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

Registration is now open for the 2024 Rural Michigan Opioid & Substance Use Summit 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
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

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

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

Nominate the 2024 Rural Recovery Hero of the Year
Please submit your nominations by Friday, June 14 for the second annual Rural Recovery Hero of the Year Award. The winner will be announced at the 2024 Rural Michigan Opioid and Substance Use Summit on July 25 at Treetops Resort in Gaylord, Michigan.

This is your chance to nominate outstanding individuals who are true advocates for substance use disorder (SUD) and opioid use disorder (OUD) from grassroots organizations, medical and mental health professionals, and various other community stakeholders.

This award will shine a light on those who tirelessly work to reduce stigma, change cultural norms, increase access to treatment, and build a better living environment for those affected by SUD/OUD in rural Michigan.

To nominate an individual deserving of this award, please fill out the survey below and make sure to include the following details:

- Provide specific examples from the last three years of their work in advocating for the substance use and opioid use disorder population.
- Specify their ability to reduce stigma and build a better living environment for those affected by substance use or opioid use disorder.
- Detail this individual's leadership skills that promote change and inspire others to end substance use and opioid use disorder in rural Michigan.

Click Here for Complete Details and Nomination Form

Apply Now: 2024 MDHHS EMS Workforce Grant
MCRH has opened Phase II of the MDHHS EMS workforce state grant funding, which will support eligible rural EMS professionals in pursuing initial paramedic education. **Applications are now being accepted until June 10 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.

Visit our EMS Grants and Projects Website For More Details

Register Today for the 2024 EMS Leadership Academy

*Limited Space Available - Register by June 13*
MCRH is pleased to offer the EMS Leadership Academy in 2024. MCRH has secured funding to offer this exciting opportunity to 26 rural EMS professionals, and registration is open now through June 13.

The EMS Leadership Academy's 5-day (40-hour) format is called "Foundation in Leadership." The program provides a solid foundation in the art and practice of influence and unites the team around a shared language, culture, and leadership philosophy.

The primary goals of the program are to:
- Motivate and build enthusiasm in people to become leaders;
- Create a starting point for positive leadership that is grounded in building amazing cultures and workplaces;
- Inspire a new vision in leaders to see themselves as successful influencers;
- Help leaders cultivate a sustainable and healthy practice of leadership;
- Arm leaders with practical resources, skills, and tools to start being positive and effective organizational change agents; and
- Unite the leadership team around a shared leadership approach and language.

Click Here to Visit the MCRH EMS Events and Workshops Webpage For EMS Leadership Academy Details and Registration
MCRH congratulates Northern Michigan Opioid Response Consortium (NMORC) Project Director, Joyce Fetrow, who recently received the 2023 Michigan Association of Treatment Court Professionals (MATCP) Hero Award at their Annual Conference in Lansing, MI. Joyce was presented with the Hero Award by Justice Kyra Bolden of the Michigan Supreme Court.

The MATCP Hero Award is presented to individuals who have made a significant contribution to a Treatment Court program. Recipients are nominated by their peers for their hard work, dedication, and commitment to the program and its participants.

For more information about the NMORC program and its work to build a better living environment for people affected by substance use disorder in northern Michigan, please visit the NMORC website.

Congratulations Joyce on this tremendous recognition for all of your passion and dedication to serving the needs of the Northern Michigan recovery community!

27th Annual Michigan Rural Health Conference Wrap Up


In attendance were over 190 participants, 30 exhibitors, 9 Leadership in Rural Medicine (LRM) students from Michigan State University College of Human Medicine who participated in the 7th Annual Rural Health Research Day, and expert speakers who presented a wide range of topics focused on this year's theme, "The Ripple Effect: Ideas Into Action."

One of the many highlights of this year's event was a special luncheon to honor the 2024 Rural Health Professional of the Year.

This year's recipient, Laura Glenn, COO of Munson Healthcare, was recognized for her significant contributions to Michigan's rural health. Laura significantly improved rural healthcare by attracting specialized staff, transforming care delivery at Munson...
Healthcare, developing the Grand Traverse Mental Wellness Center, and improving primary care access through health hubs. Munson Healthcare South Region President, Peter Marinoff, was on hand to accept the award on Laura’s behalf.

MCRH would like to thank everyone involved in making the 27th Annual Michigan Rural Health Conference our biggest yet! We look forward to seeing you in 2025!

**Two Michigan Critical Access Hospitals Recognized by Becker's Hospital Review**

Becker's Hospital Review recently released its "27 Critical Access Hospitals to Know" list for 2024, including two Michigan Critical Access Hospitals. These hospitals offer quality care to rural residents and visitors, striving to expand access to specialty care and improve community health. The list was compiled based on rankings and awards from Healthgrades, the National Rural Health Association, and the Chartis Center for Rural Health.

Below is a listing and description of the MI CAHs Rural Hospitals as provided by Becker's:

- **Ascension Borgess Allegan Hospital (Allegan, MI).** Ascension Borgess Allegan Hospital has offered patients access to advanced specialty care for over 80 years. The hospital offers orthopedics, cancer care, surgery, primary care, lab services, rehab, radiology and more. New orthopedics and surgery lines were added recently. A satellite clinic for diabetes care and swing beds were added in 2023. Onsite EMS occupancy generates $1.5M in revenue. Chartis recognized the hospital for quality and outcomes.

- **Ascension Standish Hospital (Standish, MI) Hospital.** Ascension Standish Hospital comprises 25 inpatient beds, 29 skilled nursing beds, a level IV
The hospital is the only critical access hospital in Michigan to receive a 5-star quality rating from CMS, a rating it has achieved for five years. As part of Ascension Michigan, Ascension Standish Hospital provides patients with onsite advanced specialty care like cardiology, neurosciences, orthopedics, and oncology. The hospital was an early adopter of telehealth services for stroke and behavioral healthcare. It has also established a wound care center, mobile mammography screening unit with 3D technology, opioid prevention program, and adverse childhood events screening and referral program, among others. The hospital has received a Performance Leadership Award in patient perspective and quality from the Chartis Center for Rural Health for 2022-23.

Congratulations to these facilities on this important recognition!

Michigan Health Endowment Fund Announces $7M+ in Grants for Infants, Families, and Community Health

The Health Fund board of directors recently approved 41 new grants totaling $7,058,472 to improve health and advance equity in communities across the state.

These investments support various projects ranging from community-level programs to broadscale solutions for statewide challenges. Michiganders of all ages — from newborn infants to older adults — will benefit from the work led by our grantees.

MCRH would like to congratulate the following rural organizations on their grant awards:

2024 Maternal and Infant Health Grant
- Hospitality House of the Upper Peninsula: Increasing Utilization in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan — $50,000
- Marlette Regional Hospital: Rural Access to Breastfeeding Support — $58,000
- Western U.P. Health Department: Multi-Pronged Intervention to Decrease Maternal Nicotine Use — $54,165

Community Health and Capacity Building Grant
- District Health Department #10: NCCHIR SDOH Accelerator Plan Implementation Project — $150,000
- Benzie Leelanau District Health Department: Modeling Sustainable and Scalable Integrated Team Care — $150,000

Click Here to View The Complete
Public Health AmeriCorps is strengthening the public health workforce across the country and the American Heart Association’s HeartCorps program has been a key part of that in rural communities. They have recently expanded their reach to 44 states and are now looking for host sites to help maximize this opportunity.

If your health center or nonprofit organization is interested in hosting at least two (2) HeartCorps members onsite to aid in advancing heart health, please complete this interest form. HeartCorps is focused exclusively on supporting rural communities.

Please complete the interest form to express your interest in hosting HeartCorps members at your health center or nonprofit organization.

For more information about becoming an AHA HeartCorps site, please get in touch with MCRH Access to Rural Care Manager, Paige Recker, at paige.recker@affiliate.msu.edu.

Click Here For the HeartCorps Host Site Interest Form

May's Strength of Rural Spotlight: Food Bank of Eastern Michigan

Each month, the Michigan Center for Rural Health highlights people and organizations who uplift rural health through the Strength of Rural Spotlight Series. In May, MCRH spotlights the work of the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan.

Food insecurity is a familiar issue for Michigan residents, regardless of the county they reside in. The Food Bank of Eastern Michigan caters to a significant portion of these individuals, particularly in the Northern and North Central Regions. While the headquarters are based in Flint, their mission extends across 22 counties, spanning from St. Clair to Cheboygan.

According to a national census, the service area comprises over 1,400,000 citizens, with 15% of them grappling with food insecurity. Among these numbers are 35,030 individuals who live north of Gladwin County (including Arenac). Given the
substantial demand from these predominantly rural areas, the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan leverages partnerships with various agencies to address this need.

Partnerships with agencies like The Hillman Lions Club and Styma Potato Farms highlight collaborative efforts to fight hunger, while MyMichigan Health's new and upcoming pantries and a hunger study with Michigan State University signify an ongoing commitment to addressing food insecurity. Additionally, the dedication of team members helps to underscore the importance of fostering strong relationships with communities in need.

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

American Diabetes Association
Educational Opportunities for RHC Clinical Staff

The American Diabetes Association is offering specialized educational opportunities targeted toward Rural Health Clinic clinical staff.

The first course is Diabetes Is Primary (DIP) and helps primary care professionals on the front lines of diabetes care master knowledge and strategies to improve patient outcomes. DIP is based on the ADA’s Standards of Care in Diabetes (SOC)—the gold standard in diabetes treatment. These guidelines, updated annually, ensure patients receive up-to-date, evidence-based care. Participants who complete this course will be prepared to put the latest evidence-based guidelines for diabetes care into practice.

The second offering is related to Diabetic Retinopathy. Diabetes is a major cause of vision loss among individuals aged 18-64. Unfortunately, symptoms of diabetic eye disease are not always apparent, which is why around 50% of people with diabetes do not receive an annual eye exam. However, studies have shown that early detection, timely treatment, and appropriate follow-up can significantly reduce a person's risk of severe vision loss from diabetic eye disease by up to 95%.

Click to Learn More About Diabetes Is Primary Courses

Click to Learn About Diabetic Retinopathy Courses

Apply to Become an NHSC Site
Eligible healthcare facilities can apply to become National Health Service Corps (NHSC)-approved sites. NHSC-approved sites provide outpatient, comprehensive primary health care services to people in Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs).

Among the benefits of becoming an NHSC-approved site are:
- Providing recruitment and retention incentives through loan repayment and scholarship programs for primary care clinicians who want to provide care to underserved communities.
- Offering opportunities to recruit and retain qualified and dedicated primary care providers, such as Virtual Job Fairs, where you can meet and talk with job candidates.
- Helping with site promotion and posting job openings using the Health Workforce Connector online job board.
- Providing direct access to state and territorial Primary Care Offices that help increase access to primary health care services in your site’s community.
- Offering networking opportunities with more than 20,000 sites that provide care in high-need communities.

The Application Cycle will close on Tuesday, June 25.

For more information, please contact MCRH Access to Care Manager Paige Recker, at paige.recker@affiliate.msu.edu.

Click Here to Learn More

Connected Nation Shares Insights On Rural Telehealth In Michigan
Connected Nation (CN) shared the stage with researchers, healthcare providers, and other thought leaders at the 27th Annual Michigan Rural Health Conference to discuss the impact of telehealth in rural portions of the state.

CN’s Director of Research Development Chris McGovern co-presented with Phil Lewis of the Michigan Health Endowment Fund on the potential impact of telehealth in providing high-quality healthcare service to rural parts of the state. They noted that to accomplish this goal, however, steps must be taken at the local level to address the unique challenges in each community.

CN has created an award-winning series of videos that address the concerns many patients have shared about using telehealth services.
New Data from the CDC on Preventable Premature Death

The new study from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is an extension of an earlier CDC study, which showed a higher percentage of early death from the five leading causes in rural counties than in urban counties during 2010-2017.

More recent data show that the rural-urban gap in all-cause mortality continues to widen. In 1999, the death rate in rural areas was 7 percent higher than in urban areas; by 2019, it was 20 percent higher.

View CDC’s rural health website and Rural Public Health At-a-Glance to find out what CDC is doing to improve the health and well-being of rural communities.

HRSA Modifications to the Definition of Rural for FORHP Grants

Comment By May 28

Recently, the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (FORHP) announced a proposed
modification to the definition of ‘rural’ used to designate eligible areas for rural health grants.

Because access to needed health care is likely to be reduced when roads are most difficult to traverse, FORHP proposes to modify the definition of rural areas by integrating the new Road Ruggedness Scale (RRS) released in 2023 by the Economic Research Service (ERS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The proposed modifications are based on a data-driven methodology to identify areas with difficult mountainous terrain. All areas included in the current definition of rural would remain included.

Register today for the 2024 Rural Health Clinic Practice Manager Workshop on June 12 from 8 AM - 4 PM, at Soaring Eagle Casino and Resort in Mt. Pleasant.

This hybrid event allows for attendance in person or virtually (Cost: In-person $125 - Virtual $100) and will feature content experts Tressa Sacrey and Michelle Renee from Health Services Associates.
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

Save The Date for the EMS Quality Improvement And Data Summit - August 21-22

Registration Opening Soon!
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 EMS Events and Workshops webpage for event and registration updates.

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**Upcoming MCRH Educational Events**

**Grand Rounds:**
**June 6, 2024, 12-1 PM EST**
Special Topics Grand Rounds: Kidney Series Session 4: CKD and Nutrition  
**Speaker:** Mary Neumaier, RD  
**Register Here**  
CE Provided for Social Workers, Nurses, Physicians, Community Health Workers, and Registered Dietitians

**June 11, 2024, 12-1 PM EST**  
Social Work Grand Rounds: Treatment Planning in Behavioral Health Care  
**Speakers:** Gennie Groover, LLMSW  
**Register Here**  
CE Provided for Social Workers and Addiction Specialists

**June 13, 2024, 1-2 PM EST**  
Dietetics Grand Rounds: Why Weight on Nutrition? Reframing Our Understanding of Weight and Health  
**Speaker:** Anne Thompson, MA, RDN, CSSD, CEDRD & Abby Richey, MS, RD  
**Register Here**  
CE Provided for Social Workers, Nurses, Physicians, Dentists, Dental Hygienists, Dental Therapists, and Dental Assistants

**June 14, 2024, 1-2 PM EST**  
Oral Health Grand Rounds: Kindergarten Oral Assessment Screening and How it Affects You
**ADDITIONAL NEWS & RESOURCES:**

**FUNDING:**
Mental Health Service Professional Demonstration Grant Program - Deadline Extended to May 31
Association of Clinical Research Organizations Diversity and Inclusion Site Resource Grants – May 31

**TELEHEALTH:**
Telehealth Implementation Bootcamp 2024 - LearnTelehealth
The Joint Commission Unveils New Telehealth Accreditation Program
2024 State Policy Agenda for Telehealth Innovation

**PRIMARY CARE:**
CPR & AED Awareness Week June 1-7
Rural Healthcare Provider Transition Project - Apply by August 15
Medicare Advantage Plan Growth in Rural America: Availability of Supplemental Benefits

**SOCIAL DRIVERS OF HEALTH:**
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:**
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
More than 100,000 Veterans Live with Parkinson’s: VFW Magazine Article
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

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO MCRH'S 2024 ORGANIZATIONAL SPONSORS

Kidney disease is permanent kidney damage or decreased level of kidney function for three months or more. If left untreated, chronic kidney disease can lead to cardiovascular disease as well as total kidney failure, requiring dialysis or a kidney transplant for survival. More than a million Michigan adults (age 20+) have chronic kidney disease, and 33% of adults are at risk.

To shed light on the prevalence of this disease and the percentage of people who might be at risk, we are asking people, “Are You in the 33%?” The Are You the 33? Campaign educates and empowers those most at risk to take control of their kidney health. Help us in raising awareness of kidney disease and changing these numbers today! Visit nkfm.org/areyouthe33 for shareable resources.
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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Ensuring Efficient and Effective Healthcare Services

There are many elements to a patient’s experience when they attend a primary care clinic, starting the moment they walk through the door. By prioritizing patient-centered care, effective communication, and streamlined appointment scheduling, clinics can establish a solid foundation for improving care delivery.

This approach ensures efficient and effective healthcare services while promoting trust and well-being within the community, aligning healthcare practices with the evolving needs of today’s patients.

*Paid Sponsor Content*

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