Register Now for the 2024 Rural Michigan Opioid & Substance Use Summit - July 25

Register today for the 2024 Rural Michigan Opioid & Substance Use Summit, which will be held on July 25 at Treetops Resort in Gaylord, Michigan.

The Summit brings together a wide range of rural partners working in the Opioid Use Disorder/Substance Use Disorder space. This conference provides relevant education, shares current projects, promotes networking, and develops collaborative program partnerships.

Conference agenda highlights include:
- Keynote Address from Alex Elswick, Assistant Professor & Extension Specialist, Substance Use Prevention & Recovery, University of Kentucky
- A Look at the Opioid Task Force and the Impact of Opioid Settlement Dollars in Michigan
Changing the Culture Around Substance Use Disorders
Examining Recovery Friendly Workspaces
A Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Update
Panel Discussions
And Much, Much More

We look forward to seeing you in July!

Click Here for More Information and to Register

Rural Michigan Opioid & Substance Use Summit Partnerships Available

2024 Rural Michigan Opioid and Substance Use Summit Partnerships  
July 25, 2024, Treetops Resort, Gaylord, MI

Why Exhibit: The Rural Michigan Opioid and Substance Use Summit provides the single 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.

TABLE EXHIBITORS
- Participant List before the event
- 1 Complimentary Registration
- 1 Exhibit Table
- Meals Included
- Recognition as a Partner

For-Profit Organizations: $350
Non-Profit Organizations: $175

ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES
- Charging Station Sponsor - $100 (1 Sponsorship Available)
  Charging stations are the new “water cooler” when it comes to attendees looking for a place to network and collaborate. Your logo will be prominently displayed by each charging station for maximum visibility!

- Summit Guidebook App Partner - $75 (Limited Sponsorships Available)
  Our interactive Guidebook App is a terrific opportunity to keep your brand in front of this year's attendees. The app contains multiple ways for users to share photos, engage in live chat, and keep up to date on the agenda of events and speakers in one place!

For more information and details, contact Doug Siek (dsiek@msu.edu) or 517-884-0561

Consider becoming an exhibiting or sponsorship partner at the 2024 Rural Michigan Opioid & Substance Use Summit.

There are exhibitor tables that will maximize your exposure to this year’s attendees. In addition, there are two unique ways to put your brand in front of participants through technology. One is sponsoring our charging stations with your brand logo and QR code to drive attendees to your website. Another opportunity is to become a sponsor of the Summit App, which puts your brand in front of participants throughout the event directly on their mobile devices.

The Rural Michigan Opioid & Substance Use Summit provides the most targeted opportunity to reach the Michigan rural health recovery community with your organization’s message, products, services, and educational outreach efforts.

Click Here for Partnership Registration

Limited Space Still Available: 
2024 MDHHS EMS Workforce Grant

Application Deadline Extended to July 1!
MCRH has extended the deadline to apply for Phase II of the MDHHS EMS workforce state grant funding, which supports eligible rural EMS professionals in pursuing initial paramedic education. **Applications are now being accepted until July 1 at 11:59 PM EST.**

The EMS workforce scholarship application will offer 2 tracks: **Track 1:** This scholarship 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). 

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

All aspiring paramedics are encouraged to apply. For more details, contact MCRH EMS Project Manager Patrick Fox at **patrick.fox@affiliate.msu.edu.**

**Visit our EMS Grants and Projects Website For More Details**

**New Resource: Understanding the Rise of Ransomware Attacks on Rural Hospitals**

**Also: Microsoft Offers Assistance to Rural Hospitals to Bolster Cybersecurity**
Hospitals face a growing threat from ransomware attacks that are designed to disrupt care delivery and may consequently threaten patient outcomes and hospital finances. While this overall phenomenon has received media and research attention, little is known about ransomware attacks on hospitals in rural areas.

This policy brief, recently published by the University of Minnesota Rural Health Research Center, presents findings from a novel database of hospital ransomware attacks. It focuses on the frequency and characteristics of ransomware attacks on rural hospitals.

Click Here to Download the Understanding Ransomware Attacks on Rural Hospitals Policy Brief

**ALSO:** On June 10, the White House announced collaborative efforts to strengthen cybersecurity for rural hospitals across the United States. Through this collaboration, Microsoft and Google announced a series of initiatives to provide free or discounted cybersecurity services.

Microsoft is extending its nonprofit program to offer grants and up to a 75% discount on security products tailored for smaller organizations, such as independent Critical Access Hospitals and Rural Emergency Hospitals.

Larger rural hospitals already using eligible Microsoft solutions will receive the most advanced security suite at no additional cost for one year. Additionally, Microsoft will provide free cybersecurity assessments and training to frontline and IT staff in eligible rural hospitals. Microsoft will also extend security updates for Windows 10 to participating hospitals for one year at no cost.

Click Here to Read the Full Article on Microsoft's Efforts to Help Rural Hospitals Combat Ransomware Attacks

**MDARD Offers Limited Financial Assistance to HPAI-impacted Dairy Farms to Participate in Critical, Real-Time Research Studies**
Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) Director Tim Boring recently announced immediate financial assistance for Michigan dairy farms impacted by highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) to advance research on the disease and aid farms in recovery. Funding is available for up to 20 farms, up to $28,000 per farm.

This assistance is in addition to funding already available from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to HPAI-impacted dairy farms in Michigan.

Eligible farms must work with MDARD and USDA’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service’s Veterinary Services (APHIS) to complete epidemiological investigations on their farms, participate in dairy herd real-time longitudinal studies research with MDARD and Michigan State University and engage in HPAI A(H5N1) programs related to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) if applicable. This funding is made available through MDARD’s Emergency Response programming.

Click Here to Read the Full Press Release

Rural Readiness Program Expands to Provide Additional Resources to Rural Communities

Governor Gretchen Whitmer and U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack recently announced an expansion of Michigan’s Rural Readiness Program. The program provides resources to rural communities and helps them apply for federal funding to improve housing, energy, roads, economic development, and other rural priorities.

In a meeting at the White House, Governor Whitmer, Secretary Vilsack, and Michigan Labor and Economic Development Director Susan Corbin discussed the
capacity-building resources, including funding, training, and technical support, that the Rural Readiness Program makes available to rural Michigan communities.

The Michigan Rural Readiness Program is informed by rural communities through the Office of Rural Prosperity's community engagement efforts and the work of the USDA Rural Partners Network. As an umbrella program, the Michigan Rural Readiness Program includes a variety of rural funding and support initiatives.

Click Here to Learn More About the MI Rural Readiness Program

Social Drivers of Health Update:
Community Information Exchange Micro-Toolkit for Community Based Providers

The MDHHS Policy and Planning Office recently launched the first module of the Community Information Exchange (CIE) Micro-Toolkit, which will support community-based partners in building core capacities to develop and implement community information exchange.

The Micro-Toolkit will include short, digestible 5-10-minute videos with subject matter experts in the field on core elements of community information exchange, like leveraging resource directory information, overcoming legal barriers to participating in CIE, data privacy and security, governance, and including connections to curated external resources.

The first module covers CIE 101, connecting to state CIE systems and resources, the CIE national landscape, and establishing community partnerships.

Click Here to Navigate the Toolkit
Click Here to Share Feedback On the Toolkit

Apply Today for HRSA's Nurse Education,
HRSA’s Bureau of Health Workforce aims to increase the supply of nurses in rural and underserved areas, specifically in acute and long-term care settings. The Nurse Education, Practice, Quality and Retention (NEPQR) - Workforce Expansion Program (WEP) enhances nursing education and clinical practice through additional training of associate and baccalaureate degree nursing students.

Through this funding opportunity, HRSA will award approximately $4.7 million to up to five grantees over four years.

Eligible applicants include:
- Accredited schools of nursing
- Entities that offer associate degrees in nursing, such as community colleges
- Hospitals and nurse-managed health centers
- Nursing homes and hospice facilities
- Federally qualified health centers and rural health clinics
- Native American tribal governments and organizations

*Applications are now being accepted until Friday, July 26.*

[Click Here For More Details]
Families on a tight budget report that the cost of healthy groceries is their biggest barrier to making healthy meals at home. Food skills, like smart shopping, can help overcome that barrier.

The National Kidney Foundation of Michigan's (NKFM) Cooking Matters at the Store is a free program of the No Kid Hungry campaign that empowers families to stretch their food budgets so their children get healthy meals at home.

The next Cooking Matters event is July 17; please click the button below to register.

Click Here to Register for the July 17 Cooking Matters at the Store Event
RHIhub has just released its Mental Health in Rural Communities Toolkit. The toolkit compiles evidence-based and promising models and resources to support organizations implementing mental health programs in rural communities across the United States.

The toolkit's modules contain resources and information focused on developing, implementing, evaluating, and sustaining rural mental health programs.

For more details, including additional resources, please click the button below.

Click Here to View The Toolkit

Introducing the MI Funding Hub

MI Funding Hub

It's no secret—grants can have a meaningful impact on the communities we live in.

MI Funding Hub is a new initiative that helps communities capitalize on state and federal funding opportunities. It offers free technical assistance, grant information, and other tools to help your community become more grant-savvy. This is a great tool to apply for funding that will help improve rural communities and spaces.

MI Funding Hub is a joint venture of the Michigan Municipal League and the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity.

Click Here For More Information on the MI Funding Hub

June's Strength of Rural Spotlight:
Little Brothers – Friends of the Elderly
Upper Michigan Chapter
Each month, the Michigan Center for Rural Health highlights people and organizations who uplift rural health through the Strength of Rural Spotlight Series. In June, MCRH spotlights the work of the Little Brothers - Friends of the Elderly Upper Michigan Chapter.

Last year, the United States Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy released a new Surgeon General Advisory calling attention to the public health crisis of loneliness, isolation, and lack of connection in our country.

Loneliness is detrimental to health. The lack of social connection has a significant effect on individual health outcomes related to cardiovascular disease, hypertension, diabetes, and cognitive function among older adults. It is as dangerous as smoking up to 15 cigarettes a day. Social isolation and loneliness show a 29% increase in the risk of heart disease and a 32% increase in the risk of stroke.

Serving Barara, Houghton, Keweenaw, Marquette, and Ontonagon Counties, Little Brothers – Friends of the Elderly (LBFE) plays a vital role in addressing this public health crisis and has been for more than forty years in the rural Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

LBFE provides programs for older adults who want to build their friendship circle, are isolated, or experiencing loneliness. Services promote community engagement and provide opportunities to remain active and independent. The seven core programs and services include Friendly Visiting, Medical Transportation, Holiday Dinner Parties, Social Activities, Firewood Assistance, Food Assistance, and Medical Aid Equipment Loans.

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.

Click Here to Read The Full Strength of Rural Spotlight

There is Still Time to Apply to Become an NHSC Site
Becoming a National Health Service Corps (NHSC) approved site doesn't just benefit your organization—it benefits your providers, too. Clinicians who serve at NHSC-approved sites may be eligible to apply for one of many programs and reduce their student debt.

The National Health Service Corps (NSCH) New Site Application is open for sites that:

- Have never been approved for NHSC, including sites that have applied and had their application denied or cancelled.
- Are currently an inactive NHSC site due to expiration or past compliance issues.
- Are new or satellite sites that are not yet affiliated with NHSC.

Apply now through Tuesday, June 25, 2024 at 11:59 p.m. ET.

For more information about applying to become an NHSC Site, please contact MCRH Rural Access To Care Manager Paige Recker at paige.recker@affiliate.msu.edu

Click to Learn More About Becoming an NHSC Approved Site

Register Today for the Healthy Safety Net Symposium - September 5
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan will host the 14th annual Healthy Safety Net Symposium on Thursday, September 5, from 9 AM to 3:30 PM at the Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center in East Lansing.

Leaders of Michigan free clinics, Federally Qualified Health Centers, Rural Health Centers, hospitals, public health providers, school-based health centers, and other safety net healthcare organizations are invited to attend.

Click Here for More Information

Register Today for the 2024 EMS Quality Improvement and Data Summit - August 21-22 at Boyne Mountain Resort

Registration is now open for the 2024 EMS Quality Improvement and Data Summit on August 21-22 at Boyne Mountain Resort in Boyne Falls, MI.

This conference is designed for EMS professionals looking to increase their knowledge of data reporting and quality improvement practices. Each session will offer content and expertise from local and national experts in the EMS data reporting and QI disciplines.

Exhibitor sponsorships, in limited quantities, are also available! Please click the button below for complete details on registering for the Summit and becoming an exhibitor.

Visit The EMS QI and Data Summit Website for More Information and Registration
Upcoming MCRH Educational Events

Grand Rounds:
July 16, 2024, 12 - 1 PM EST
Social Work Grand Rounds: Anxiety and Acceptance
Speaker: Steven Edwards, LMSW
Register Here
CE Provided for Social Workers

Project ECHO:
July 17, 2024, 12-1 PM EST
Infectious Disease ECHO: Update on PrEP and PREP for Primary Care Providers
Speaker: Dr. Peter Gulick
Register Here
CME Provided

EMS:
June 26, 2024, 6-7 PM EST
Special Considerations for Geriatric Patient Populations
Speaker: Jeff Callard, PA-C, Envision Health
Register Here
CE Provided

July 2, 2024, 12-1 PM EST
EMS Pediatric Assessment
Speaker: Allison Biliti, EMT-P, EMS-IC, Upper Southeast Region Coordinator, MDHHS EMS Section
Register Here
CE Provided

July 29, 2024, 12-1 PM EST
EMS Pediatric Medical Review
Speaker: Allison Biliti, EMT-P, EMS-IC, Upper Southeast Region Coordinator, MDHHS EMS Section
Register Here
CE Provided

ADDITIONAL NEWS & RESOURCES:

TELEHEALTH:
Save-the-Date for the National Telehealth Conference - July 16
VIDEO: How Broadband Access Positively Impacts the Growing American Workforce
Telehealth Implementation Bootcamp 2024 - LearnTelehealth
2024 State Policy Agenda for Telehealth Innovation

PRIMARY CARE:
Rural Healthcare Provider Transition Project - Apply by August 15
Medicare Advantage Plan Growth in Rural America: Availability of Supplemental Benefits

SOCIAL DRIVERS OF HEALTH:
Webinar: Community Matters: Understanding Social Determinants of Health to Reduce Dementia Risk - June 26
CMS Publishes Health Care Guide to Assist Individuals Re-Entering Communities After Incarceration

Healthy People 2030 Webinar Recording: Planning for Individual and Community Health

The U.S. Playbook to Address Social Determinants of Health

**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:**
- Mental Health in the Rural Workplace
- Mobilizing Health Care Workforce via Telehealth

**VETERANS:**
- Veterans Mental Health Copay Exemption - Cleland-Dole Act
- VA Benefits that Pass on to Family Members - VIDEO
- 15 Things Veteran Service Officers Want You To Know - Click Here to Take a Free Course
- Find Your County’s Veteran Service Officers
- Updated Veterans Educational Videos from the IREACH Program
- 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:**
- 2024 Physician Fee Schedule Webinar Recording
- 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

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**A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO MCRH'S 2024 ORGANIZATIONAL SPONSORS**

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Staying active and hydrated is essential for your kidney health, especially during the summer months. More than a million adults in Michigan have chronic kidney disease, and many don’t even know it. Diabetes and hypertension are the leading causes of kidney failure in the US. By adopting healthy habits, we can reduce the risk.
Proper hydration supports kidney function by helping to flush out toxins. Learn more about the importance of staying hydrated by visiting the "Healthy Hydration and Your Kidneys" resource from the National Kidney Foundation.

The NKFM offers information, support, resources, and referrals for those with kidney disease, those at risk, and their loved ones. Discover how staying active, eating fresh, and keeping hydrated can protect your kidneys. Empower your patients and your community to create healthier, happier lives at nkfm.org.

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