

Millage update



Resources from the Washtenaw County Public Safety and Mental Health Preservation Millage first became available on January 1, 2019.

In this e-mail, we highlight some of the work accomplished in the last quarter of 2020.

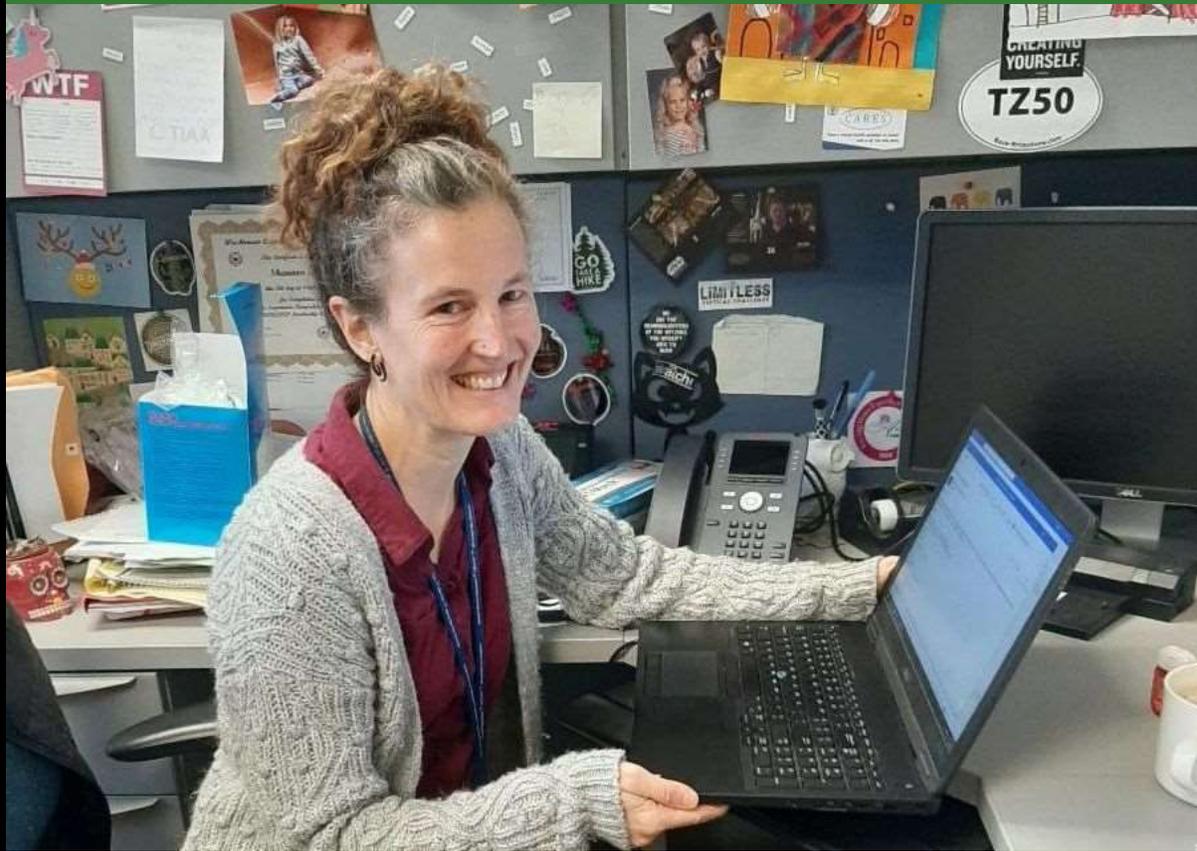
24/7 Crisis Assessment Center



Washtenaw's new crisis assessment center serves 1st clients

In June 2020, thanks to funding provided by the [Public Safety and Mental Health Preservation Millage](#), Washtenaw County Community Mental Health opened a 24/7 crisis assessment center at 750 Towner Street in Ypsilanti. The crisis center is a safe, temporary space for those in need of support and a much-needed alternative to seeking help in the emergency room. [Read more.](#)

CARES Q&A



A Q&A with CARES Access Supervisor Shannon Ellis

CARES (Crisis, Access, Resources, Engagement, and Support) is a team of mental health professionals created by the Washtenaw County voter-approved [Public Safety and Mental Health Preservation Millage](#) on May 1, 2019 when services were expanded to all county residents, regardless of insurance status or severity of need. This month, we spoke with Shannon Ellis, a social worker who supervises CARES access, to hear more about the program. [Read more.](#)

Black Lives Matter Task Force

BLACK
LIVES
MATTER



WCCMH launches Black Lives Matter Task Force

Following the killing of George Floyd in May of 2020, Washtenaw County Community Mental Health staff members were inspired to address racial disparities and inequities by forming a Black Lives Matter (BLM) Task Force. The task force's mission is to reduce systemic racism within WCCMH, as well as to create positive change with local communities of color. [Read more.](#)

Medication-Assisted Treatment



County jail expands use of medication-assisted treatment

Medication-assisted treatment, commonly referred to as **MAT**, is the use of a medication, usually in combination with counseling and behavioral therapy, to treat substance use disorders such as opioid addiction by normalizing the body's brain chemistry and response to opiates. The Washtenaw County jail has seen success with MAT, both for reducing recidivism rates, as well as decreasing the number of overdoses after release, and now plans to expand the program's offerings. [Read more.](#)

Reentry Services



BJA grant allows for expansion of reentry services

In 2019, Washtenaw County received a [\\$1 million, four-year grant](#) from the U.S. Bureau of Justice Administration. The purpose: To address high recidivism rates, the rates of individuals returning to jail after release, among those with mental health and substance use disorders. The new reentry services team at the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Office includes two case managers, two peer support specialists, and Aaron Suganuma, the reentry coordinator who oversees the team and grant work. [Read more.](#)

COVID-19 Homeless Response



The expected (and unexpected) impact of a hotel room

In the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic, WCCMH contributed \$140,000 in millage resources to safe, temporary housing for homeless populations. More recently, WCCMH has contributed an additional \$20,000 in millage resources to provide housing and rental assistance to more than five-dozen individuals and families in need. These contributions have had many positive benefits--some unexpected. [Read more.](#)

Learn more about these and other millage initiatives

Garrett's Space



Garrett's Space works to reduce suicide rates among youth

In 2017, Julie and Scott Halpert lost their son, Garrett, to suicide. They created Garrett's Space shortly after to respond to increasing rates of youth suicide across the nation and in Washtenaw County. Recently, Garrett's Space volunteers have been delivering suicide prevention resources across Washtenaw County. [Read more.](#)

In the news



Mental health millages meet crucial needs in four Michigan counties,
Estelle Sloomaker, Concentrate, Feb 11

Major health care players collaborate to rethink how they invest in Washtenaw County's well-being,
Estelle Sloomaker, Concentrate, Jan 7

EMU pilot program aims to remove barriers to college education for the formerly incarcerated,
Sarah Rigg, Concentrate, Jan 6

In COVID-19 pandemic, Ann Arbor-based Workit Health finds opportunity to combat opioid epidemic,
Emily Benda, Concentrate, Jan 6

Virtual event benefiting U-M senior service programs seeks storytellers,
Jaishree Drepaal-Bruder, Concentrate, Jan 6

Savit sworn in as Washtenaw County prosecutor, begins work to reshape justice system,
Ryan Stanton, Mlive, Jan 5

Q&A: How Eli Savit Plans to Reform Criminal Justice in Washtenaw County,
Ryan Stanton, Mlive, Dec 27

Local groups partner to host recurring Pull Over Prevention Clinics in Ypsilanti area,
Sarah Rigg, Concentrate, Dec 16

Prosecutor-elect Eli Savit taps Washtenaw County activists to help shape agenda for change,
Sarah Rigg, Concentrate, Dec 9

[Ann Arbor-based Spell Bound adapts augmented reality products to motivate patients in isolation](#), **Emily Benda**, Concentrate, Dec 2

[Washtenaw County Food Policy Council annual report highlights food insecurity dashboard](#), **Emily Benda**, Concentrate, Dec 2

[Here are the results of the first full year of Washtenaw County's mental health millage](#), **Jaishree Dprepaul-Bruder**, Concentrate, Nov 18

[Grassroots video series enlists Ypsi-area leaders of color to read children's books](#), **Sarah Rigg**, Concentrate, Nov 18

[After a big win at the polls, here's what's next for affordable housing in Ann Arbor](#), **Sarah Rigg**, Concentrate, Nov 18

[Washtenaw County organizations receive over \\$1 million from state COVID racial disparity task force](#), **Emily Benda**, Concentrate, Nov 11

[Washtenaw County's Public Safety and Mental Health Preservation Millage](#), **Doug Marrin**, The Sun Times News, Nov 11

[Millage Funds Helping Expand Mental Health Services In Washtenaw County](#), **Jorge Avellan**, WEMU, Nov 9

[Report outlines how Washtenaw County's mental health millage funds were spent](#), **Samual Robinson**, Mlive, Nov 9

[County sheriff and Washtenaw My Brother's Keeper partner to launch Police Reform Academy](#), **Sarah Rigg**, Concentrate, Nov 4

And remember

**If you or someone you know needs support
Contact us 24/7 at 734-544-3050 or 1-800-440-7548**

