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SWMBH's Compliance department is now publishing a quarterly newsletter focused on Compliance related topics. Find them on SWMBH's website in the newsletter area!

[Www.swmbh.org](http://www.swmbh.org)



## SWMBH Speaks at the House of Representatives

On April 10, 2024, Bradley Case-more CEO of SWMBH, testified before the Michigan House of Representatives Appropriations Subcommittee on Department of Health and Human Services. His two main topics were Medicaid funding increase needs and using state designated Community Mental Health Entities – Prepaid Inpatient Health Plans for effective and efficient delivery of state funds received as a result of the opioid settlements \$750,000,000 over the next fifteen years. This is in addition to another \$750,000, which counties and other municipalities will receive.



## Call Center Corner

Beth Guisinger, Director of Utilization Management

### Level of Care and Medical Necessity Criteria

Southwest Michigan Behavioral Health (SWMBH) is committed to ensuring each Medicaid beneficiary receives the services best designed to meet their individual needs as identified through the Level of Care assessment process. Any individual requesting treatment services are screened for the most appropriate level of care based on their presented needs. The level of care placement tools currently being used as required by Michigan's Department of Health & Human Services (MDHHS) are the LO-CUS (Level of Care Utilization System) for Behavioral Health, the ASAM-PPC (American Society for Addiction Medicine – Patient Placement Criteria) for Substance Use Disorders, and the CAFAS/PECFAS for children. To ensure adequate and uniformed

benefits for members, SWMBH utilizes medical necessity criteria to ensure service authorization requests are appropriate and based on the medical need determined by the level of care principles and ensure the intensity of services provided are consistent with the severity of illness.

The current medical necessity criteria being utilized through SWMBH's Central Care Management and Outlier Management processes are MCG (Milliman Care Guidelines) for emergent behavioral health services and ASAM-PPC for substance use services. MCG and ASAM-PPC medical necessity criteria may be obtained by providers by request, if needed. To obtain the most current medical necessity criteria, **please contact the Utilization Management Provider line at (800) 676-0423. Press prompt 1 for Providers.**

## REMINDER: SWMBH Claims Processing Changed

All providers should note that effective April 1, 2024, Southwest Michigan Behavioral Health (SWMBH) made several changes to business processes surrounding the processing and payment of provider billed claims.

Claims will continue to batch adjudicate every day, but we moved to checks being processed every 2 weeks rather than weekly. It is our hope that allowing more time between claims entry, adjudication and check cutting, will afford more sufficient time for providers and SWMBH claims staff to work claims that may need a correction in order to be approved, thus reducing the amount of rework needed. As always, SWMBH will continue to meet our contractual obligations to our providers ensuring all approved claims are paid within those timeframes contained within our contracts.

We also have established a claims email address for provider questions regarding specific claims. That email address is [Claims@swmbh.org](mailto:Claims@swmbh.org). All questions or issues that providers may have regarding claims payment should be directed to that email address.

Technical issues surrounding SmartCare access, or 837 file uploads should continue to be sent to [providersupport@swmbh.org](mailto:providersupport@swmbh.org). As always, any issues surrounding contract codes, rates or terms should be directed to our Provider Network department at [swmbhprovidernetwork@swmbh.org](mailto:swmbhprovidernetwork@swmbh.org) or by contacting Brittany directly at [brittany.ball@swmbh.org](mailto:brittany.ball@swmbh.org).



## Flip the Script Health Equity Symposium

David Misiuk, Health Equity Project Coordinator

On June 13<sup>th</sup>, Southwest Michigan Behavioral Health (SWMBH) welcomed guests and speakers to the "Flip the Script: Creating a New Narrative" health equity symposium. The speakers addressed racial disparities, stigma, and other related topics and how they relate to and within the behavioral health system. Attendees had the opportunity to engage in thought-provoking discussions with conversations sometimes outside of traditional comfort zones. Attendees gained insight into reforming systems and

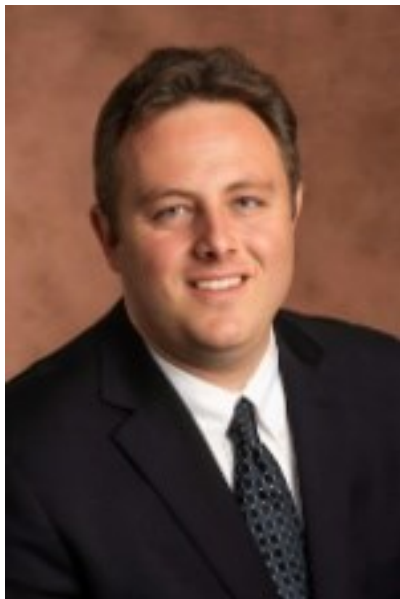
fostering a new positive narrative for the communities we serve. A special thanks to all attendees and to our panel of speakers: Valarie Cunningham from The Synergy Health Center, Kevin Fischer of NAMI Michigan, Shea-Lin Shobowale-Benson, Ph.D, Carlos Brown, Ph.D., LMSW, Robert Eugene Gray from PoWeR Group, Shannon Laing, MSW & Anna Martínez-Hume, Ph.D. from Michigan Public Health Institute.





## Meet our new Medical Director, Dr. Michael Redinger:

Leah Mitchell, Manager of UM and Call Center



Dr. Michael Redinger is an Associate Professor at the Western Michigan University Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine (WMed). He is dually appointed in the Department of Medical Ethics, Humanities, and Law, for which he serves as Co-Chair, and the Department of Psychiatry. He also serves as the current Young Physician Section representative on the Michigan State Medical Society Board of Directors, as an Alternate Delegate from Michigan to the American Medical Association, and as the Inaugural Unit Head of the WMed Unit of the International Network of the UNESCO Chair in Bioethics.

His myriad research interests include clinical ethics, psychiatric ethics, religion and medicine, Catholic health care ethics, and medical professionalism. He has been published in *The New England Journal of Medicine*, *CHEST*, *The American Journal of Psychiatry*, *The American Journal of Bioethics*, *Cambridge Quarterly of Healthcare Ethics*, and *The Journal of the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law*, as well as popular media including *The New York Times*, the *Detroit Free Press*, *America: The Jesuit Review*, and *Commonweal* magazine.

Prior to joining the faculty at WMed, Dr. Redinger served as the Chief Resident in WMed's Department of Psychiatry. Prior to arriving at WMed, he completed a dual MD/MA in Bioethics and Health Policy with a Concentration in Catholic Health Care Ethics at Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine and Neiswanger Institute for Bioethics. He is a proud alumnus of the University of Notre Dame and a native Idahoan.

Dr. Redinger adds: "As a longstanding member of the mental health community in Southwest Michigan, I appreciate the work that SWMBH does in our community, and I am honored to work alongside an incredibly talented and compassionate group of individuals."

## Get to know our contracted Addiction Medicine specialist, Dr. Bruce Springer:

Dr. Bruce Springer completed medical school at Wayne State University in 1980 followed by a 4-year Internal Medicine residency at Blodgett Memorial Medical Center and St Mary's Hospitals in Grand Rapids, MI. He spent time doing research at Indiana University in Molecular Biology and returned to Grand Rapids in 1991 as a hospital-based physician. During this work he became interested in treating patients with substance use disorders and has specialized in Addiction Medicine for more than 20 years. He is Board Certified in both Internal Medicine and Addiction Medicine and played a key role in initiating the treatment of addiction at Pine Rest Christian Mental Health Services in Grand Rapids. He presently serves as the Director of Medically Assisted Treatment of Substance Use Disorders at InterCare Community Health Network, seeing patients in Pullman, Michigan. His professional interests lie in bringing substance use treatment to underserved patient populations.



## Recent Events & News



⇒ **NAMI-MI Gala** at The Henry Hotel on April 13, 2024. Pictured left: Denise Burton-Epp President and CEO of National Association for Children of the Addicted NACoA, Bradley Casemore and spouse, Cynthia Casemore. Pictured right: Bradley Casemore with his guest Representative Christine Morse Chair of House Appropriations Subcommittee on DHHS Appropriations.



- ⇒ SWMBH CEO Bradley Casemore was recently reappointed to the Michigan Mental Health Diversion Council for a term expiring 1/30/28. The Mental Health Diversion Council is an advisory body to the Governor within the Department of Health and Human Services charged to advise and assist in the implementation of a diversion action plan and provide recommendations for statutory, contractual, or procedural changes to improve diversion from jail to more effective approaches for persons with mental health issues including but not limited to mental health courts. This appointments is not subject to the advice and consent of the Senate.
- ⇒ **Autism Alliance Gala** on April 20, 2024. Pictured below: Ella Philander, Bradley Casemore, Garyl Guidry, Sarah Ameter and spouses.



## Upcoming Trainings

### ⇒ **Seeking Safety: An Evidence-Based Model for Trauma and/or Addiction**

**(Prerecorded digital Seminar)** Target Audience: Counselors, Social Workers, Psychologists, Psychotherapists, Therapists, Marriage & Family Therapists, Addiction Counselors, Case Managers, Physicians, Nurses, Other Mental Health Professionals

Lisa M. Najavits, PhD, is adjunct professor at University of Massachusetts Medical School and author of the acclaimed Seeking Safety: A Treatment Manual for PTSD and Substance Abuse. This recording provides an overview of the Seeking Safety model and how it fits within the context of trauma treatments. Clinicians will learn the key features of this practical model and as well as its format and content. We will cover implementation aspects such as client selection and adaptation to different settings. By the end of the recording, clinicians who choose to implement the model in their practice will be able to do so. This non interactive self-study prerecorded training provides an overview of the Seeking Safety model and how it fits within the context of trauma treatments. Clinicians will learn the key features of this practical model and as well as its format and content. We will cover implementation aspects such as client selection and adaptation to different settings. By the end of the recording, clinicians who choose to implement the model in their practice will be able to do so. Objectives 1. Investigate three key clinical issues in treating trauma and substance abuse and the linkages between trauma and addiction. 2. Evaluate the four key features of the Seeking Safety model. 3. Utilize at least four resources for learning more about trauma and addiction. Speaker Lisa M. Najavits, PhD, is adjunct professor at University of Massachusetts Medical School and author of the acclaimed Seeking Safety: A Treatment Manual for PTSD and Substance Abuse.

No cost for SWMBH Affiliates—1.25 CE hours Special instructions apply. Certificate of Attendance available from SWMBH upon verification of participation

**July 17th 9:30-10:40am Registration link:** <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMkc-GogDMqEtJC1zGIp-9lS2Y2csEDblo>

⇒ **Introduction to a Culture of Gentleness** Target audience Providers, Direct Support Professional, Case Managers, and Families. Multiple dates being offered. This seminar is designed to provide individuals with a basic overview of a Culture of Gentleness, what it is and what it isn't. Operating from the assumption that everyone needs to feel safe and valued, we will develop an understanding of how positive supports can lead to relationships that are compassionate and encouraging for everyone. Foundational principles of developing and strengthening supportive relationships as a strategy to reduce challenges and build a foundation for growth and healing are explored. **Please ONLY register for one training session.**

**July 9<sup>th</sup> 2024 9a-4p Registration link** [https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwpcuyrrzorGnr654\\_aoOgLxCtmxninNdIQ](https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwpcuyrrzorGnr654_aoOgLxCtmxninNdIQ)

**August 22<sup>nd</sup> 2024 9a-4p Registration link** <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYscuqrrzlvGtFOvU3DGccpykUlfkGw0cl5>

⇒ **Charting the LifeCourse** Target audience Supports Coordinators, Case Managers, Families. Multiple dates being offered. Charting the LifeCourse is a framework that was developed to help individuals and families of all abilities and at any age or stage of life develop a vision for a good life, think about what they need to know and do, identify how to find or develop supports, and discover what it takes to live the lives they want to live. Individuals and families may focus on their current situation and stage of life but may also find it helpful to look ahead to start thinking about life experiences now that will help move them toward an inclusive, productive life in the future. The framework is designed to help any citizen think about their life, not just individuals known by the service system. Even though the framework was originally developed for people with disabilities, it is designed universally, and can be used by any family making a life plan, whether they have a member with a disability or not. This workshop will introduce the foundational tools for Charting the LifeCourse.

**September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024 9a-4p Registration link** [https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYoduyugDwuGtWPIYYj5cx4lT\\_2RuYBvddu](https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYoduyugDwuGtWPIYYj5cx4lT_2RuYBvddu)



## Upcoming Trainings Continued

### ⇒ **Person Centered Thinking, Deepening our practices. Targeted Audience Supports Coordinators and Case Managers**

Sign in begins at 8:30am. Training starts promptly at 9:00am and ends at 4:00pm. The goal is to provide people with a solid grounding in Person Centered thinking. A foundation of this curriculum will be 5 Valued Experiences; a philosophy developed by John and Connie O'Brien with assistance from Beth Mount. The ideas of Belonging, Being Respected, Sharing Ordinary Spaces, Contributing, and Choosing are foundational when trying to support people to have a life worth living. We will utilize the 5 Valued Experiences and The 5 Accomplishments as the groundwork for the training. We will utilize the principles of the Central Purpose and The Six Elements from A Culture of Gentleness to provide concrete tools for relationship building. This will offer a framework which will assist participants in exploring and reflecting on how they can deepen relationships with those that they support.

Registration is being completed utilizing the SWMBH Zoom platform only. This is an **in person training**.

**Thursday 7/25/24 9am-4:30pm: Registration link** <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAsfuuhqzwiGNY8bGOgu2HYmBOYBIRx2H5G>

### ⇒ **"Break Through" Self-Regulation Interventions for Children and Adolescents with Autism, ADHD, Sensory or Emotional Challenges (Prerecorded Digital Seminar)**

**Target Audience:** Occupational Therapists, Occupational Therapy Assistants, Speech-Language Pathologists, Teachers/School-Based Personnel, School Administrators, School Social Workers, Physicians, School Counselors, School Psychologists, School Guidance Counselors, Psychologists, Social Workers, Licensed Professional Counselors, Physical Therapists, Physical Therapist Assistants

Sheetal Parikh, OTD, OTR/L, ASDCS, CYT, has been an occupational therapist since 2001. Dr. Parikh has over 20 years of clinical experience working with children and adults in a variety of settings and with a variety of diagnoses. No one ever said that working with children with autism, ADHD or sensory disorders is easy. How do we help a child break through the self-regulation issues that limit their achievements? I discovered this was a simple question with a complex answer. I set out to learn as much as I could about theories, techniques, and research that could help make the lives of these young people much more manageable and promising. I took intensive courses on multi-sensory approaches, sensory integration, self-regulation, yoga, autism, ADHD and became a certified autism specialist in 2018. I have extensive experience adapting these techniques to make them usable in a variety of settings while working closely with teachers, aides, child study professionals, and parents. Join me as I guide you through a broad set of self-regulation interventions culled from my years of research and practice along with strategies for adapting them to your setting. You will leave my program with the essential skills, interventions and strategies to help children find harmony with themselves, their families, and the world around them! You will learn: The most effective calming, sensory, motor or behavioral techniques for a given type of behavior. Peer-to-peer video feedback as a social intervention for children and teens with ASD. Sleep interventions for children with erratic sleep schedules Interventions for repetitive and restrictive behaviors for a child with stereotypy. Organization strategies for home and school for teenagers with ADHD And more!

No cost for SWMBH Affiliates—6.25 CE hours Special instructions apply. Certificate of Attendance available from SWMBH upon verification of participation

**Date: August 14th, 2024 9:00am-12:07pm & August 16th, 2024 9:00am-12:00pm**

**Registration link:** <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwkceiopjwvEtOUK5Za0wR0-6Tm64VBLH1C>

# SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

## Quality and Excellence through Partnerships

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### WE'RE ON THE WEB!

[WWW.SWMBH.ORG](http://WWW.SWMBH.ORG)

*Check out the SWMBH Provider Manual and Provider Directory, on our SWMBH website: [www.swmbh.org](http://www.swmbh.org). The website contains information about the SWMBH policies and procedures as well as helpful information on topics such as provider responsibilities, customer rights, utilization management and other helpful material.*

Southwest Michigan Behavioral Health (SWMBH) is the Prepaid Inpatient Health Plan (PIHP) for eight Michigan counties, and is in partnership with the Community Mental Health (CMH) agencies of these counties. SWMBH, in partnership with the CMH's and local providers, provides mental health services to adults with severe and persistent mental illness, children with severe emotional disturbance, individuals with developmental disabilities, and individuals with substance use disorders. As the manager of services, SWMBH will make sure that services are provided to you based on your needs and goals and are within the guidelines set by the state of Michigan. SWMBH strives to ensure that you and your family members are treated with dignity and respect.



**Do you wish to stay up-to-date on SWMBH Trainings?** If YES, please submit your name and the organization you work for to [traininginfo@swmbh.org](mailto:traininginfo@swmbh.org) with a request to be added to the training email list. This will allow SWMBH to send to you information on all the latest and greatest training/webinar opportunities.