quality of life for adults and older adults with serious mental illness or intellectual/developmental disabilities and substance use disorders which will be noted by an improvement in their:

- functioning
- positive participation in their community

The following report presents evidence that VBCMh services are improving the functioning and positive participation of adult customers. This report comes from information published on the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services website and includes comparisons to state averages. Highlighted in yellow below are the portions of the CEO interpretation of the End for which data is provided this month. This is part 2 of the Ends monitoring report on adults.

CEO Interpretation:

Improvement in functioning means that adults and older adults served will demonstrate an increased sense of well being and self sufficiency. Adults and older adults will have relief from acute psychiatric conditions and will indicate that symptoms of mental illness interfere less with their daily life. They will indicate they experienced timely access to needed services and that VBCMh staff helped them obtain the information needed to take charge of managing their illness and indicate that VBCMh would be their chosen provider and one they would recommend to others. Adults and older adults with developmental disabilities will maximize their physical and cognitive ability to interact with people and their environment, whether at home, workplace, or general community settings.

The outcome-oriented scales on the MHSIP have been collected by VBCMh for a number of years and the MHSIP outcome data were the focus of the first part of this Ends Report for adults presented at the last meeting. Beginning with the 2023 report, SWMBH collected a modified version of the MHSIP survey. The 2024 SWMBH report noted that VBCMh adult customers had a higher rating for questions in Access to Services domain (87 vs 85.4.) Timely access to services has been shown to be highly correlated with positive service outcomes.

Additionally, questions from the SWMBH survey in the Quality, Appropriateness of Services and Participation in Treatment domain are also indicative of positive outcomes of services. Three of these items were:

- “Staff helped me obtain the information I needed to take charge of managing my illness.”
- “I would recommend this agency to a friend or family member.” And
- “If I had other choices, I would still get services from this agency.”

Scores for this domain were also higher for VBCMh adult customers than the SWMBH average (91.6 vs 90.1.)

Obtaining information needed to take charge of managing one's illness is indicative of improvements in functioning. Being willing to recommend the agency to others and indicating that one would choose the agency for service if other choices were available are indicative that the person had a positive experience with services at VBCMh. Both VBCMh and SWMBH domain scores were significantly higher than national averages. The results are consistent with previous years' results for these domains and questions.

CEO Interpretation

Improvement in positive participation in their community means that adults and older adults will optimize their level of self-sufficiency, will self define their occupancy of time and have increased engagement in activities they find meaningful. Defining how their time is occupied and engaging in meaningful activities includes having friendships and family relationships and contributing to their communities through competitive employment. Improvement in positive participation in their community also means they will spend less time in psychiatric hospitals.

“Contributing to their communities through competitive employment”

The data in the most recent report to the legislature published on the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) website (which is from fiscal year 2023,) VBCMh customers show higher rates of employment than adults served throughout the state. The rates are higher for both VBCMh and statewide than previous year. VBCMh having higher percentages of employment for customers of service has been consistent for a number of years.

Percentage in competitive employment

VBCMh adults with I/DD	41%
State adults with I/DD	31.1%
VBCMh adults with MI or SUD	52%
State adults with MI or SUD	35.1%

The data indicate a higher percentage of adults served by VBCMh who desire to be employed are working full or part time.

“Spend less time in psychiatric hospitals”

The standard in the state of Michigan is that fewer than 15% of persons will be re-admitted to an inpatient psychiatric unit within 30 days of discharge. Looking at all discharged adults for the last 4 published quarters of data from April 1, 2023- March 31, 2024 (published on the state website) for VBCMh, 6.1% were readmitted to an inpatient psychiatric unit within 30 days of discharge. The state of Michigan average for this period was 13.7%. Looking over multiple years of data, it appears that the readmission rate for VBCMh has always been better than the state standard, and the state average. The rates for Van Buren decreased from last year when it was 7.6% and the state average increased very slightly from 13.6%.

Data published by MDHHS for the 2021 fiscal year shows that VBCMh spent 14.3% of its expenditures on adults for psychiatric inpatient care while the state average expenditure was 20.4%. This is the most recent year the state shared this information. It had been shared for many years previously. For more than a decade the reported expenditure percentage report showed similar significant differences between VBCMh and the state average. More recent years of this report are no longer published on the department's website. The percentage spent in 2021 was increased for VBCMh over longer term averages but remained significantly less than the state average. Spending

significantly less on inpatient care is an indicator of better client outcomes as it indicates people are not requiring this level of intensive service.

These data indicate that Van Buren County residents spend less time in psychiatric hospitals and that persons served have a lower need than average for admission to a psychiatric unit however we are aware that in general many indicators point to people across the county, the state and in Van Buren County being in greater need of mental health services due to the increased change and stress of the last few years.

These data are presented to demonstrate that VBCMh services are improving functioning and positive participation of adults with serious mental illness or developmental disabilities.

All of the monitoring data for the Adults' End given in June and in this month's report are summarized in the accompanying table.

The Board is asked to deliberate the questions asked when a completed Ends report is given:

1. Is the interpretation by the CEO reasonable?
2. Is the evidence relevant and compelling?
3. Does this information lead the Board to believe they need to refine their Ends?