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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** Contact: Lisa Jennings, Executive Director Monroe Community Mental Health Authority 734.243.7340, <u>liennings@monroecmha.org</u>

## COVID-19 UPDATE: MONROE COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES CONTINUE. IN-PERSON EMERGENCY ONLY

**Monroe**, **Mich.** – Monroe Community Mental Health Authority (MCMHA) is continuing to provide behavioral health services; however, the organization is changing how those services are delivered to help limit the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19).

"Help is still only a phone call away," said Lisa Jennings, Executive Director. "Client services and supports are being provided by telephone or by video-conference as much as possible and we are limiting face-to-face services to emergencies only."

To limit in-person services, effective immediately, MCMHA's building is open only for emergencies. Clients and visitors requesting entry will be required to participate in a health screening.

Case managers, therapists, peer support specialists, nurses, and psychiatrists are conducting their scheduled appointments primarily via telephone and video conferencing.

Monroe CMHA also operates a 24-Hour Crisis Help Line for persons experiencing a mental health emergency requiring crisis stabilization or psychiatric hospitalization. That number is 734.243.7340.

Monroe CMHA serves adults with serious mental illness, children with severe emotional disorders, and persons with intellectual or developmental disabilities. People may still access services by calling the Access Center at 734.243.7340. Intakes and assessments for new services are still being completed by phone.

Day programs and Clubhouse programs are closed by Executive Order, and those services are suspended, although Clubhouse staff continue to reach out to members by phone and other means.

"Our staff are doing their best to provide services to those who rely on us, and are, in fact, checking in on those we serve frequently during this stressful time," said Ms. Jennings. "Luckily we have the technology available to continue to provide services in alternative ways."

For more information about the services provided by MCMHA and how to access help contact MCMHA at 734.243.7340 or go to mcmha.org

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