Registration is Now Open for the 27th Annual Rural Health Conference April 25-26

27th Annual Michigan Rural Health Conference

The Ripple Effect: Ideas Into Action
April 25-26, 2024 • Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort • Mt. Pleasant, MI

Register today for the 27th Annual Michigan Rural Health Conference taking place Thursday, April 25, and Friday, April 26 at Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort in Mt. Pleasant.

CONFERENCE AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS:
This year's agenda is nearing the final stages, packed with dynamic presenters and programming, to deliver our best Rural Health Conference to date!

Scheduled Presenters Include:
The State of Public Health in 2024: Charting a Path Forward
Dr. Natasha Bagdasarian, Chief Medical Officer for the State of Michigan
Federal Updates from the National Rural Health Association
Brock Slabach, COO, National Rural Health Association

Recovery Ecosystems
Michael Meit, MA, MPH, Director, East Tennessee State University Center for Rural Health Research

Medicaid and CCBHC Update
Meghan Groen, Senior Deputy Director, Behavioral and Physical Health and Aging Services Administration

Michigan Health Endowment Fund: Rural Innovation
Phil Lewis, Program Manager, Healthy Aging, Michigan Health Endowment Fund

Building Readiness for Health Solutions in Rural Michigan
Sarah Lucas, Director, Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity (LEO) Office of Rural Prosperity (ORP)

BOOK YOUR ROOM:
Visit Soaring Eagle’s website and enter Group code: MCRH042323 when making your hotel reservation for the event.

We hope to see you in April!

Click Here to Register
Click Here for Additional Information

Limited Partnership Opportunities Still Available for the 27th Annual Michigan Rural Health Conference

Consider becoming an exhibiting or sponsorship partner at the 27th Annual Michigan Rural Health Conference being held April 25-26, 2024 at Soaring Eagle Resort in Mt. Pleasant, MI. There are still a handful of exhibitor table spaces available, so act fast!

We offer three exhibitor packages to help you reach attendees. You can also sponsor our charging stations, conference app, or Thursday evening reception entertainment to promote your brand.

If you have additional questions regarding partnerships for the Michigan Rural Health Conference, please contact Doug Siwek (siwekdou@msu.edu)

Click Here to Download the Full Partnership Prospectus
Applications for the OsteoCHAMPS Camp for High School Students Close March 1

OsteoCHAMPS
College of Osteopathic Medicine
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Each year since 2000, the Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine has held an on-campus summer OsteoCHAMPS program to foster health career interests among disadvantaged Michigan high school students.

To help them achieve their career goals, the following are provided through OsteoCHAMPS:
- Greater academic preparation and competitiveness for higher education
- Lifelong learning and problem-solving skills
- Development of individual responsibility, appreciation for diversity, and teamwork
- Tools needed to set worthy goals toward attaining health care careers

This year's OsteoCHAMPS program will be held June 22-29 on MSU's East Lansing campus. The application form is now live and available until March 1.

Click Here to Learn More

Michigan Critical Access Hospital Recognized in Chartis Group Top 100

The Chartis Center for Rural Health released its annual list of the top 100 critical access hospitals in the U.S on Feb. 15.

MCRH would like to congratulate UP Health System-Bell (Ishpeming) for being recognized as the only Critical Access Hospital on the list.

To determine the 2024 list, Chartis used the Chartis Rural Hospital Strength INDEX, which assesses performance in inpatient market share, outpatient market share, quality, outcomes, patient perspective, cost, charge and finance.

Click to View the Complete Top 100 Critical Access Hospital List
Stroudwater Associates, in partnership with the NRHA, has developed a physician and advanced practice provider compensation survey for rural organizations. Representing over 6,000 rural providers, the survey results illustrate the enormous variability in provider pay across rural organizations and the pressing need for rural healthcare to align its provider pay to the organization’s goals.

Looking towards the future, the 2024 Physician & Advanced Practice Provider Compensation Survey aims to build upon these insights and drive even more significant change in rural healthcare. Your participation in the 2024 survey is a crucial step in this journey.

If your organization would like to participate in the survey, please click here. You’ll be prompted to create an account. The survey should take about 30 minutes. You can stop at any time and save your information.

The Rural Premedical Internship Program, offered by the Michigan State University College of Human Medicine, is a flexible, self-directed summer experience designed for premedical students interested in rural medicine. Program goals are to give each student an introduction to rural healthcare while working on activities designed to strengthen medical school applications and interview skills.

Any student who has completed at least 4 semesters of undergraduate education by the summer is eligible to apply. Program selection is competitive, with preference
given to rural students from Michigan who are interested in remaining in the state for medical training and eventual rural practice. There is no cost for the internship program and no stipend will be provided.

**Deadline for applications will be March 15, 2024.**

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**HHS Finalizes Rule on Telehealth at Opioid Treatment Programs**

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) recently finalized a rule that will allow opioid treatment programs to begin some medication treatment via telehealth. Under the rule, these providers will be able to initiate treatment with buprenorphine through audio-only or audio-visual telehealth.

They can begin methadone treatment via an audio-visual platform — but not through an audio-only option due to its higher risk profile, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration said.

The regulation makes permanent telehealth flexibilities that began during the COVID-19 pandemic to preserve access to care and tackle a worsening opioid epidemic.

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**Participating in the Michigan State Loan Repayment Program: A Shared Experience from a Social Worker’s Perspective - Lunch & Learn**
Join the Action Team of the Behavioral Health Initiative's Recruit Behavioral Health Providers program for a Virtual Lunch and Learn session on the Michigan State Loan Repayment Program (MSLRP).

During the session, a social worker will share their experience of successfully participating in the program and invite the audience members to participate in a Q&A session to learn more.

*The virtual Lunch & Learn will be held 12-1 PM Thursday, March 7.*

**Click Here to Register**

Download the Recruit Behavioral Health Providers Team’s Loan Repayment FAQ Guide

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**February's Strength of Rural Spotlight: MyMichigan Health's SEEK Model for Rural Communities**

Each month, the Michigan Center for Rural Health highlights people and organizations who uplift rural health through the Strength of Rural Spotlight Series. In February, MCRH spotlights the MyMichigan Health SEEK model for rural communities.

MyMichigan Health has implemented the Safe Environment for Every Kid (SEEK) model in rural communities in Northern Michigan, thanks to a generous grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration. The SEEK model is aimed at strengthening families, supporting parents and parenting, and promoting children's health, development, well-being, and safety.

The SEEK approach begins with the health care professional asking the parent/caregiver to complete a questionnaire that helps identify stressors or challenges parents may be experiencing that are associated with an increased risk for child abuse and neglect.

Please contact MCRH Social Drivers of Health Manager, Laura Mispelon (laura.mispelon@affiliate.msu.edu), if you are interested in having your organization featured in an upcoming Strength of Rural Spotlight.
Developed by the Western Michigan University College of Health and Human Services, the Interprofessional Peer Education and Evidence for Recovery (I-PEER) program provides training for current and future behavioral health professionals in culturally- and developmentally-appropriate, integrated care for adolescents and young adults in Michigan.

The I-PEER program offers on-demand continuing education courses approved for social work CEs for field instructors, internship supervisors, and other professionals in the integrated behavioral health workforce throughout the state of Michigan.

Register today for the 2024 Certified Ambulance Documentation Specialist Certification Workshop. This virtual workshop will be held on Tuesday, April 9, from 9 AM- 4 PM EST.

This certification is offered through the National Academy of Ambulance Compliance (NAAC) and is designed to provide a broad understanding of the rules and standards of EMS documentation. Students who successfully complete the final exam will receive a CADS certification.

The cost is per person $40.00 plus taxes and fees. Financial assistance is available to rural agencies if needed.
The National Rural Health Association’s (NRHA) Rural Health Fellows program is a yearlong, intensive training program that develops leaders who can articulate a clear and compelling vision for rural America.

Each year, NRHA selects 10 to 15 highly motivated individuals who have proven their dedication to improving the health of rural Americans through their educational or professional experience. Rural Health Fellows will work in groups to develop policy papers delineating a rural health issue and ways to ameliorate the problem. These policy papers will be turned into policy briefs for the NRHA website.

Policy Briefs created through the 2023 Fellow program:
- Cybersecurity in Rural Health, December 2023
- Medicare Advantage in Rural, December 2023
- Psychiatric Boarding of Rural Youth, December 2023
- Rural Childhood Immunizations, December 2023
- Rural Long Term Care Services, December 2023
- Rural Workforce Pathway Programs, December 2023

Save The Date for Three Upcoming EMS Events

SAVE THE DATE
FIRST RESPONDER MENTAL WELLNESS CONFERENCE
April 16-17
2024
Location: Delamar Hotel, Traverse City, MI
Strategies and tools to help you thrive in your professional & personal life!
International, national, and local presenters!
The latest information and best practices!
Mark your calendars to attend the Michigan Rural EMS Network's First Responder Mental Wellness Conference April 16-17 at the Delamar Hotel in Traverse City and the Michigan EMS Expo taking place May 2-4 at the Eberhard Center in Grand Rapids.

Just announced is the EMS Quality Improvement and Data Summit at Boyne Mountain Resort in Boyne Falls, MI taking place August 21-22.

Follow MCRH's social media and subscribe to the EMS newsletter for event and registration updates.

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**Upcoming MCRH Educational Events**

**Grand Rounds:**
March 7, 2024, 12-1 PM EST
*Dietetics Grand Rounds: Sleep and Health Care Providers: Incorporating Sleep Education to Reduce Chronic Disease Risk*

**Speaker:** Robin M. Tucker, PhD, RD, FAND
Register Here
CE Provided for Physicians, Registered Dieticians, Nutritionists, Dietetic Technicians, Nurses, Social Workers, and Community Health Workers

**March 14, 2024, 12-1 PM EST**
**NEW! Special Topics Grand Rounds: Chronic Kidney Disease: General Overview & Risk Factors**
**Speaker:** Cynthia Nichols-Jackson, MSN, BSN, RN & Jaclyn Ellis, MA, CHES
Register Here
CE Provided for Social Workers, Nurses, Physicians, and Community Health Workers

**Project ECHO:**
**March 20, 2024, 12-1 PM EST**
**Infectious Disease ECHO: Hepatitis C for Medical Providers**
**Speaker:** Dr. Peter Gulick
Register Here
CME Provided

**EMS:**
**March 13, 2024, 6-7 PM EST**
**The Intersection of Social Determinants of Health and EMS**
**Speakers:** Laura Mispelon, MCRH Social Drivers of Health Manager, and Andrea Abbas, MCRH EMS Programs Manager
Register Here
CME Provided

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**ADDITIONAL NEWS & RESOURCES:**

**HOSPITAL PROGRAMS:**
CMS Webinar: Overview of the Transforming Maternal Health Model – Wednesday, February 28 at 1:00 pm Eastern

Proposed Changes to Oversight of Accrediting Organizations – Comment by April 15

CMS Seeks Public Input on Medicare Interoperability Reporting – Comment by March 7

Key Application Dates and Deadlines for Medicare Shared Savings Program

**FUNDING:**
DOJ Office of Violence Against Women Grants to Indian Tribal Governments – April 24

DOJ Office on Violence Against Women – Rural Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking Program – April 12

New Funding Opportunity: Advanced Nursing Education - Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (ANE-SANE) Program (HRSA-24-017) – Closes April 2

DOJ Office on Violence Against Women Grants for Outreach and Services to Underserved Populations – March 26

HRSA Behavioral Health Integration Evidence Based Telehealth Network Program – Apply by March 22

SAMHSA Announces Funding Opportunity for Rural EMS Training - Apply by March 20

HRSA Geriatric Workforce Enhancement Program - Apply by February 26

**TELEHEALTH:**
2024 State Policy Agenda for Telehealth Innovation

**SOCIAL DRIVERS OF HEALTH:**
Resources for National Children’s Dental Health Month
The U.S. Playbook to Address Social Determinants of Health
National Institutes of Health Weight Loss Program for Rural Adults

EMS:
Funding Opportunity: FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant - Apply by March 8
Funding Opportunity: SAMHSA Rural Emergency Medical Services Training - Apply by March 20
Women in Emergency Services (WiES) Wednesday Podcast - Click Here to Listen

SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER:
Opioid Settlement Resource Center - The Michigan Association of Counties (micounties.org)
Opioid Settlement Overview Table
Recovery-Ready Workplace Toolkit for Businesses
Model Recovery Ready Workplaces Act

WORKFORCE:
Licensure Portability Grant Program - Apply by April 8
Participate in the AAPPR Physician and Clinician Onboarding Research Project Survey
CMS Accepting Applications for New Physician Residency Slots – Apply by March 31
CMS.gov Rural Residency Program

VETERANS:
Ready to Serve? Improving Community Care of Aging Veterans in Michigan - READ PART ONE / READ PART TWO
Watch an IREACH Presentation on Telehealth in the Treatment of Veterans
The House Committee on Veterans' Affairs Oversight Hearing on Gaps in Outreach to Survivors for Benefits and Services
Questions about VA healthcare? Attend the Veterans Healthcare Workgroup Monthly Meeting on the Second Monday of Every Month at 1 PM EST (Zoom Link)

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:
CMS Creates New Prescription Drug Resource Hub
Updated Catalog of Value-Based Initiatives for Rural Providers
New Birthing Friendly Hospital Designation Available on Care Compare Website
New Map Shows Rural Emergency Hospitals

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO MCRH’S 2024 ORGANIZATIONAL SPONSORS

[Signature]
HALL RENDER
KILLIAN HEATH & LYMAN
Is your organization interested in becoming a 2024 MCRH Organizational Sponsor? Please contact Doug Siwek (siwekdou@msu.edu) for more information on this branding opportunity.

Click to View More Organizational Sponsor Details

Click Here for the 2024 MCRH Organizational Sponsor Form

Visit the MCRH Website

Click Here to Subscribe to the MCRH Newsletter

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

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