

Michigan Rural Health Clinic



Monthly Bulletin

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A Few Words From Jill:

As we near the end of 2023, I wanted to take a moment to recognize the outstanding work that the **Hills and Dales** clinics have been doing to control hypertension.

Every year, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) The Million Hearts® Hypertension Control Champions are acknowledged for their dedication to helping their hypertension patients manage their blood pressure.

These Champions are celebrated for their commitment to ensuring their patients with hypertension maintain a blood pressure control rate of at least 80%.

This year, three out of the five Michigan clinics that received this prestigious honor are part of the Hills and Dales Healthcare System. They are as follows: Hills and Dales Family Healthcare Cass City, Hills and Dales Kingston Family Practice, and Hills and Dales Ubly Medical Clinic.

As Hypertension Control Champions, Hills and Dales have made blood pressure control their top priority. They have achieved improved results by implementing effective strategies, such as those outlined in the **Hypertension Control Change Package**.

Controlling hypertension by managing blood pressure is just one way we can all work towards helping our RHC patients become healthier in the new year.

I look forward to an exciting and productive 2024 for Michigan's Rural Health Clinics!

As always, please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or need any guidance (oeester35@msu.edu).

Thanks,
Jill

**Announcing the 27th Annual Michigan Rural
Health Conference - April 25-26, 2024**

Now Accepting Speaker Proposals Until January 18, 2024

27th Annual Michigan Rural Health Conference



Mark your calendars now for the 27th Annual Michigan Rural Health Conference which will be held April 25-26, 2024 at Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort in Mt. Pleasant, MI. Registration will be opening soon so please follow MCRH on social media and stay tuned to our monthly newsletter for details.

Call For Presentations

MCRH is accepting proposals for this year's conference. Proposals are welcomed for 30 and 60-minute presentations that are interactive, creative, dynamic, feature best practices in rural health, and will encompass this year's theme: ***The Ripple Effect: Ideas into Action.***

Areas of Focus:

The Michigan Rural Health Conference typically hosts presentations that are focused on the following areas:

- Health Information Technology
- Public Health
- Health Equity
- EMS
- Workforce
- Finance & Operations
- Quality Improvement

Suggested Topics of Interest to Conference Attendees:

- 2024 Billing/Coding
- RHC Compliance and Regulations
- Chronic Care Management
- Childhood and Seasonal Vaccine Programming
- Behavioral Health Integration
- Community Services for Clients: Transportation, Food Security, other Social Drivers of Health
- Financial Tools/Strategies for Low-Volume CAHs
- RHC Cost Reporting
- CMS Standards & Health Disparities
- Engaging Disproportionately Impacted Populations
- Other Innovative Approaches to Rural Health Care

If you have additional questions regarding a proposal submission, please contact Renee Calkins (renee.calkins@affiliate.msu.edu)

[Click Here for the Full Call for Presentations PDF](#)

Medicaid Coverage of CHW/CHR Services Announced



The **Michigan Community Health Worker Alliance** (MiCHWA) recently announced that the official policy for Medicaid Coverage of Community Health Worker (CHW)/Community Health Representative (CHR) Services has officially been released.

At the link below, you will find a document that shows a crosswalk comparing the language of the policy as it was released for public comment in July and the policy as it has been released in its final form to be included in Michigan's Medicaid State Plan.

MiCHWA acknowledges the **Michigan Department of Health and Human Services** (MDHHS) for its work in creating this policy. MDHHS has shared that they received over 300 comments regarding this policy, and their efforts to incorporate stakeholder feedback are well-reflected in the policy.

[Click Here to View the Crosswalk Document](#)

[Click Here to Read the Full MDHHS Bulletin](#)

Hospital-Based Substance Use Disorder Consultation Reimbursement Coverage



Physicians and other qualified practitioners will be reimbursed for substance use disorder (SUD) consultations in the inpatient hospital or emergency department setting effective Jan. 1, 2024. These services include assessment, evaluation, diagnosis, and treatment of individuals during a medically indicated hospital

encounter with a co-occurring SUD.

Services provided by non-physician practitioners such as physician assistants or advanced practice registered nurses must be performed in compliance with the terms of a collaborative or practice agreement with a physician, consistent with state scope of practice laws.

This service is separate and distinct from inpatient hospital detoxification services currently covered through Medicaid Fee-for-Service or residential treatment provided by a Prepaid Inpatient Health Plan.

Prior authorization for these services is not required.

[Click Here to Read the Full MMP Bulletin](#)

Micro-Learn Training Available from MDHHS Project Firstline



Project Firstline encourages all healthcare workers to review the latest **information and resources on Clostridioides Difficile (C. diff)** including a new infection control micro-learn on what to do when diarrhea is present.

Because C. diff is a bacterium that can cause diarrhea and spreads easily in health care, all healthcare workers must be familiar with the infection risks of diarrhea and what actions they can take to help stop the spread through stool.

The micro-learn makes it easy to share these important reminders with your team. The training includes a user guide, discussion guide, and hands-on job aid, so facilitators have all materials at the ready when leading a training.

[Click Here to Access Micro-Learns User Guide](#)

[Click Here for a C.Diff Factsheet](#)

An ECHO Movement for Breast and Cervical Cancers Begins January 8, 2024



iMPROve Health is hosting a 9-month ECHO program, titled EMBRACE, to support healthcare professionals in increasing screening rates for breast and cervical cancers among populations experiencing health disparities. The EMBRACE ECHO program highlights best practices, evidence-based interventions, and process improvement methodology.

EMBRACE will host multiple cohorts. Cohorts 1 and 2 will begin the week of January 8, 2024. Cohort 3 will begin the week of January 15. Cohorts will meet every other week on the assigned day, for a total of 18 sessions. Each session is one hour.

Benefits of joining EMBRACE:

- Join a supportive network of your peers, a “community of practice.”
- Gain expertise in breast and cervical cancers and become a local expert.
- Learn best practice guidelines from subject matter experts to use in your practice.
- Share experiences and receive recommendations with case-based learning opportunities.

[Click Here to Register](#)

Going For Gold & Beyond - A Grant Opportunity for Rural Health Clinics



American Heart Association®

Outpace CVD

Do you want to celebrate your Rural Health Clinic's work to manage blood pressure, high cholesterol, and Type 2 diabetes in the new year? Data submission for American Heart Association (AHA) outpatient recognition programs is open from January 1 through May 17, 2024.

The AHA Outpace CVD™ encompasses three outpatient quality programs – Target: BP; Check, Change, Control, Cholesterol; and Target: Type 2 Diabetes. Each is designed to enhance current efforts through evidenced-based practices and elevate the success through their annual recognition program, Going For Gold & Beyond.

As an extra incentive, AHA is offering up to \$2500 to Midwest rural health care organizations to lead evidence-based policy and practice changes.

If your RHC is interested, please complete the brief survey below by January 15, 2024.

Note For Grant Applicants: Because AHA seeks to support and measure sustainable change, applicants, who have not done so previously, need to REGISTER for at least one new/additional program within Outpace CVD™ - by January 15 - and commit to making 2024

[Click Here to Complete the Going For Gold & Beyond Survey](#)

[Click Here for More Going For Gold & Beyond Rural Health Care Grant Details](#)

Apply for the Bill Finerfrock Health Policy Fellowship - Deadline is January 5, 2024



**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
RURAL HEALTH CLINICS**

Apply today for the 2024 Bill Finerfrock Health Policy Fellowship. This program is designed for mid-career professionals with experience ranging from billing, coding, office management, and/or clinical care in either the RHC setting or a rural health care system.

Applicants may either be current rural health professionals or have past experience in rural health and are currently pursuing additional education/training. The fellowship is a personal and professional commitment to making further impacts in rural health practice and policy.

The fellowship requires a full-time, in-person commitment for either a 4-week continuous timeframe, or two, 2-week periods in May, June, or July 2024. The selected candidate will reside in Alexandria, Virginia during the fellowship period and work within the NARHC DC Office, Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Lodging and travel expenses will be fully covered by the program, and a \$8,000 stipend will be provided to the fellow directly. Additionally, the selected fellow's employer will receive a \$2,000 stipend to be used as the organization sees fit in gratitude for its support of the fellow's participation in this program.

During the program, the BFHP Fellow will:

- Participate in NARHC advocacy meetings with the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and Capitol Hill staff
- Analyze NARHC educational content for relevancy
- Identify areas of focus for NARHC
- Educate key policymakers on the realities of rural health

The application for the 2024 Bill Finerfrock Health Policy Fellowship Program along with all supporting materials, is due by January 5, 2024, at 11:59 pm ET. Completed applications should be emailed to Sarah.Hohman@narhc.org. Interviews will be conducted in mid-January, and the selected candidate will be notified by mid-February, 2024.

[Click Here to Apply](#)



Upcoming MCRH Educational Events

Grand Rounds:

January 18, 2024, 12- 1 PM EST

Special Topics Grand Rounds: Bleeding Disorders in Women and Girls + (Gender Inclusive): Issues and Challenges

Speaker: Roshni Kulkarni, MD

[Register Here](#)

CE Provided for Nursing, Social Workers, Physicians, and Community Health Workers

Project ECHO:

January 17, 2024, 12 -1 PM EST

Infectious Disease ECHO: *Topic To Be Announced Soon!*

Speaker: Dr. Peter Gulick

[Register Here](#)

CME Provided

EMS:

[Please visit the MCRH EMS Continuing Education Website](#) for the 2024 EMS Webinar Schedule coming soon!

Additional News & Resources

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

Click on the BOLD links to read more:

NEW THIS MONTH:

- **Nationally Aligned Community Health Worker Certification Now Being Offered from the Northern Michigan Center for Rural Health – Begins January 9, 2024**

RESOURCES:

- Reaching Out to People Who Live In Rural Areas about Medicaid & CHIP Renewals: **Click Here for Updated Resources and Information Document**
- **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:** CMS Recinds COVID-19 Health Care Staff Vaccination Requirements
- **RESOURCE:** RHC Vaccine Confidence News and Information - UPDATED
- **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

**A Special
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MCRH's 2023
Organization
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website**

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news and information:**



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All information in the RHC Weekly Bulletin is current as of date sent and is subject to change

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

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