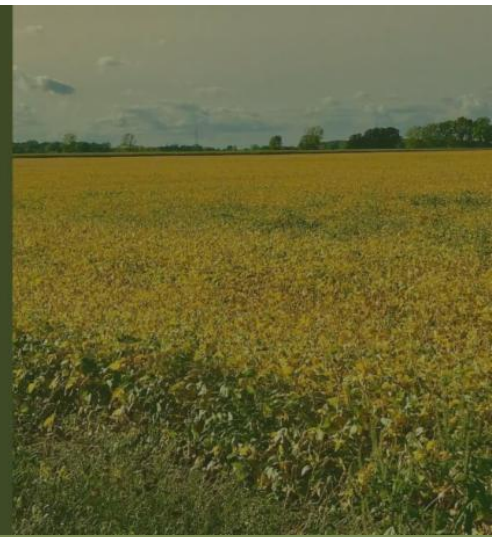




Our Mission:

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



MCRH MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

October 2023
Volume 4, Issue 10

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Celebrate National Rural Health Day - November 16, 2023



The third Thursday of November is recognized as National Rural Health Day. This year, MCRH, in partnership with the National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health (NOSORH) will be working to increase awareness for rural healthcare and highlighting the efforts and achievements towards advocacy in rural communities.

Visit the MCRH National Rural Health Day website for tools and resources to help your NRHD celebration be a successful one. Our website features:

- A Promotional Toolkit with social media templates, games and activities, and

- special hashtags to help highlight your NRHD activities and community events
- Key Messaging and Data Points to educate communities about the importance of rural health
- Ideas to help you celebrate
- And much, much more

Make sure to tag the Michigan Center for Rural Health when sharing your 2023 National Rural Health Day celebrations on your social media channels!

- **MCRH Facebook:** @MCRH91
- **MCRH X (formerly Twitter):** @MCRH_91
- **MCRH LinkedIn:** @Michigan Center for Rural Health

We cannot wait to showcase all that is happening in celebrating "The Power of Rural" in 2023!

[Visit the MCRH National Rural Health Day Website](#)

Michigan Critical Access Hospital CEOs Recognized as "CEOs to Know in 2023"



Karen Cheeseman, CEO of Mackinac Straits Health System



Natalie Couturiaux Ryder, MSN, RN, Chief Administrative Officer of Ascension Borgess-Lee Hospital

MCRH congratulates Karen Cheeseman, CEO of **Mackinac Straits Health System**, and Natalie Couturiaux Ryder, MSN, RN, Chief Administrative Officer of **Ascension Borgess-Lee Hospital**, for their inclusion in Becker's Hospital Review's "67 Critical Access Hospitals CEOs to Know in 2023" list.

Karen has served as CEO of Mackinac Straits Health System, a 15-bed hospital with an emergency medical center and outpatient surgery center, since 2017. She has spent more than 16 years with Mackinac Straits and serves on the Michigan Health and Hospital Association Small and Rural Council.

Natalie is responsible for the development, design, and operational improvement of systems for healthcare delivery at Ascension Borgess-Lee Hospital, where she serves as chief administrative officer. Her role combines the functions of COO and CNO in the rural healthcare setting, where she aims to maximize the value of care and execute the hospital's strategic plan. During her first 15 months in her current role, she improved patient and employee satisfaction, and she reduced staff turnover within her first year.

The list recognizes Critical Access Hospital leaders for their dedication to innovation, safety, and quality, as well as their focus on growing access to care. This is a well-deserved honor, and MCRH applauds your leadership and passion for uplifting rural health in your communities!

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

MDARD Awards 21 Grants to Advance Housing, Infrastructure, and Economic Development in Rural Michigan Communities



The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development's (MDARD) Office of Rural Development (ORD) awarded 21 grants totaling more than \$1 million through its Rural Readiness Grant Program to support pre-development activities to expedite housing production, infrastructure improvements, and bolster rural economies.

ORD received over 90 requests totaling more than \$4.3 million. Nearly a third of total requests focused on projects aiming at expediting housing production in rural communities—a top rural priority.

The following communities were awarded grants:

- **Allegan County Community Foundation- (Allegan County)** - \$50,000 for a multi-jurisdictional housing needs assessment and data-informed development.
- **Chamber Alliance of Mason County - (Mason County)** - \$50,000 for cross-sector, multi-jurisdictional 'housing readiness' activities including community education on a housing needs assessment, work with local governments on zoning and incentives, and county-wide identification of development opportunities.
- **Charter Township of Union - (Isabella County)** - \$45,000 to expand industrial/research/business park development along the US-127 corridor.
- **Develop Iosco - (Iosco County)** - \$50,000 to build cross-sector community capacity for grant-ready projects.
- **City of Durand (Shiawassee County)** - \$49,200 to prepare and advance pedestrian safety strategies.
- **Fremont Area Community Foundation- (Newago County)** - \$50,000 to complete a comprehensive multi-community individualized growth assessment that informs customized community plans.
- **Habitat for Humanity of Lenawee County - (Lenawee County)** - \$50,000 for expansion of a home repair program.
- **Huron County Economic Development Corporation – (Huron County)** - \$50,000 to build county-wide capacity for grant identification, writing, and management.
- **Interlochen Center for the Arts - (Grand Traverse County)** - \$50,000 for housing pre-development activities in partnership with regional schools and other community partners.
- **City of Ionia - (Ionia County)** - \$50,000 for pre-development activities associated with the redevelopment of the former Deerfield and Riverside

Correctional Facilities.

- **City of Ironwood - (Gogebic County)** - \$50,000 for a housing needs assessment and strategic housing plan.
- **Village of Mackinaw City - (Emmet and Cheboygan counties)** - \$37,800 to prepare and package village-owned parcels for housing redevelopment.
- **Market Van Buren - (Van Buren County)** - \$50,000 for county-wide housing market analysis and strategic housing plan.
- **Marquette County Land Bank Authority- (Marquette County)** - \$50,000 to identify and advance shovel-ready housing projects.
- **Northeast Michigan Council of Governments - (Alcona, Alpena, Cheboygan, Crawford, Montmorency, Oscoda, Otsego, Presque Isle counties)** - \$50,000 to support local governments with applying for, coordinating, and administering grant projects that prioritize identified economic development and planning projects.
- **Peninsula Housing - (Leelanau County)** - \$50,000 to create a community-supported development plan for affordable housing solutions.
- **City of Petoskey - (Emmett County)** - \$50,000 for a multi-jurisdictional water and wastewater infrastructure expansion assessment.
- **Target Alpena Development Corporation - (Alpena, Alcona, and Presque Isle counties)** - \$50,000 to support collaborative planning and action for housing inclusivity, affordability, revitalization, and sustainable growth.
- **Western U.P. Planning and Development Region Commission (Baraga County)** - \$50,000 to activate the L'Anse Area Community Development Corporation and prepare for development and redevelopment on priority properties.
- **Wexford Joint Planning Commission - (Wexford County)** - \$25,000 to support joint planning and zoning efforts that build readiness across 10 townships.
- **Wexford Osceola Habitat For Humanity – (Wexford and Osceola counties,)** - \$50,000 for pre-development activities associated with multi-home development in two counties.

[Click Here For More Information on the Office of Rural Development's Grant Program](#)

Michigan CAH Quality Leaders Recognized by the Institute for Healthcare Improvement



Open School

The Michigan Center for Rural Health (MCRH) has taken significant strides in ensuring that healthcare professionals are equipped with the necessary knowledge and skills to meet the needs of their communities. One recent initiative has been the facilitation of the IHI Open School Basic Certificate in Quality and Safety for CAH Quality leaders.

The IHI Open School Basic Certificate in Quality and Safety provides healthcare leaders with a comprehensive understanding of fundamental principles and best practices, fostering a culture of continuous improvement and patient-centered care. This certification program emphasizes key areas such as Improvement Capability, Patient Safety, Leadership, Person- and Family-Centered Care, and the Triple Aim for Populations.

MCRH proudly recognizes and commends the following CAH leaders for their commitment to professional development and for making a difference in their

respective healthcare organizations:

- **Kimberly Shiner**, Director of Compliance and Quality at **Schoolcraft Memorial Hospital**.
- **Nonda Beaudry**, LPN; Patient Safety/Risk Manager from **Schoolcraft Memorial Hospital**.
- **Wendy Holdwick**, RN; Director of Quality Management at **Harbor Beach Community Hospital**.
- **Danielle Rodewald**, Pharm D; Pharmacy Manager at **Sparrow Clinton Hospital**.
- **Julia Harbuck-Valley**, RN; Quality Manager at Scheurer Health.
- **Calie Montgomery**; Process Improvement Coordinator from **Scheurer Health**.
- **Megan Konczal**; Patient Safety and Emergency Preparedness Coordinator from **Scheurer Health**.
- **Ashely Thayer**; Infection Prevention Coordinator from **Scheurer Health**.
- **Ashley Stolicker**, RN; Trauma Program Manager Quality at **Deckerville Community Hospital**.
- **Lindsey Skiles**, RN; Director of Quality, Infection Prevention, & Control from **Hills and Dales Health Care**.
- **Kaylee Briolat**, RN; Emergency Preparedness Coordinator and Education from **Hills and Dales Health Care**.
- **Rebecca Stein**, RN; Infection Control and Community Education from **Hills and Dales Health Care**.
- **Michelle Deeter**, RN; Manager of Quality, Accreditation, and Utilization Management at **ProMedica Charles and Virginia Hickman Hospital**.
- **Cynthia Donajkowski**, RN; Director of Quality, Infection Control, and Employee Health at **Mackinaw Straits Health System**.
- **Cory Lovern**, RN; Quality Director and Patient Safety Officer at **UP Health Systems - Bell**.

MCRH celebrates these exceptional individuals for their dedication to advancing healthcare quality and safety, contributing to the overall betterment of the industry. As healthcare continues to evolve, adherence to these foundational principles will undoubtedly play a crucial role in sustaining excellence and innovation.

NHSC Resources from HRSA & MCRH



Virtual Job Fair - November 15, 2023

HRSA is offering NHSC sites an opportunity to take part in a free online recruitment event that connects students and clinicians with healthcare delivery organizations. [Click here to learn more about the upcoming HRSA Virtual Job Fair.](#)

Information on Becoming an NHSC Site

Not an NHSC Site? MCRH offers a variety of resources for eligible healthcare sites that are interested in becoming National Health Service Corp (NHSC) sites. This includes video presentations walking organizations through each aspect of the NHSC application. [Click here to view these resources.](#)

NCVHS Workgroup Asks for Comments on ICD-11 Policy



The National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics (NCVHS) Workgroup on Timely and Strategic Action to Inform ICD-11 Policy, part of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), published a second Request for Information (RFI) seeking additional information on the ICD-11 transition in the US.

ICD-11 is the 11th revision, fully electronic, includes more diagnostic codes, and can be used online or offline. It is important that HHS hear the concerns of rural healthcare facilities. Their input will help provide advice to HHS to inform ICD-11 policy.

To submit comments in response to the RFI, please send them by close of business on January 12, 2024, to NCVHSmail@cdc.gov, and include on the subject line: Response from [your organization or name] regarding ICD-11 RFI.

[Click Here for More Information](#)

October's Strength of Rural Spotlight: Central Michigan District Health Department



Central Michigan District Health Department
Promoting Healthy Families, Healthy 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 October, MCRH spotlights the Central Michigan District Health Department. The following is an excerpt of their submission.

In July 2022, the Central Michigan District Health Department (CMDHD) began a new program, **Community Connections**, that links the public to community resources to address Social Drivers of Health (SDoH) needs for free.

Community Health Workers (CHWs) complete 126 hours of coursework to become certified as trusted public health professionals who can perform outreach, education, support, and advocacy. CHWs coordinate linkage to resources that include housing, transportation, healthcare, insurance, food, education, immunizations, reproductive health, utilities, and more.

Community members are referred by a healthcare provider, community agency, or themselves to receive Community Connections assistance. They are matched with a CHW, who then assesses the individual or family needs and connects them to the resources to help.

This program has been a success, helping over 725 individuals in CMDHD's six counties of Arenac, Clare, Gladwin, Isabella, Osceola, and Roscommon.

In March 2023, with a grant from the de Beaumont Foundation, CMDHD began a partnership with the Michigan Health Improvement Alliance, Vantage Plastics, and its nonprofit outreach arm, The WELL Outreach, to improve local health and well-being in Arenac County.

This collaboration focuses on coordinating efforts between the private sector and public health entities through an embedded CHW at Vantage Plastics, a manufacturer in Standish, Michigan. The CHW helps new employees access primary health care and works to improve preventative care, decrease poverty, and increase employee retention.

[Click Here to Read the Full Spotlight on the Central Michigan District Health Department and Their Work with Vantage Plastics](#)

A Consensus Panel Approach to Estimating the Start-Up and Annual Service Costs for Rural Ambulance Agencies - A Special Report



Emergency Medical Services
(EMS)
Maine
Rural Health
Research Center

New from the Maine Rural Research Center

Many U.S. rural ambulance agencies rely on volunteers to staff their agencies and community goodwill to fund start-up and annual service costs, making it challenging to assess operational costs accurately.

The service-to-service and year-to-year variability in community-based cost subsidies makes it impractical to survey ambulance agencies for this information.

This report serves to fill this information void by relying on the consensus of a national panel of ambulance service policy and operations experts to estimate the fixed, variable, depreciation, and administrative costs of running an ambulance service.

Since these service areas will have varying population densities and run volumes, the expert panel developed a framework with three population-based service tiers and estimated costs for providing ambulance services to be used for strategic planning purposes.

[Click Here to Download the Full Panel Report](#)

Michigan Reconnect Scholarship Eligibility Expands - Apply by November 15, 2023



The Michigan Reconnect program for individuals between the ages of 21 and 24 recently expanded eligibility for up to 350,000 more people.

Michigan Reconnect was established in 2021 and allows individuals who do not already have a degree or credential to access educational programs at no cost. High demand healthcare careers, both credentialed and two-year degree programs, are eligible for Michigan Reconnect.

The Reconnect program allows eligible students to work toward an associate degree or Pell-eligible skills certificate at in-district community colleges, tuition-free.

Students not already enrolled must complete the following steps:

1. **Apply** for the Michigan Reconnect Scholarship **by Nov. 15, 2024**.
2. Apply to a Michigan community or tribal college.
3. File a **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)**.
4. Enroll in a program of study and begin coursework no later than the fall 2024 semester.

Already enrolled students should contact their Financial Aid Office for additional information on applying the scholarship to their tuition bill and filing a FAFSA.

[Click Here for More Information](#)

Michigan Office of Highway Safety Supports Local Car Seat Distribution

And: Learn How to Become a Child Passenger Safety (CPS) Technician



NATIONAL
CHILD
PASSENGER
SAFETY
CERTIFICATION

A Program of
Safe Kids Worldwide

The **Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning (OHSP)** will again be supporting local car seat distribution efforts by providing car seats for local seat check events and fitting stations for low-income families. Car seat orders for FY23 may now be

submitted.

CPS Technicians looking to order seats can find out more information by [clicking here](#).

Safe Kids Worldwide has also provided a useful directory for parents looking to find a CPS Technician in their area. Access this directory by [clicking here](#).

If you are interested in becoming a certified CPS Technician, you can [find more details here](#).

Upcoming MCRH Educational Events



GRAND ROUNDS:

November 1, 2023: 12- 1 pm EST

Geriatrics Grand Rounds: Expanding your Knowledge of Pain Management

Speaker: Leslie Simons, DNP

[Register Here](#)

CE: Nursing, Social Work, CHW. A physician can self-claim credits.

December 13, 2023, 12- 1 PM EST

Pharmacy Grand Rounds: Heart Failure - Optimizing Medical Therapy

Speaker: Curtis Smith, PharmD, BCPS

[Register Here](#)

CE provided for: Pharmacist, Pharmacy Technicians, and Nursing

Project ECHO:

November 15, 2023, 12 -1 PM EST

Infectious Disease ECHO: Update on Vaccination for Influenza, COVID-19, and RSV
Part 2

Speaker: Dr. Peter Gulick

[Register Here](#)

CME Provided

December 6, 2023, 12 -1 PM EST -NOTE: This Session was originally scheduled for December 13

Infectious Disease ECHO: Topic TBA

Speaker: Dr. Peter Gulick

[Register Here](#)

CME Provided

EMS:

November 8, 2023, 6 PM EST

Pre-Hospital Pain Management

Speakers: Allison Biliti, State of Michigan EMS Regional Coordinator

[Register Here](#)

CE Provided: 1 Patient Assessment

December 6, 2023, 6 PM EST

HR Competencies for EMS Leaders

Speakers: Scott Moore, Moore EMS Consulting

[Register Here](#)

CE Provided: 1 Operations & IC Education Administration

ADDITIONAL NEWS & RESOURCES:

HOSPITAL PROGRAMS:

QUALITY OF HEALTH CARE UPDATE: [Mandatory Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program \(CHIP\) Quality Measures](#)

NEW MEDICAID REPORT FROM GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES: [Medicaid's Coverage Role in Small Towns and Rural Areas - Michigan Rural Coverage Rate is 43%](#)

PRIMARY CARE:

COMMENTS REQUESTED: [CMS Proposes Minimum Staffing Standards for Nursing Homes - November 6](#)

FUNDING:

NEW: [MDHHS Notification for Grant - Recovery Support Services Competitive - 2024](#)

NEW: [Rural Health Network Development Planning Program – Applications Due January 26](#)

NEW FROM USDA: [USDA Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant Program – December 31](#)

PUBLIC HEALTH FUNDING: [Barclay-Giel Seed Grants Apply by November 12](#)

ENDING SOON: [USDA Community Food Projects – October 30](#)

SOCIAL DRIVERS OF HEALTH:

SURVEY: [Participate in the Rural Health Equity Plan survey by December 1, 2023](#)

RESOURCE: [Updated Federal Profile for Community Health Workers](#)

WORKFORCE:

REPAYMENT PROGRAM: [NHSC Students to Service Loan Repayment Program - Apply by December 7, 2023](#)

VETERANS:

VETERANS AFFAIRS ALERT: [VA Officials Sound Alarm on Uptick in Veterans Benefits Scams](#)

ONLINE TUTORIAL: [An Introduction to Online Veterans Resources](#)

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

NEW: [Michigan High-Speed Internet Office Opens Public Comment on Volume 1 of Michigan's BEAD Initial Proposal](#)

NEW MAP: [New Map Shows Rural Emergency Hospitals](#)

NEW: [Governor Whitmer Signs Legislation Protecting Health Care for Millions of Michiganders](#)

RHIHUB WEBINAR: [Rural Definitions and Data: Changes after the 2020 Census 11/8](#)

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO MCRH'S 2023 ORGANIZATIONAL SPONSORS



[Visit the MCRH Website](#)

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