

# Mental Health rebrands to OnPoint

By Gari Voss

Allegan County Mental Health (ACMH) has been a workhorse in Allegan County as it strives to meet the needs of individuals who are struggling with various life situations that seem insurmountable. Over the last two years, ACMH began two transitions. First, the decision was made and funds procured to move from their 122nd Avenue location to the former Shopko building on M-40 South in Allegan. The second decision was to become OnPoint.

Though the name changed, the services provided to the population in Allegan County has not. The staff is committed to assisting clients in managing behavioral health issues. These issues may be related to coping with mental illnesses, developmental or intellectual disabilities, substance use, or homelessness.

In transitioning to the new facility, the services provided will not change and are already expanding. Many of the staff members spend more time in the field than in the



office. Therefore, the new building will provide some office spaces with meeting rooms that can be used for a variety of purposes.

OnPoint Executive Director Mark Witte shared, “We are already adding additional office and clinical staff. There has been an increased demand in the community for additional assistance. This includes expanding substance abuse support in collaboration with other agencies. Some of the assistance can be given through ZOOM while others require more in-door contact.”

The new name and logo is intended to remove negative feeling toward the misconceptions associated with “mental health”. The intent is to transform the agency’s culture and focus on expanding care for people who may be struggling with life issues.

The new logo assists people in focusing on “the ‘O’ to symbolize the services that are folded together by the agency to help individuals get back into the ‘fold’ of life.” The origami design also symbolizes hope and healing which have been associated with the original intent of origami.

Witte has been a supporter of assisting people before a problem becomes a crisis. This philosophy has grown with the recent services focused on early-on concerns and interventions.

“We cannot wait for a problem to grow into an emergency. If the severity of the issue is lower, the problem is more likely to be successfully addressed.”

OnPoint will continue working with other county organizations. These include the County Corrections team and Arbor Circle.

“We are addressing a wider variety of issues. Sometimes, it takes longer than we wish, but the number of people receiving services has increased,” Witte reflected.

The new OnPoint facility is in the midst of renovation. Supply Chain issues have delayed the receiving of items like windows and dividing structures, but Witte is hoping that the offices will move by late spring 2023.

“OnPoint provides managed behavioral health care through a variety of services and support for the people of Allegan County. Person-centered and family-focused services are provided for people coping with mental illnesses, developmental or intellectual disabilities, substance use disorders or homelessness.”

Allegan County residents should not hesitate to request help assistance. During the week, call 269 686-5124 or 1-877 608-3568. For 24 Hour Crisis services call 269 673-0202 or 888 354-0596.