A Few Words From Jill:

As most of us are incorporating summer fun into our busy work schedules, I would like to discuss an important issue facing most Rural Health Clinics: workforce.

I would like to familiarize you with MCRH Rural Access to Care Manager Paige Recker and the amazing work she does in providing a wealth of resources that will help your organization recruit and retain outstanding health professionals in your RHC.

Paige utilizes tools from national and local organizations focused on attracting great talent to rural areas and assisting with support to ensure the right fit. Here are just some of the workforce groups Paige engages with:

**3RNET** is the National Rural Recruitment and Retention Network, the nation's most trusted resource for health professionals seeking careers in rural and underserved communities. Organizations can post their job opportunities for free and receive assistance from Paige in posting them. 3RNET also offers automatic referrals to organizations for potential candidates and recruitment and retention resources, such as the annual Recruitment and Retention Academy.

The **Rural Workforce Innovation Network (RWIN)** provides dedicated rural workforce resources and education opportunities for Michigan's rural organizations.

Additionally, assistance is available for loan repayment programs, which offer tax-free funds for qualified health care providers working in approved disciplines at eligible practice sites in exchange for a service obligation. Paige can provide technical support on the National Health Service Corps Program, Michigan State Loan Repayment Program, Nurse Corps Program, and the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program.

I encourage you to register for the next Workforce Webinar on Tuesday, June 18. It will feature 3RNET Director of Education Mandi Gingras, who will discuss best practices for tailoring your organization's marketing efforts to improve your recruitment methods for attracting outstanding talent.

For more information about MCRH Workforce programming, please visit our dedicated Workforce website or contact Paige (paige.recker@affiliate.msu.edu) to discuss how she can help you navigate your RHCs workforce initiatives.

As always, please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or need any guidance (oester35@msu.edu).
The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) has provided $5 million to 12 Michigan universities to provide $30,000 stipends to students seeking to obtain a master’s degree in social work and who commit to working in behavioral health in the state upon graduation.

The Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) to Master of Social Work (MSW) Program seeks to increase the number of master's degree level social workers in the behavioral health workforce throughout the state. The program provides one-time, $30,000 stipends to bachelor’s level social workers who agree to enter a full-time advanced standing MSW program and provide at least two years of full-time employment in public sector behavioral health in Michigan.

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Recently, the HHS Office of Civil Rights (OCR), Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), Department of Labor (DOL), and the Federal Trade
Commission (FTC) all released massive final rules covering policies ranging from overtime eligibility to nondiscrimination to Medicaid access and transparency.

NARHC has compiled initial summaries of each rule that impacts and interests the RHC community. Please see each notable rule highlighted and linked below.

- **Medicaid Access and Transparency**
  - Medicaid Fee-For-Service
  - Medicaid Managed Care
- **HHS Rule**
  - Nondiscrimination: Section 1557 of the Affordable Care Act
- **Workforce**
  - Noncompete Ban
  - Overtime Eligibility

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

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!
Consider becoming an exhibiting or sponsorship partner at the 2024 Rural Michigan Opioid & Substance Use Summit.

There are exhibitor tables to increase your visibility. You can also sponsor charging stations with your brand logo and QR code, or become a sponsor of the Summit App to showcase your brand to participants 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.

First Case of Influenza A (H5) Detected in Michigan Resident

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) is announcing the first case of influenza A (H5) virus identified in a Michigan farmworker who had regular exposure to livestock infected with influenza A (H5). This follows extensive public health actions over the course of the last few months.
by the state of Michigan to allow farmworkers to monitor and notify local public health officials should they have symptoms.

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the risk to the public remains low; the Michigan farmworker diagnosed with influenza A (H5) had mild symptoms and has recovered. To protect farm and farmworker privacy, additional details are not being provided.

Residents Urged to Protect Against Mosquito Bites as First Mosquito-Borne Virus of 2024 Detected in Saginaw County

Michigan residents are being urged to take precautions against mosquito bites. Mosquitos collected in Saginaw County last month tested positive for Jamestown Canyon virus (JCV) at the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Bureau of Laboratories (MDHHS BOL). These are the first infected mosquitos detected in 2024.

Residents are reminded that the best way to protect themselves against JCV and other mosquito-borne illnesses, including Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) and West Nile virus (WNV), is to prevent mosquito bites.

Every summer in Michigan, bites from mosquitos carry the risk of spreading diseases to people and animals. This year’s warm, wet spring has produced a variety of biting mosquitoes. The majority are mosquitos that hatched in early May and are currently active in tracts of woodland habitat. Some of these spring mosquitos are capable of transmitting JCV. JCV sickened six Michiganders in 2021, one in 2022, and four in 2023. Also reported last year were 21 cases of WNV.

MDHHS Approves Eight PIHPs to Expand Substance Use Treatment with
The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) approved eight pre-paid inpatient health plans (PIHPs) to participate in the Recovery Incentives Pilot. This pilot, supported by $6 million in opioid settlement funds over the next three years, will expand access to evidence-based treatment for Medicaid and Healthy Michigan Plan enrollees who are living with certain substance use disorders (SUDs).

MDHHS, participating PIHPs and providers will collaborate to deliver an evidence-based treatment that provides motivational incentives, such as gift cards, to people living with an SUD who achieve their treatment goals. Medicaid beneficiaries with a diagnosis of stimulant use disorder, opioid use disorder, or both will be eligible to participate in the pilot.

Visit the RI Pilot website for more information.

**CDC Publishes Doxy PEP Clinical Guidelines for Bacterial STI Prevention**

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) published clinical
guidelines on counseling patients regarding doxycycline post-exposure prophylaxis (or doxy PEP) for bacterial sexually transmitted infection (STI) prevention. Doxy PEP has proven to reduce the risk of getting a bacterial STI for gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men and transgender women at increased risk for these infections (specifically, syphilis, chlamydia, gonorrhea).

MDHHS highly encourages the adoption of doxy PEP to combat alarming increases in bacterial STIs in Michigan.

Click Here to Learn About the Clinical Guidelines

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**Tips to Stay Healthy During Poor Air Quality Days**

As the 2024 North American wildfire season continues and warmer weather increases the risk of higher ozone levels, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) is providing steps for Michigan residents to take to protect themselves from risks related to poor air quality.

The **Air Quality Index (AQI)**, which can be found on the [AirNow website](https://www.airnow.gov), is a color-coded way for residents to see the levels of some types of air pollution in their area. Higher AQI values indicate a higher concentration of pollutants in the air and a need for Michiganders to take steps to protect their health.

For additional guidance on protecting your health during poor air quality, visit the [MDHHS Health and Wildfire webpage](https://www.michigan.gov/).
Registration is now open 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.

Visit The EMS QI and Data Summit Website for More Information and 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
**Project ECHO:**
*July 17, 2024, 12-1 PM EST*
Infectious Disease ECHO: Update on PrEP and PREP for Primary Care Providers
**Speaker:** Dr. Peter Gulick
**Register Here**
CME Provided

**EMS:**
*June 26, 2024, 6-7 PM EST*
Special Considerations for Geriatric Patient Populations
**Speaker:** Jeff Callard, PA-C, Envision Health
**Register Here**
CE Provided

*July 2, 2024, 12-1 PM EST*
EMS Pediatric Assessment
**Speaker:** Allison Biliti, EMT-P, EMS-IC, Upper Southeast Region Coordinator, MDHHS EMS Section
**Register Here**
CE Provided

*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

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

- [Innovative MDHHS Project to Keep Families Together Expands to 11 Additional Michigan Counties](#)
- [The Michigan Health Council (MHC) Offers Five Virtual One-Hour Implicit Bias Training Courses](#)
- [HRSA Payment Program for RHC Buprenorphine-Trained Providers](#)

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**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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**A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO MCRH'S 2024 ORGANIZATIONAL SPONSORS**
Staying active and hydrated is essential for your kidney health, especially during the summer months. More than a million adults in Michigan have chronic kidney disease, and many don’t even know it. Diabetes and hypertension are the leading causes of kidney failure in the US. By adopting healthy habits, we can reduce the risk.

Proper hydration supports kidney function by helping to flush out toxins. Learn more about the importance of staying hydrated by visiting the "Healthy Hydration and Your Kidneys" resource from the National Kidney Foundation.

The NKFM offers information, support, resources, and referrals for those with kidney disease, those at risk, and their loved ones. Discover how staying active, eating fresh, and keeping hydrated can protect your kidneys. Empower your patients and your community to create healthier, happier lives at nkfm.org.