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!

Register Today for the Documentation, Coding & Billing Bootcamp - May 22

The Documentation, Billing & Coding Bootcamp is specifically designed for coders, billers, EHR professionals, clinical personnel (MD, DO, NP, PA, RN), and facility and financial managers who work in Rural Health Clinics (RHCs), Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), and look-alikes to encourage building a shared foundation of knowledge.

Educational content will be provided by Arch Pro Coding, a leader in coding and

The cost to attend is **FREE** for Michigan Healthcare Providers. This one-day bootcamp will be held at Soaring Eagle Casino and Resort in Mt. Pleasant, MI on Wednesday, May 22 from 9 AM - 4 PM.

**NOTE:** Online registration is open until May 10th (Space is limited to the first 100 people) No Day of Event or Walk-Up Registration!

**Click Here to Register**

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**MCRH Rural Workforce Webinar:**
**Augmenting Your Workforce with Foreign Health Care Providers - April 1**

**Workforce Webinar: Augmenting Your Workforce with Foreign Health Care Providers**

*Monday, April 1, 12 PM – 1 PM EST*

Join Michael on Monday, April 1, as he describes the immigration process from a health care organizational perspective during this special MCRH workforce webinar.

He will also present the process as applied to individual organizations and the process to legally employ foreign physicians, dentists, therapists, and allied health care providers in rural environments.

**SPEAKER:**
Michael E. Wooley – Partner, Immigration Attorney
Varnum LLP

**Scan the QR Code to Register**

Please send questions to Paige Recker
paige.recker@affiliate.msu.edu

MCRH is excited to host a workforce webinar from Michael E. Wooley, J.D., *Augmenting Your Workforce with Foreign Health Care Providers* on April 1.

Michael, a Partner and Immigration Attorney at Varnum, will discuss the immigration process from a health care organizational perspective. He will also present the process as applied to individual organizations and the process to legally employ foreign physicians, dentists, therapists, and allied health care providers in rural health care environments.

**Click Here to Register**

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**Join MDHHS' Community Influencer Program to Improve Health and Wellbeing in Your Community**
The MDHHS Policy and Planning Office is excited to announce the opening of the SDOH Community Influencer Interest Forms for the 2024 cohort.

This year, MDHHS introduces a special focus on Community Health Workers (CHWs). They recognize the pivotal role CHWs play in understanding and addressing the diverse factors that impact health outcomes within our communities.

The MDHHS SDOH Policy Team invites CHWs and community members to be part of this initiative that aims to make a real difference in improving health and wellbeing across Michigan communities. The Community Influencer Program is seeking 35 individuals across all regions of Michigan who are passionate about creating positive change.

Click Here for the Community Influencer Interest Form

Click Here to Learn More About the Program

Now Open: NHSC Scholarship Program

The National Health Service Corps (NHSC) Scholarship Program awards scholarships to students pursuing eligible primary care health professions training. It’s the perfect opportunity to fund your health care career. Get financial support for your education and in return, serve at least two years in a community in need.

What does the scholarship cover?
- Tuition and eligible fees.
- Items include books, health insurance, and equipment.
- Monthly stipends to assist with living expenses while pursuing your degree.

Explore the benefits of the NHSC Scholarship Program and the chance to join over 18,000 NHSC clinicians providing culturally competent care to 19 million patients across the country.
Applications accepted through April 25.

Click Here to Learn About the Scholarship Program

**BREAKING: Most Veterans Now Eligible for VA Health Care**

The PACT Act is a law that expands VA health care and benefits for Veterans exposed to burn pits, Agent Orange, and other toxic substances. This law helps us provide generations of Veterans—and their survivors—with the care and benefits they’ve earned and deserve.

As of March 5, VA health care to millions of Veterans has been expanded—years earlier than called for by the PACT Act.

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has also released an informational toolkit that will help navigate this expansion of benefits to veterans.

Click Here to Learn More

Click to View The PACT Act 2024 Expanded Health Care Eligibility Toolkit

**March's Strength of Rural Spotlight: iMPROve Health's Community Health Worker Library Initiative**
Each month, the Michigan Center for Rural Health highlights people and organizations who uplift rural health through the Strength of Rural Spotlight Series. In March, MCRH spotlights iMPROve Health’s Community Health Worker Library Initiative.

iMPROve Health is Michigan’s designated Quality Improvement Organization. As a nonprofit organization, we have more than 39 years’ experience improving healthcare across the continuum of care using evidence-based and data-driven logic.

In 2021, iMPROve Health was awarded a Michigan Health Endowment Fund Behavioral Health grant. Called “Libraries as Mental Health Hubs,” the project is focused on situating rural libraries as sites to receive mental health and other assistance. Eleven libraries in Antrim, Mason, Mecosta, Montcalm, Oceana, and Osceola counties are partners in this project. Everyday Life Consulting provides in-person Community Health Workers (CHW) in participating libraries through April 2024.

The “Libraries as Mental Health Hubs” project continues through August 2024.

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

Apply for the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Culture of Health Prize by June 3
Is your community actively working to ensure residents have what they need to reach their best health and wellbeing? The 2024 Culture of Health Prize call for applications is now open until June 3.

The Prize celebrates communities across the country where people and organizations are collaborating to build positive solutions to barriers that have created unequal opportunities for health and wellbeing.

Click Here to Learn More

Click Here to Register For a Prospective Applicants Webinar on April 3 From 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. ET

Human Trafficking Educational Webinar Series: kNOw more, do more-Part I-III
Join this FREE, three-part, virtual series to strengthen awareness, action plans, and knowledge on the fight against human trafficking. Sessions to highlight an author’s personal story, FBI victim specialists insights, healthcare professionals, and community support services.

**MCRH is a proud co-sponsor of this impactful webinar series that begins on April 9.**

**Click Here For Webinar Agenda Details and to Register**

**NEWLY RELEASED: State Medicaid & CHIP Telehealth Toolkit**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is committed to supporting state policymakers in expanding telehealth use to deliver Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) services.

This toolkit suggests that states consider allowing the use of non-video, audio-only
It also recommends that states work with tribal programs to:

- Better understanding of the services currently provided via telehealth and the modalities used to deliver those services
- Make it easier for family members or tribal health care navigators to initiate, facilitate, or participate in a beneficiary’s telehealth appointment

Click Here to Download the Toolkit

Support for Vulnerable Rural Hospitals: Lessons Learned

An overview of state and federal programs and models designed to support Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs) and other rural hospitals describes challenges – including chronic workforce shortages, high operating and staffing costs, inadequate reimbursement, operational and regulatory issues, and the diverse demographics of rural communities.

The information comes from the FORHP-supported Flex Monitoring Team, a consortium of researchers evaluating the effectiveness of the Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility Program.

Click Here to Download the Full Report

2023 Uniform Data Set (UDS) Measure Crosswalk to Other Quality Reporting Programs

This crosswalk, from Rural Health Value, highlights the alignment between Uniform Data Set (UDS) measures and other quality reporting programs.
Intended to help health centers identify which UDS measures are being utilized by other programs such as CMS Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs), and the CMS Quality Payment Program (QPP).

Click Here to View the Crosswalk

Register Today for the Michigan EMS Expo 2024

Register today for the 2024 Michigan EMS Expo. This event will be held on May 2-4 at Eberhard Center in Grand Rapids, MI.

Click the button below for hotel booking details, Expo agenda, and registration information.

Click Here for Complete Expo and Registration Details

Register Today for the SHIFT: Mental Wellness for First Responders Conference - April 16-17
Registration is now open for the SHIFT: Mental Wellness for First Responders Conference taking place April 16-17 at the Delamar Hotel in Traverse City, MI.

This conference focuses on job-related stress and trauma. Attendees will learn to recognize when support is needed, develop best practices to mitigate stress, and ensure personal well-being.

14 Preparatory EMS CEs and 14 LE MCOLES Training Hours are available for attendees.

NEW: Register no later than Friday, April 12, 2024, and receive "Practical Considerations for Preventing Police Suicide" by Dr. Olivia Johnson, founder of the Blue Wall Institute, an e-book valued at $120 - FREE. This publication contains CUTTING EDGE RESEARCH specific to law enforcement and corrections, but the concepts contained within are applicable to all first responder disciplines.

Click Here for Full Details and Registration

Save The Date for the EMS Quality Improvement And Data Summit - August 21-22
Mark your calendars for the EMS Quality Improvement and Data Summit at Boyne Mountain Resort in Boyne Falls. The summit will take place on August 21-22.

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

## Upcoming MCRH Educational Events

### Grand Rounds:
- **April 3, 2024, 12-1 PM EST**  
  Geriatrics Grand Rounds: The Impact of Spiritual Distress on Older Adults  
  **Speaker:** Linda Keilman, DNP  
  Register Here  
  CE Provided for Physicians, Nurses, Social Workers, and Community Health Workers

- **April 4, 2024, 12-1 PM EST**  
  Special Topics Grand Rounds: Screening for CKD& NKFM Programs and Services  
  **Speaker:** Mary Wozniak, MPH, CHES & Devon Hagerman, MS  
  Register Here  
  CE Provided for Social Workers, Nurses, Physicians, and Community Health Workers

- **April 9, 2024, 12-1 PM EST**  
  Social Work Behavioral Health Series Grand Rounds: Determining Medical Necessity for Addiction Treatment  
  **Speaker:** Gennie Groover, LLMSW  
  Register Here  
  CE/CEU credits are available for Social Workers and Addiction Professionals

### Project ECHO:
- **April 17, 2024, 12-1 PM EST**  
  Infectious Disease ECHO: Tuberculosis and Latent TB Medical Providers  
  **Speaker:** Dr. Peter Gulick  
  Register Here  
  CME Provided

### EMS:
- **April 9, 2024, 6-7 PM EST**  
  Maximizing Your EMS Revenue and Compliance  
  **Speakers:** Jodi Abraham - EMS Pros LLC  
  Register Here  
  Approved EMS CE’s: 1 Operations, 1 IC Education Administration

## ADDITIONAL NEWS & RESOURCES:

### HOSPITAL PROGRAMS:
- **Proposed Changes to Oversight of Accrediting Organizations** – Comment by April 15

### FUNDING:
- **SAMHSA Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment Program** – April 12
- **SAMHSA First Responders-Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act** – April 15
- **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

TELEHEALTH:
Funding Opportunities for Telehealth and Broadband Related Programs
2024 State Policy Agenda for Telehealth Innovation

SOCIAL DRIVERS OF HEALTH:
MDHHS Seeks Input on Health-Related Nutrition Services Initiative - Comment by April 5
Michigan’s Kindergarten Oral Health Assessment Program
Social Drivers of Health Data Utilization: Integrating Healthcare and Community Services to Address Health-Related Social Needs
The U.S. Playbook to Address Social Determinants of Health

EMS:
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:
Check your Eligibility to Apply: Nurse Corps Scholarship Program
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
Emergency Suicide Care and Treatment Talking Points
Veterans Comprehensive Prevention, Access to Care, and Treatment Act of 2020 (FAQ)
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
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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

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