

Annual Rural Health Conference

LUNCHEON PRESENTATION

John Barnas, Executive Director
Michigan Center for Rural Health
April 24, 2025

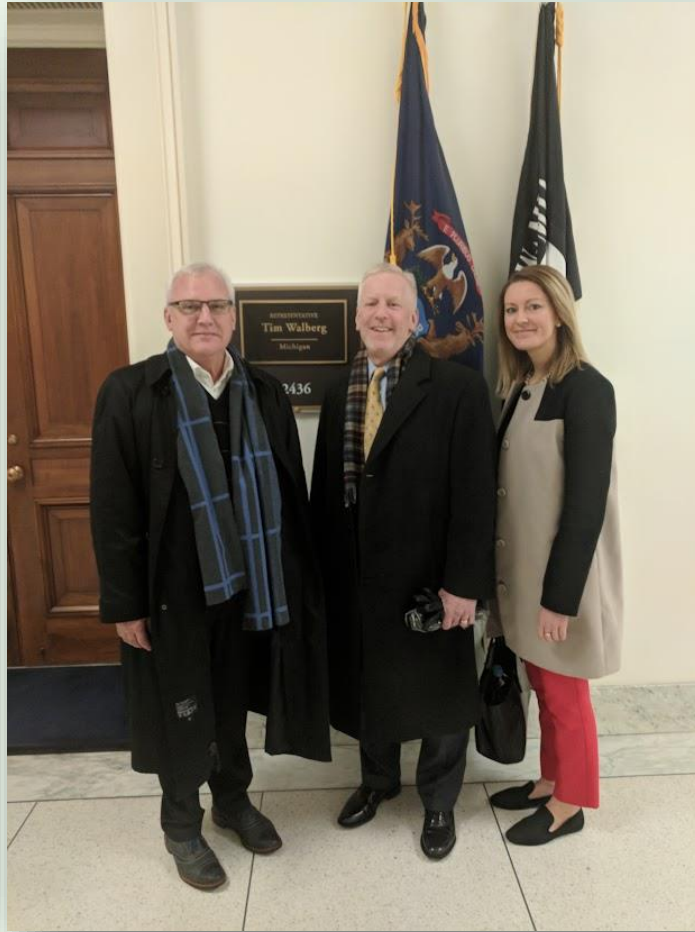




Thank you to **Hall Render**
for Lunch today

Thanks to all our Partners!

16 Years, Friend and Colleague



John had Cancer

(a public service announcement & ask)

Surveillance really works

An Update on the Grandchildren



Ettore



Calogero



Dad and the Boys



MCRH Grants & Contracts

HRSA Managed Grants

- State Office of Rural Health (231K)
- Medicare Rural Hospital FLEX Program
- Flex EMS
- Small Hospital Improvement Program (SHIP)
- Rural Communities Opioid Response 3
- RCORP 4
- RCORP Psychostimulant
- RCORP Behavioral Health
- Outreach (Swing Bed Quality Improvement)
- I-REACH (U.P. Veterans Outreach)
- Rural Public Health Workforce (EMS & CHW)

State Managed Grants

- State appropriation for SORH
- EMS Workforce: Paramedic scholarships
- Diabetes ECHO
- Primary Care Contracts

Other Grants

- EMS HPSA (MHEF)
- Palliative Care (MHEF)
- Maternal & Child Health (NRHA)



MCRH Staff



John Barnas
Executive
Director



Crystal Barter
Director of
Programs &
Services



Jill Oesterle
Director of Provider
Solutions



Jeff Nagy
Quality
Improvement
Advisor



Renee Calkins
Rural Education
Manager



Amanda St. Martin
Hospital Programs
Manager



Laura Mispelon
Social Drivers of
Health Manager



Aleah Huse
Projects &
Communications
Coordinator



Kyra Burkeen
Workforce
Initiative Manager



Joyce Fetrow
NMORC Project
Director



Jeanne Marriott
NMORC Project
Associate



Gennie Groover
NMORC Project
Associate



Jim Yates
IREACH Project
Director



Pierse Meyers
Administrative
Assistant



Louise Constant
Administrative
Assistant

RURAL UPDATES

- Andrew Raymond, new CEO, *Kalkaska Memorial Hospital*
- Kent LaCroix, Interim CEO, *Schoolcraft Memorial Hospital*
- Dennis Smith, Interim CEO, *Munising Memorial Hospital*
- Hunter Nostrant, new CEO, *MyMichigan Alpena*
- Beacon Health purchased *Ascension Borgess Lee* and *Ascension Allegan*
- 20 rural Paramedic students at Bay Community College
- 20 rural EMT students at Gogebic Community College
- Continuing education credits awarded through MCRH Programs
 - 2023 – 1,649
 - 2024 – 3,362

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



Sam Watson

- Senior Vice President for Patient Safety and Quality of the MHA
- Executive Director of the MHA Keystone Center for Patient Safety and Quality.



Michigan State University Students

- 13 MSU College of Human Medicine students
 - Led by Dr. Andrea Wendling & Dr. Elizabeth Lyons
- 2 MSU Masters of Public Health Students
 - Led by Dr. John Clements & Dr. Natalie Kasiborski
- All submitted a poster for student research presentation
 - Many of you attended the morning session with them



RURAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR AWARD

RURAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR

- This award is presented to an individual deserving of recognition for their efforts in rural health in Michigan.
- The award is granted to an individual who has carried out ***exemplary work in promoting health*** in rural areas, shown ***excellent leadership in the improvement of health care services*** to the rural areas of Michigan, and has made ***worthy contributions to the improvement of health*** to the people in rural Michigan.

2025 RURAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR

Kari Granz, Program & Communication Specialist,
Thumb Community Health Partnership

Mental Health Advocacy: Led *Man Therapy* campaign to reduce suicide among men, reaching thousands across media platforms with stigma-reducing messaging.

Workforce Development: Spearheaded the *Health & Human Services Career Pipeline Program* to inspire youth to pursue healthcare careers.

Nursing Shortage Solutions: Collaborated on *UM-FERN* to support rural nurse education and training, expanding workforce in underserved areas.

Coverage & Access: Guided residents through Medicaid, CHIP, and Marketplace enrollment, improving access to essential healthcare services.

Resource Navigation: Co-created **ThumbCares.org** with 211 to connect rural residents with services addressing social determinants of health.



THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING THIS YEAR'S LUNCHEON

