

# Michigan Rural Health Clinic



## Monthly Bulletin

Volume 6, Issue 7:  
July 2024



### A Few Words From Jill:

I hope everyone is enjoying a fantastic summer!

I would like to draw your attention to an upcoming series starting this week that provides valuable insights for Provider-Based Rural Health Clinics.

I encourage you to join our friends from Stroudwater Associates for their Independent Rural Health Clinic Institute beginning July 12.

The Institute, presented along with the National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health (NOSORH) and the National Association of Rural Health Clinics (NARHC), is a seven-part series on finance and revenue cycle for independent RHCs, building on concepts established in the 2023 Independent RHC Institute.

This series features a pre-session meeting to recap previously covered topics and some provider-based RHC-specific content. This year, there will be two "office hours" sessions for attendees who are interested in asking follow-up questions specific to their independent RHC related to the 2024 content.

This is a terrific opportunity to invest in your professional development. Attendance is free; anyone interested in attending the sessions is welcome to register at no cost!

For more information about the Rural Health Clinic Institute, please click [here](#).

As always, please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or need any guidance ([oester35@msu.edu](mailto:oester35@msu.edu)).

Thanks,  
**Jill**

**More Than 2.6 Million  
Michigan Residents Enrolled in Medicaid  
Following Year-Long Redetermination  
Process**



As the year-long post-pandemic Medicaid redetermination process draws to a close, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) announced it renewed Medicaid and Healthy Michigan Plan coverage for an additional 141,992 people whose eligibility was up for renewal in May. More than 1.8 million beneficiaries have renewed their insurance coverage during the process, bringing the total Medicaid enrollment to 2.6 million.

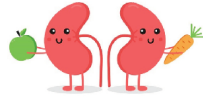
During the COVID-19 pandemic, people continued to receive Medicaid without having to renew annually under the Families First Coronavirus Act. The federal Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023 ended the pause on annual determinations.

Michigan reinstated the renewal process beginning in May 2023. The renewal process will continue annually going forward.

[Click Here to Read the Full Press Release](#)

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**National Kidney Foundation of Michigan  
Presents A Cooking Matters at the Store  
Event on July 17**



# COOKING MATTERS®

## AT THE STORE



**Do you want to save money on kidney-friendly food?**

You're invited to a **FREE** virtual "*Cooking Matters at the Store*" workshop. This is a 1-hour long workshop facilitated by a Registered Dietitian during which we discuss and share tips on saving money on healthy foods for a kidney-friendly diet.

Topics include:

- Money-saving tips
- MyPlate food groups
- Reading nutrition facts labels
- Comparing unit prices
- Helpful resources



**Wednesday, July 17th**

**6:00-7:30 PM**

Visit [kidneymi.org/CMATS-7-24](https://kidneymi.org/CMATS-7-24)  
or scan the QR code to register!



*Access workshop on a computer, tablet or smartphone with Internet connection.*

This project was funded in whole or in part by the USDA's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education through the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and the Michigan Fitness Foundation.

This Institution is an equal opportunity provider.

[nkfm.org/CMATS](https://nkfm.org/CMATS)

Families on a tight budget report that the cost of healthy groceries is their biggest barrier to making healthy meals at home.

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**

**MDHHS To Host A Free Virtual Baby Fair July 23 for New Or Expecting Families**



The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) is hosting a virtual baby fair for new or expecting parents in July. At the event, families will have opportunities to learn about available resources and important health and safety information and ask questions directly to program experts.

The following MDHHS programs are participating in this event:

- Care for MiWell
- Newborn Screening
- Michigan BioTrust for Health
- Infant Safe Sleep
- Women, Infants, & Children (WIC)
- Immunizations
- Early Hearing Detection and Intervention
- Birth Defects Education and Outreach
- Breastfeeding Support
- Childhood Lead Prevention Education
- Vital Records
- Michigan Home Visiting Initiative
- Maternal Infant Health Program
- Children's Special Health Care Services
- Eat Safe Fish
- Unintentional Injury Prevention
- Oral Health Program
- PFAS Education
- Michigan Maternal Mortality Surveillance, Hear Her Michigan Campaign
- MDHHS Doula Initiative

**The event is free of charge and occurs on Tuesday, July 23, from 6 to 8 p.m.**

[Click Here to Learn More](#)

**New Toolkit from RHIhub:  
Chronic Disease Management**

# Rural Chronic Disease Management Toolkit



RHHub recently released its Rural Chronic Disease Management Toolkit.

The modules in this toolkit contain resources and information focused on developing, implementing, evaluating, and sustaining rural programs for the management of chronic disease. The toolkit covers common conditions such as diabetes, COPD, heart disease, arthritis, chronic kidney disease, cancer, obesity, and chronic pain.

This toolkit was developed in collaboration with NORC Walsh Center for Rural Health Analysis.

[Click Here to Learn More About the Toolkit](#)

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



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.

Among the key findings in this brief from the University of Minnesota Rural Health Research Center:

- Rural hospitals experienced an increasing number of ransomware attacks

- from 2016 to 2021.
- From 2016 to 2021, 43 rural hospitals across 22 states experienced a ransomware attack.
- Ransomware attacks afflicted all types of rural hospitals, including Critical Access Hospitals (N=9), Sole Community Hospitals (N=13), Rural Referral Centers (N=3), and hospitals paid under Medicare's Inpatient Prospective Payment System (N=18).
- Eighty-four percent of ransomware attacks on rural hospitals resulted in operational disruptions. Common disruptions included electronic system downtime (81%), delays or cancellations in scheduled care (42%), and ambulance diversion (33%). Operational disruptions were similar in rural and urban hospital settings.

[Click Here to Download the Understanding Ransomware Attacks on Rural Hospitals Policy Brief](#)

## HRSA & MDHHS Updates on Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs)



The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) has updated its list of professional shortage areas (HPSAs) for primary care, mental health, and dental health as of April 2024. Any HPSAs listed as "proposed for withdrawal" will remain in that status until the lists are finalized.

Michigan does not have any HPSAs proposed for withdrawal status in the current Federal Register Notice, but the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) is currently seeking new designations for areas and populations facing barriers to accessing care, especially those that lost HPSA status in January 2024.

For more information on HPSA designations, please contact MCRH Access To Care Manager Paige Recker at [paige.recker@affiliate.msu.edu](mailto:paige.recker@affiliate.msu.edu).

[Click Here to Visit the HRSA Federal Register Notice Site](#)

## Register Today for the 2024 Rural Michigan Opioid & Substance Use Summit





## **The Ripple Effect: Creating Positive Change**

**2024 Rural Michigan Opioid & Substance Use Summit  
July 25, 2024 • Treetops Resort • Gaylord, Michigan**

Registration is now open for the 2024 Rural Michigan Opioid & Substance Use Summit, which will take place 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 Health Clinic Telehealth  
Reimbursement Policy Remains  
Uncertain**



Since 2020, telehealth has become popular among the public and policymakers. Instead of permanently covering telehealth under Medicare, Congress has opted for a two-year extension. This is because a short-term extension is less expensive and allows policymakers to revisit the long-term future of telehealth.

However, for the Rural Health Clinics (RHCs) program, the main issue at stake is not the length of a telehealth extension but rather the lack of medical telehealth reimbursement parity.

NARHC has been advocating for “normal” telehealth reimbursement and against the so-called special payment rule which pays RHCs a flat fee for telehealth visits that is significantly less than in-person visits.

As Congress appears poised to pass a two-year extension, NARHC remains engaged with members to build further support for reimbursement parity and ensure rural providers are not left behind in the future.

[Click Here to Share Your Support With Your Member of Congress](#)

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



The screenshot shows a video conference interface. The main slide has a light blue background with a network diagram. At the top left is the MDHHS logo (Michigan Department of Health & Human Services) and the text 'Social Determinants of Health'. The title 'Connecting to State Community Information Exchange Systems and Resources' is centered in bold black text. Below the title, it says 'Community Information Exchange Micro-Toolkit' and 'Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Policy & Planning'. On the right side, there are three video thumbnails: the top one shows a man with glasses labeled 'Bob K', the middle one shows a man labeled 'Jeff Miles', and the bottom one shows a woman labeled 'Holland, Natalie (DHHS)'. At the bottom left of the slide, there is a small label 'Holland, Natalie (DHHS)'.

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](#)

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



**REGISTER TODAY**  
**EMS QUALITY IMPROVEMENT AND  
DATA SUMMIT**

 **MICHIGAN CENTER  
for  
RURAL HEALTH**

 **AUGUST 21-22, 2024**

 **BOYNE MOUNTAIN RESORT  
BOYNE FALLS, MI**

 **Michigan Center For Rural Health  
com.mcrhaa@msu.edu**

Register today 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**

**NEW: 2024 Critical Access Hospital  
Conference Partnerships Available**



# 2024 Michigan Critical Access Hospital Conference

November 7-8, 2024, Park Place – Traverse City, MI

*Why Exhibit:* The Michigan Critical Access Hospital Conference provides the single most targeted opportunity to reach C-level executives with your organization's message, products, services, and educational outreach efforts. MCRH invites three guests (CEO, CFO, CNO, and Quality Manager) from each of the 35 CAHs to discuss relevant issues, network, and disseminate information.

## EXHIBITOR PACKAGES

Includes the Bronze Package PLUS:

**GOLD**  
**\$2250**

- Recognition as **GOLD** Sponsor
- **2 Additional** Complimentary Registrations
- Recognition as a **BREAKFAST SPONSOR**
- **One** Pre-Recorded Video (up to 2 minutes) that will be included in the Safe Travels Email before the event

**SILVER**  
**\$1750**

Includes the Bronze Package PLUS:

- Recognition as **SILVER** Sponsor
- **1 Additional** Complimentary Registration
- Recognition as **SNACK/BREAK SPONSOR**

**BRONZE**  
**\$1350**

- Recognition as **BRONZE** Sponsor
- **1** Complimentary Registration
- Participant List before the event
- **1** Exhibit Table
- Meals Included



### Charging Station - \$750

*(1 Sponsorship Available)*

Your logo will be displayed prominently by each charging station for maximum visibility!

### Official Conference App - \$650

*(Limited Sponsorships Available)*

Keep your brand in front of this year's attendees, as they share photos, engage in live chat, and keep up to date on the agenda through the app!



### Entertainment Sponsor - \$500

*(Limited Sponsorships Available)*

Have your logo placed prominently near the musicians, logo recognition on CAH slides, and have your organization officially announced during the reception.

Consider becoming an exhibiting or sponsorship partner at the 2024 Critical Access Hospital (CAH) Conference.

Get your organization's brand in front of C-Level (CEO, CFO, CNO, Quality Manager) decision makers from Michigan Critical Access Hospitals and take advantage of networking opportunities throughout the conference!

There are exhibitor tables to increase your visibility. You can also sponsor charging stations with your brand logo and QR code, feature your logo on the Conference App to showcase your brand to participants on their mobile devices, or support Thursday evening's networking reception musical entertainment.

[Click Here for Partnership 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

### EMS:

**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 Resources

Here are some topics impacting the RHC Community in Michigan this month.

- [Medicaid Bulletin MMP 24-20 discusses Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009 \(CHIPRA\)](#)

- [The Michigan Health Council \(MHC\) Offers Five Virtual One-Hour Implicit Bias Training Courses](#)
- [HRSA Payment Program for RHC Buprenorphine-Trained Providers](#)

## COVID-19 Vaccine Updates and Resources

This a reminder that COVID-19 is still having an impact on our rural neighbors and those providing care and solutions. **Please click on the links below for important information regarding the latest on vaccines, boosters, testing, and other recommendations:**

- **RESOURCE:** [Updates to Coverage for COVID-19 Tests](#)
- **RESOURCE:** [One Stop Online for COVID Prevention and Treatment in Every County](#)
- **RESOURCE:** [COVID-19 Impact on Emergency Preparedness for RHCs](#)
- **RESOURCE:** [The Implications of Long COVID for Rural Communities](#)
- **UPDATE:** [MDHHS Medicaid Policy Bulletins](#)
- **UPDATE:** [MDHHS L-Letters Guidance](#)
- **ONGOING:** [Understanding the Federal COVID-19 Vaccine Mandates: Practical Considerations for Covered Employers](#)

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Trouble viewing this email? Contact [siwekdou@msu.edu](mailto:siwekdou@msu.edu) for help

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Michigan Center For Rural Health | 909 Wilson Road B-218 W Fee Hall Michigan State University | East Lansing, MI 48824 US

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