

Michigan Rural Health Clinic



Monthly Bulletin

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A Few Words From Jill:

Happy New Year Michigan Rural Health Clinics!

To start the new year, Governor Whitmer has proclaimed that January 2024 is **Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) Month** here in Michigan.

According to Healthy People 2030, SDOH are the conditions in the environments where people are born, live, learn, work, play, worship, and age that affect a wide range of health, functioning, and quality-of-life outcomes and risks.

Over the past two years, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has taken steps to address SDOH by establishing standard definitions and adopting the first-ever Drivers of Health (DOH) measures in federal health care programs that affect millions of Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries. These measures call for clinicians to screen patients on social drivers of health and report the percentage of beneficiaries screened and the percent that screened positive for social needs.

This is an important moment in the field of quality measurement, and these DOH measures provide an opportunity to create consistency in the DOH domains measured in federal, state, and private sector programs. This push for consistency and routine collection will help providers and CMS track factors that influence people's health and improve coordination among providers and between clinical and social service providers. **This article from The Commonwealth Fund** provides insight into the importance of consistent measures for SDOH and what steps CMS is taking to achieve this.

MCRH's Social Drivers of Health Manager, Laura Mispelon, is a truly wonderful asset to the team and is passionate about SDOH and their impacts on our rural neighbors. If you would like further information about SDOH in rural Michigan, please visit the **MCRH Social Drivers of Health Programs webpage** or contact Laura (laura.mispelon@affiliate.msu.edu).

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

Thanks,
Jill

Partnership Opportunities Now Available for the 27th Annual Michigan Rural Health Conference



Consider becoming an exhibiting or sponsorship partner at the 27th Annual Michigan Rural Health Conference being held April 25-26, 2024 at Soaring Eagle Resort in Mt. Pleasant, MI.

We offer three exhibitor packages to help you reach attendees. You can also sponsor our charging stations, conference app, or Thursday evening reception entertainment to promote your brand.

If you have additional questions regarding partnerships for the Michigan Rural Health Conference, please contact Doug Siwek (siwekdou@msu.edu)

[Click Here to Download the Full Partnership Prospectus](#)

[Click Here for Partnership Registration](#)

\$852,000 Awarded to Strengthen Michigan Rural Communities



The Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity's (LEO) Office of Rural Prosperity awarded \$852,000 to support 19 rural community projects across

Michigan's ten Prosperity Regions through the Rural Readiness Grant Program.

The grant provides rural communities with up to \$50,000 to support collaborative planning and capacity initiatives. The 19 projects will address needs related to childcare; housing, development readiness, health and emergency preparedness; non-motorized transportation infrastructure; and general capacity-building activities for local, county and tribal governments, nonprofits, economic development organizations, community foundations, regional planning agencies and health service providers across the state.

[Click Here to Read More and View the Complete List of Rural Readiness Grant Projects](#)

MDHHS Seeks Proposals for Student Internship Stipend Program to Enhance Behavioral Health Workforce



As part of the state's continuing commitment to improving access to behavioral health services for Michigan's families, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) recently issued a request for proposal (RFP) to establish a program that will provide stipends for student interns in Michigan's public behavioral health system.

The Internship Stipend Program seeks to increase the availability of behavioral health services across the State of Michigan by incentivizing internship opportunities for college students. Approved sites will include Community Mental Health agencies, Pre-Paid Inpatient Health Plans, Indian Health Service/Tribally Operated Facility or Program/Urban Indian Clinic or public schools.

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

Upper Midwest Telehealth Resource Center Michigan Telehealth Reimbursement Guide



The Upper Midwest Telehealth Resource Center (UMTRC) recently released its Michigan Telehealth Reimbursement Guide. This guide provides a reimbursement overview including a payor matrix for Medicare, Medicaid, and most common private insurance providers.

The guide also details visit types, HIPPA software compliance, and useful information for RHCs and FQHCs.

[Click Here to Download the Full Michigan Telehealth Reimbursement Guide](#)

Micro-Learn Training from MDHHS Project Firstline: Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)



Project Firstline encourages all healthcare workers to review the latest **information and resources on Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**,

Whether you're a seasoned pro or gearing up for the first time, PPE is your armor — gloves, masks, gowns, and eyewear—all working together to keep you safe and others around you protected.

This Project Firstline course increases knowledge of infection control and best practices.

[Click Here to Watch Project Firstline's PPE Video](#)

VIRTUAL RESOURCE: First National Bank of Michigan Cyber Security Seminar - February 6



Register for the First National Bank of Michigan Cyber Security virtual seminar on Tuesday, February 6, from 7:30 - 8:30 A.M. Participants will learn about Cyberthreats, Security Best Practices, the difference between Cyber and Crime Insurance, and more.

MCRH urges Rural Health Clinics to register for the opportunity to learn tips on safeguarding patient information and implementing best practices.

[Click Here to Register](#)



Upcoming MCRH Educational Events

Grand Rounds:

February 7, 2024, 10 AM-12 PM EST

Social Work Grand Rounds: Motivational Interviewing: Beyond The Basics

Speaker: Dr. Bernard Showers DSW, LCSW

[Register Here](#)

CE Provided for Social Workers

February 13, 2024, 12-1 PM EST

Social Work Behavioral Health Series Grand Rounds: Clinical Assessments for Behavioral Health Care

Speaker: Gennie Groover, LLMSW

[Register Here](#)

CE Provided for Social Workers and Addiction Professionals

February 22, 2024, 12-1 PM EST

Pediatrics Grand Rounds: E-cigarette Prevention & Cessation in Youth

Speaker: Brittany Tayler MD, FAAP

[Register Here](#)

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

Project ECHO:

February 21, 2024, 12-1 PM EST

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

Speaker: Dr. Peter Gulick

[Register Here](#)

CME Provided

EMS:

February 21, 2024, 6-7 PM EST

EMS Director Panel: The Impact of Culture on EMS Workforce

Speakers: Rick Dupon Denton Twp. EMS; Nick Lemcool East Bay Ambulance Service; Kathryn Dunklow Elmwood Twp. Fire & Rescue

[Register Here](#)

CME Provided

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

Additional Resources

Here are some of the topics impacting the RHC Community in Michigan this month.
Click on the BOLD links to read more:

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
Thank You to
MCRH's 2024
Organization
Sponsors:**



**Visit our
website**

**Please visit MCRH's Social Media Channels for more
news and information:**



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