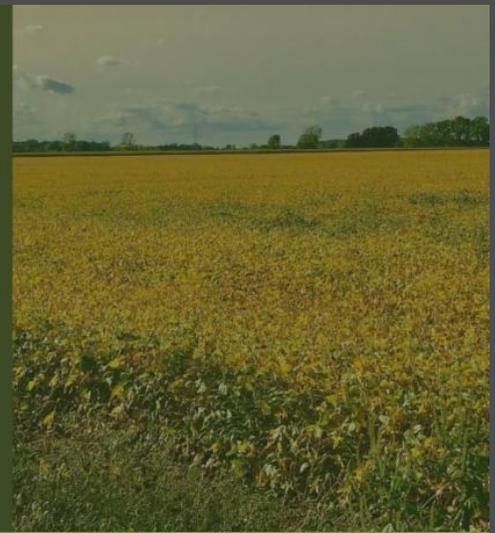




Our Mission:

TO COORDINATE, PLAN,
AND ADVOCATE FOR
IMPROVED HEALTH FOR
MICHIGAN'S RURAL
RESIDENTS AND
COMMUNITIES.



MCRH MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

February 2023

Volume 4, Issue 2

Inside the February MCRH Newsletter:

- **26th Annual Michigan Rural Health Conference Registration is Now Open**
- **Michigan Rural Hospitals Ranked in the Chartis Group Top 100**
- **MCRH at the 2023 National Rural Health Policy Institute**
- **A Site Visit to Jordan Valley EMS Authority**
- **Information on New Grant Funding Opportunities, Workforce Resources, and Upcoming Events**
- **March 2023 Grand Rounds, Project ECHO, and EMS Webinar Information**
- **And much, much more**

26th Annual Michigan Rural Health Conference News

Register Today to Attend the Michigan Rural Health Conference

Registration is open to attend the 26th Annual Michigan Rural Health Conference at Soaring Eagle Resort in Mt. Pleasant Thursday, April 27th, and Friday, April 28th!

The agenda is designed to amplify ideas and innovations in Michigan's rural health landscape and some of the highlights include:

-Rural Health Equity, Poverty, and Rural Resilience
Michael Meit, MA, MPH, Director, East Tennessee State University Center for Rural Health Research

-Opioid Settlement Funds: State and Local Perspectives



[Click Here to View the Conference Agenda and Register](#)

Booking A Room for the Conference?

The Michigan Center for

Amy Dolinky, Technical Advisor Michigan Association of Counties, and Brandon Hool, State of Michigan

-Federal Update on Rural Health Issues

Brock Slabach, MPH, FACHE, Senior Vice President for Member Services, National Rural Health Association

-Grants that Amplify the Reach of Telemedicine

Chris Green-Hutchins, Michigan Moonshot Program Manager, Merit Network

-And Much, Much More

A variety of exhibitors will also be on hand along with student medical research presentations, and a Thursday evening networking reception rounds out this event. We hope to see you in April!

Rural Health room block is also now open for attendees to arrange for lodging at Soaring Eagle.

When you book your room, please use the code:
MCRH042523

Make your reservation by phone
1-877-232-4532 or online by clicking [here](#).

26th Annual Michigan Rural Health Conference Partner Opportunities Available

Consider becoming an exhibiting or sponsorship partner at the 26th Annual Michigan Rural Health Conference held April 27-28 at Soaring Eagle Resort in Mt. Pleasant, MI, today.

There are three tiers of exhibitor table packages that will maximize your exposure to this year's attendees. This year we are also offering two unique ways to put your brand in front of our audience through technology. One is sponsoring our phone charging stations with your brand logo and QR code to drive attendees to your website. Another opportunity is to become a sponsor of our conference Guidebook App which puts your brand in front of participants throughout the event directly on their mobile devices.

The Michigan Rural Health Conference provides the most targeted opportunity to reach the Michigan rural health community with your organization's message, products, services, and educational outreach efforts. We expect a diverse audience to discuss relevant issues, network, and disseminate information.

Contact Doug Siwek (siwekdou@msu.edu) for more details.

[Click Here to View the Full Sponsorship Prospectus and Register as a Conference Partner](#)

**2023 Rural Health Professional of the Year
Nominations are Open**



2023 Rural Health Professional of the Year Award Nominations are OPEN!

In Honor of Loren O. Gettel

Select a Nominee Today!

For nearly 20 years, 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 for the people in rural Michigan.



This award is presented to an individual deserving of recognition for their efforts in rural health in Michigan in honor of Loren O. Gettel.

An individual, by nomination by their peers, 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 for the people in rural Michigan.

Though many are worthy, MCRH will announce the winner at our Michigan Rural Health Conference, on April 27th, 2023 at Soaring Eagle Casino and Resort.

The deadline to nominate is April 6, 2023, at 11:45 pm

[Click Here to Complete Your 2023 Rural Health Professional of the Year Nomination and View Previous Winners](#)

Chartis Center Top 100 Lists Recognize Michigan Rural Hospitals

The Chartis Center for Rural Health recently unveiled its annual list of the Top 100 rural and community hospitals in the U.S.

MCRH congratulates Michigan's one Critical Access Hospital and five rural and community hospitals that made the prestigious list.

The Top Critical Access Hospital in Michigan is:

- Hills & Dales General Hospital Cass City, MI



The Top Rural and Community Hospitals in Michigan are:

- Ascension St Joseph Hospital Tawas City, MI
- McLaren Lapeer Region Lapeer, MI
- Munson Healthcare Cadillac Hospital Cadillac, MI
- MyMichigan Medical Center - Alpena Alpena, MI
- UP Health System - Portage Main Campus Hancock, MI

Congratulations to these rural hospitals and their tremendous staff for all the great work they do to deliver exceptional care in their communities!

[Click Here for the Complete Top 100 Critical Access Hospitals List](#)

[Click Here for the Complete Top 100 Rural & Community Hospitals List](#)

Michigan Center for Rural Health Attends National Rural Health Policy Institute



MCRH enjoyed a productive visit during the National Rural Health Policy Institute in Washington, D.C. earlier this month. We were joined by a great group that advocated strongly for rural health in Michigan.

This included: **McKenzie Health System**, United Healthcare Partners, **Sheridan Community Hospital**, **Helen Newberry Joy Hospital & Healthcare Center**, **Sparrow Health System**, and **Kalkaska Memorial Health Center**. The **Michigan Health & Hospital Association** joined us as well.



[Click here for the complete NRHA 2023 Policy Requests](#) document that were used as talking points in our meetings.

A great week on the hill!

(Pictured: Steve Barnett, DHA, CRNA, FACHE, Hunter Nostrant, Lili Petricevic, Jeremy Cannon, Angela McConnachie, Mark Brisboe, Lauren LaPine, MPH, and MCRH Executive Director, John Barnas)



Site Visit: Jordan Valley E.M.S. Authority

MCRH EMS Programs Manager, Andrea Abbas and MDHHS Bureau of Emergency Preparedness, EMS, and Systems of Care EMS Data Coordinator, Johnny Wagner traveled to East Jordan to work closely with Jordan Valley EMS Authority. While on site, Johnny and Andrea provided technical assistance, education, and training to support the HRSA Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility Program-EMS Competing Supplement.



In 2022, MCRH was awarded grant funding to focus on this project through the US Department of Health and Human Services Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility Program-EMS Competing Supplement. This grant award supports EMS data reporting quality improvement for rural Michigan EMS agencies.

Jordan Valley EMS Authority is one of twelve rural Michigan EMS agencies participating in the project.

What a great visit!





More News & Information You Can Use

MICHIGAN HEALTH ENDOWMENT FUND

The Michigan Health Endowment Fund 2023 Behavioral Health Initiative

The Behavioral Health grant program aims to improve access to high-quality, integrated mental health and substance use disorder (SUD) healthcare for Michigan residents in order to bridge health equity gaps, advance integrated care, increase cost-effectiveness, and strengthen the health workforce. We are interested in funding projects that address the five priority areas listed below:

- Innovative care delivery models
- Multisector responses
- Innovative technology
- Team-based approaches to care
- Children in the foster care system or who have been adopted

Some past winners from Michigan's rural health communities have included:

McLaren Northern Michigan Foundation - Behavioral Health Workforce Development

AuSable Valley Community Mental Health - Ogemaw County No Wrong Door Access Program

Catholic Human Services, Inc. - Recovery Resources for Teens and Families

Spectrum Health Foundation - Suicide S.A.F.E. Team Response: Blue Envelope

Additional News Impacting Rural Health In Michigan

Announcing the WSU Careers and Connections Hiring Fair - March 24th



WAYNE STATE
School of Social Work

The Wayne State School of Social Work is holding a virtual 'Career and Connections Hiring Fair' on Friday, March 24th, from 12-2pm.

At the Careers and Connections Hiring Fair, over 15 social service agencies and organizations will be on hand to tell you all about the

Upper Peninsula Health Care Solutions -
Behavioral Health Tele-ECHO Project

Northern Michigan University -
Collaborative Network: Behavioral Health Access in UP

Applications are now open with the deadline for submission on April, 13th, 2023.

[Click Here to View the Behavioral Health Initiative RFP and Additional Details](#)



UPDATED: Catalog of Value-Based Initiatives for Rural Providers

Earlier this month, the [Rural Health Value](#) team released the annual update of the Catalog of Value Based Initiatives for Rural Providers.

This is your “go-to” resource for staying current on CMMI payment demos that are germane for rural healthcare organizations and clinicians.

Please share this resource as appropriate with your networks and stakeholders.

[Click Here to View the Updated Catalog](#)

Information on the 2023 EMS Workforce Scholarship Grant and Application - *Deadline to Apply is March 1st*

open positions they have available.

Example agencies include psychological healthcare, LGBTQ-focused organizations, child welfare innovators, community advocacy hubs, and more.

These agencies are excited to meet YOU, so come ready to chat and take a step into your future!

[Click Here for More Details](#)

New VFW Initiative to Safeguard Veterans



The VFW has launched a PACT Act Info initiative, an effort to educate toxic-exposed veterans on the expansion of benefits brought on by the passage of the PACT Act and streamline trusted access to securing those benefits.

Since the historic Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson



2023 EMS Workforce Scholarship Application

Application Deadline 11:59 PM March 1st

About the Grant: This scholarship fund will cover the cost of paramedic initial education for our rural Michigan EMS students, especially those encountering education barriers and/or challenges. This scholarship opportunity will help alleviate the workforce shortage of paramedics in our rural Michigan communities.



Scholarship Tracks:

Track 1: This scholarship track will provide up to \$20,000 in student tuition and fees to attend the approved initial paramedic education program of choice. *(EMS agencies and colleges qualify)*

Track 2: This scholarship track offers reimbursement for the time spent in EMS training programs, at a rate of \$15/hour, to a maximum of \$16,000 per student. *(EMS agencies qualify)*

Contact EMS Programs Manager Andrea Abbas for more details:
andrea.abbas@affiliate.msu.edu

All Aspiring Paramedics Are Encouraged to Apply

Preference will be given to the following categories

- EMS professionals serving rural Michigan census track communities
- Single parents with a desire to serve as a paramedic
- Women with a desire to serve as a paramedic
- Racial and ethnic minorities with a desire to serve as a paramedic
- Veterans with a desire to serve as a paramedic

Please Visit Our Website for Additional Resources and Information



mcrh.msu.edu/programs/ems-grants-projects

MCRH is excited to provide this grant funded EMS workforce scholarship to aspiring paramedics across rural regions of Michigan. This scholarship fund will cover the cost of paramedic initial education for our rural Michigan EMS students, especially those encountering education barriers and/or challenges. There is a shortage of paramedic providers across the state and these grant funds will help alleviate the workforce shortage in rural Michigan communities.

The EMS workforce paramedic scholarship application offers 2 tracks.

Track 1: This scholarship track will provide up to \$20,000 in student tuition and fees to attend the approved initial paramedic education program of choice *(EMS agencies and colleges qualify)*.

Track 2: This scholarship track offers reimbursement for the time spent in EMS training programs, at a rate of \$15/hour, to a maximum of \$16,000 per student *(EMS agencies qualify)*.

Everyone interested in attending a Michigan approved initial paramedic education program is encouraged to apply. Preference will be given to the following categories:

Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act of 2022 was signed into law last August, an onslaught of phone, email and social media scams have targeted veterans with the promise of help accessing PACT Act benefits, but for a fee.

PACT Act Info is the VFW's latest effort to safeguard veterans, offering a tool to quickly and easily determine benefits eligibility and streamlining direct referrals to VFW Accredited Service Officers who provide free, expert assistance in filing for VA benefits.

Click Here to Learn More About the PACT Act

SVSU and Alpena Community College Form New Partnership to Grow Nursing Talent Pipeline



- EMS professionals serving rural Michigan census track communities
- Single parents with a desire to serve as a paramedic
- Women with a desire to serve as a paramedic
- Racial and ethnic minorities with a desire to serve as a paramedic
- Veterans with a desire to serve as a paramedic

Click the button below or email MCRH EMS Programs Manager, Andrea Abbas (Andrea.Abbas@affiliate.msu.edu), for more details.

[Click Here for More Information about the EMS Workforce Grant](#)



The February issue of the Michigan Rural Health Clinic Bulletin is available!

Click [here](#) to catch up on the latest news and information impacting RHCs.

You can also subscribe and access past issues of the Michigan Rural Health Clinic Bulletin by clicking [here](#).

Has your EMS agency taken the EMS for Children Survey?



Check with your EMS Administrator and visit the link below to get started. Completed surveys will be accepted through March.

This information helps steer the State EMS for Children

Alpena Community College and Saginaw Valley State University will collaborate to expand nursing education opportunities and grow the talent pool of nurses in Northern Michigan through a partnership supported by a grant from the State of Michigan.

Alpena Community College has selected SVSU as its partner university and ACC will receive a \$2 million grant to administer a program in collaboration with SVSU for nurses to complete their bachelor's degrees.

ACC and SVSU expect to begin enrolling students through the new partnership for next fall, starting classes in August 2023.

[Click Here to Read the Full Story](#)

program to better meet the needs of Michigan EMS providers and improve our readiness to care for kids in their time of need!

For more information or assistance with completing the survey, email Dr. Sam Mishra anytime with questions at mishras@michigan.gov

[Click Here for the EMS for Children Survey](#)



NEW: Implicit Bias Recognition and Remediation Training from the Michigan Health Council

[Click Here for Full Details](#)

The Michigan Health Council (MHC) is offering five virtual one-hour implicit bias fulfilling the training requirement, with modules outlining implicit bias recognition and remediation, myth-busting race, poverty and the social determinants of health, understanding sex and gender identity, and the case for inclusion.

Registration for this training is available for \$35 per person. The MHC will continue to offer two-hour hybrid and live education training priced between \$74 and \$150.



Upcoming MCRH Educational Events for March 2023

MARCH GRAND ROUNDS AND PROJECT ECHO SESSIONS

GRAND ROUNDS:

Wednesday, March 1st, 2023 12-1 PM EST

Geriatric Grand Rounds: STROKE 101

Presented by Janeen Hinkle DNP, RN, FNP-C Michigan State University

Registration: [here](#)

[DOWNLOAD FLYER](#)

CE for Nursing, Social Work, Physicians, and Community Health Workers (CHW).

Project ECHO:

Wednesday, March 15th, 2023, 12-1 EST

Infectious Disease ECHO: Hepatitis C for Primary Care

Peter Gulick, DO is presenting and offering cases

Registration: [here](#)

CME available for Physicians

Tuesday, March 28th, 2023, 12-1 EST

One Health ECHO: Bovine Tuberculosis: Deer, Cattle, and now Humans

Dr. Jim Sunstrum is presenting

Registration: [here](#)

CME available for Physicians

MARCH EMS WEBINAR SESSION

Wednesday, March 15th, 2023, 1800 EST

Learning From and Leveraging Career Missteps

Laurie Thiel VP of Mobile Medical Response & Andrea Abbas MCRH EMS Programs Manager

Registration: [here](#)

DOWNLOAD FLYER

CE: 1 Preparatory & 1 IC Education Administration

ADDITIONAL NEWS & RESOURCES:

NEW NURSING WORKFORCE GRANT FUNDING OPPORTUNITY: [Advanced Nursing Education Nurse Practitioner Residency and Fellowship \(ANE-NPRF\) Program](#)

UPCOMING WEB EVENT 3/9/2023: [Social Needs and SDOH: Impact on Patients & Communities](#)

WORKFORCE RESOURCE: [3RNET Plus Tools](#)

NEW SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY: [National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians Diversity Scholarships](#)

NEW BROADBAND GRANT FUNDING OPPORTUNITY: [MIHI Launches ROBIN Grant Program](#)

NEW FUNDING OPPORTUNITY - CLOSING 3/7/23: [A Strategic Approach to Advancing Health Equity for Priority Populations with or at Risk for Diabetes](#)

NEW FUNDING OPPORTUNITY - CLOSING 3/31/23: [Administration for Native Americans - Social and Economic Development Strategies](#)

EVENT REGISTRATION STILL OPEN: [6th Annual North American Active Assailant Conference \(NAAAC\)](#)

TELECOM FUNDING - APPLICATION DEADLINE 4/1/23: [Rural Health Care Telecommunications \(Telecom\) Program](#)

NEW COVID-19 RESOURCE: [Updated Guidance on COVID-19 Vaccines](#)

RESOURCES FROM VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION FOR ELDERLY VETERANS: [Telemedicine for Geriatric Care in Rural Areas From VHA](#)

RHC RESOURCE: [Rural Health Clinic COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution \(RHCVD\) Program](#)

ONGOING: [HRSA Payment Program for RHC Buprenorphine-Trained Providers](#)

NEW: Public Health Emergency (PHE) Information and Resources

[White House Extends PHE Until May 11, 2023](#)

[Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services \(CMS\) COVID-19 Emergency Declaration Blanket Waivers \(1135\) for Health Care Providers](#)

[UPDATED: Additional Information on 1135 Waivers](#)

[Kaiser Family Foundation Article on PHE Flexibilities](#)

[UPDATED: CMS Current Emergencies Page](#)

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO MCRH'S 2023 ORGANIZATIONAL SPONSORS



Visit our New Look MCRH
Website!

Please visit and follow MCRH's social media channels for more news and information:



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