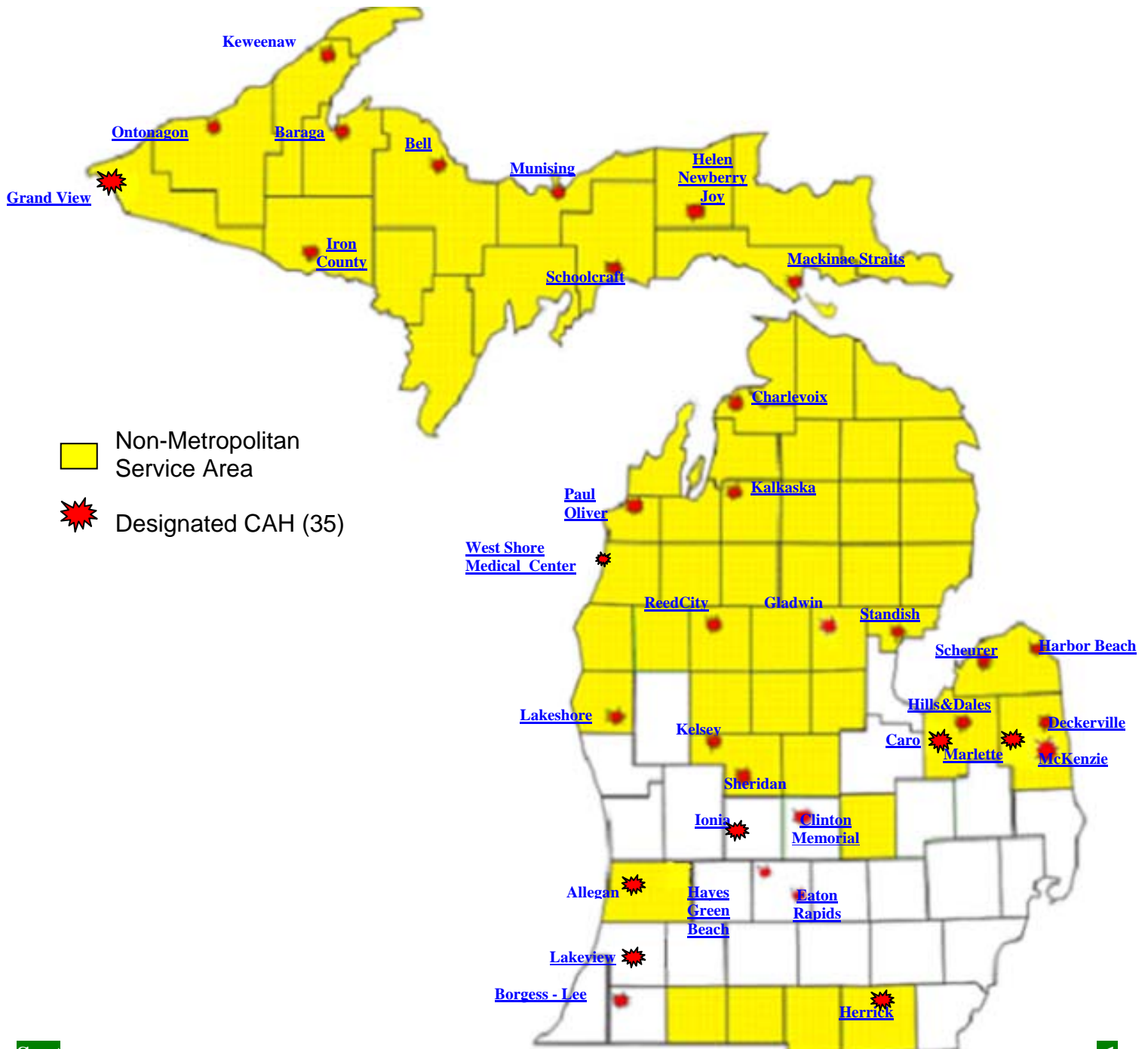




CAH Chronicle

Michigan Department of Community Health ♦ Michigan Center for Rural Health ♦ Michigan Health & Hospital Association

MICHIGAN CRITICAL ACCESS HOSPITALS



Healthy Lifestyles in Rural Michigan – Healthy Children Initiative Gratiot County

What is the Health Children’s Initiative?



The Healthy Children’s Initiative, also called BENEFIT, is a collaborative effort to address the rising incidence of childhood obesity in rural mid-Michigan by encouraging healthy lifestyles.

Historically

Historically, in Gratiot County, several groups of people and organizations would work separately on the same projects throughout the county. Now, with matching grant funding from the Michigan Healthy Lifestyles Grant, Gratiot County has a collaborative effort in place to address the rising incidence of childhood obesity.

Task Force

A task force of community partners have come together to raise awareness of healthy lifestyles within their schools to reduce the incidence of obesity and overweight children in Gratiot County. Those partners included: Alma College, Alma Public Schools, Gratiot Isabella RESD, Gratiot Medical Center, Mid-Michigan District Health Department, and physicians: Shiwaji Pawar, M.D., Rakesh Saxena, M.D., Gregg Stefanek, D.O., and Craig Tubbs, M.D.

The task force reviewed opportunities to address healthy lifestyle issues as follows:

Phase I

- School Health Fairs-7th grade (Alma, Ashley, Breckenridge, Ithaca)

Phase II

- School Screening Days 6th & 8th grade - Alma

Phase III

- Fitness Trails

Phase IV

- Community Education Programs in conjunction with back to school open houses and/or parent teacher conferences



Objectives: Healthy Children’s Initiative

- Raise awareness of healthy lifestyles within our schools and community
- Reduce the incidence of obesity and overweight children in Gratiot and surrounding counties

Results:

- Health fairs were held at schools listed above;
- 333 students attended the health fairs;
- 180 student participation in screenings with parental consent;
- 89 percent participation of students in health fair receiving health information;
- School principals received composite graphs and data;
- Fitness trails have been initiated in all elementary and middle schools within Gratiot County.



Grow Your Own with the Club Scrub Toolkit

Club Scrub is a program designed to expose 7th and 8th grade students to health care careers in a way that engages them and opens their minds to possibilities in career choices that they may not have considered, and to do so at an early age. The Toolkit, designed and produced by The Wisconsin Office of Rural Health and the Rural Wisconsin Health Cooperative, has everything you will need—forms, letters, and lesson plans. You are encouraged to customize these materials. The Toolkit is available for a free download, in Word and PDF formats at: <http://www.worh.org/ClubScrub>

Jack Denton CEO Eaton Rapids Medical Center Retires

Congratulations and best wishes to Jack Denton, CEO at Eaton Rapids Medical Center in his retirement on October 1st. Jack has been CEO at Eaton Rapids for 13 years and has overseen several big projects during his tenure.

Welcome to the incoming Medical Center CEO, Tim Johnson. Tim has worked at the hospital for the last eight years, the last two as chief operating officer. Tim is ready to hit the ground running. Congratulations Tim.

Michigan seeking federal grants to expand regional health information exchanges

Michigan announced that the state will apply for grant funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to expand the state's proposed regional health information exchanges.

Over the last three years, Michigan has been working on creating the **Michigan Health Information Network**, which includes seven regional HIEs that ultimately will enable doctors, hospitals, insurers and other providers to share medical information on patients. The HIEs are designed to give medical professionals — at offices or emergency departments — access to all health information so that doctors can make more informed patient care decisions. This also could allow virtual teams of providers to collaborate on patient care from multiple sites.

Grants will range from \$4 million to \$40 million, said the governor's office. The funding is expected to help Michigan achieve its goal of integrating all seven HIEs into a statewide network by 2012.

Several states, including Michigan, Tennessee, Delaware and Nebraska, are creating statewide or regional HIEs.

A recent national survey found there are 42 operational HIEs in 2008, up from the 32 in 2007, a 31 percent increase, according to Boston-based **eHealth Initiative**. Most are seeing positive return on investment and tracking improved quality, eHealth said. *Source: Crane's Detroit Business, 9-15-09*

Baby Boom Migration and Its Impact on Rural America (Executive Summary)

An analysis of the migration shift of baby boomers that indicates a propensity to migrate to nonmetro counties as people reach their fifties and sixties and projects a shift in migration among boomers toward more isolated settings, especially those with high natural and urban amenities and lower housing costs.

http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/ERR79/ERR79_ReportSummary.pdf *Source: USDA Economic Research Service*

Date: 08 / 2009

Medicare Coverage for H1N1 Vaccination

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released on September 10, 2009 updated information on Medicare coverage for H1N1 Influenza vaccination coverage in a [MLN Matters report](#). The article explains Medicare coverage and reimbursement rules for the H1N1 vaccine. All providers administering this vaccine should review this article and be sure that their billing staffs are aware of this information. In quick summary:

- H1N1 influenza virus vaccine will be provided to Medicare Part B beneficiaries as an additional preventative immunization service.
- Medicare will pay for the administration of the H1N1 vaccine.
- CMS has created two new HCPCS codes for H1N1, effective for dates of service on and after September 1, 2009.
- The same billing rules apply to the H1N1 virus vaccine as the seasonal influenza virus vaccine with one exception. Since the H1N1 vaccine will be made available at
- no cost to providers, Medicare will not pay providers for the vaccine.



For more detailed information, [click here](#).

Health Reform Information

The Rural Assistance Center (RAC) has put together an informative [web page on Health Reform information](#). The web page is described below:

As the Obama Administration and Congress work to reform the nation's health care system, news items and other resources are published daily in newspapers, magazines, and websites throughout the United States. This guide attempts to sort through the many sources of information to identify items that impact rural America. Key websites listed here offer current and comprehensive news releases, policy briefs, and legislative actions that potentially affect all Americans and the future of their health care. For more information, please visit RAC at http://www.raconline.org/info_guides/hot_topics/health_reform/

Additionally, the **National Rural Health Association (NRHA)** has developed a [web site on Health Reform](#). On this page you can find information on health reform news and documents, as well as subscribe to the RSS Feed for NRHA Health Reform information and learn how to participate in NRHA's weekly Grassroots call on Health Reform issues. For more information, please visit <http://www.ruralhealthweb.org/go/left/policy-and-advocacy/health-reform>

ORHP Adds New Rural Health Policy Analysis Initiatives

The Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (ORHP) has added new Rural Health Policy Analysis Initiatives. The new Rural Health Policy Analysis Initiatives will produce policy relevant research to help decision makers better understand the problems that rural communities face in accessing quality, affordable health care and leading healthier lives. These initiatives include: Hospital Financing, Medicare Enrollment, and Pharmacy Access. For more information, [click here](#).

New Rural Research on Readmissions in Rural Hospitals

New rural research is available from the Rural Health Research Gateway and the Upper Midwest Rural Health Research Center. A hospital's potentially preventable readmission rate is a quality indicator receiving considerable attention from policymakers and payers. Using 3-M algorithm software and Medicare inpatient claims data from five states, this brief examines potentially preventable readmission rates for rural and urban hospitals, and discusses the rural implications of policy initiatives to reduce readmission rates.

[Potentially Preventable Readmissions in Rural Hospitals](#)

Funding Opportunities

[Go to RAC Funding Database](#) (Rural Assistance Center)

A Compass for Understanding and Using American Community Survey Data: What Users of Data for Rural Areas Need to Know

An introduction to the American Community Survey for those who use rural social, economic, and housing data. The purpose of this handbook is to introduce the American Community Survey (ACS) to people who care about, and use, social, economic, and housing data for rural communities. This handbook addresses ACS data issues for areas with populations as large as 20,000. That's a somewhat high-population threshold for a handbook focusing on small, rural communities, as it sweeps under our microscope thousands of cities and other incorporated places along with virtually all rural territory. The inclination is to remain focused primarily on small, rural areas, and our examples are designed to address rural, more than small area, issues. <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/ACSRuralAreaHandbook.pdf>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau Date: 08 / 2009

GRAND ROUNDS:

PHARMACY

ARTHRITIS

GERIATRIC

NURSING

PSYCHIATRY

SOCIAL WORK

EMS TELECONFERENCES

A full description of all Grand Rounds presentations are at: www.mcrh.msu.edu/ and click on Grand Rounds. For more information on any of the Grand Round education sessions, contact Phyllis Ball, Education Coordinator at: ballp@msu.edu or 517-355-8250.

DVD's Available

If you were unable to attend the HITECH Changes to HIPAA or the Annual Legal Update videoconferences recently held sponsored by Michigan Center for Rural Health and Hall Render Killian Heath & Lyman, DVD's are available for \$10 (includes shipping). Email or contact Phyllis at ballp@msu.edu or ((517) 355-8250.

Critical Access Hospital Annual Conference

The Michigan Critical Access Hospital Annual Conference is scheduled for October 29-30, 2009 at Boyne Mt. Resort. The program Agenda is on our web site at: www.mcrh.msu.edu.

Interesting Web Site

<http://healthit.hhs.gov/portal/server.pt>

HealthIT.hhs.gov is envisioned to become a centralized web location for information regarding efforts in Health Information Technology (IT). It is intended as a resource for citizens, healthcare consumers, health providers, and any organizations supporting healthcare and health IT, including federal agencies and others. This site is intended to be topic-focused to allow interested parties to access relevant information by subject area without having to understand the organization of federal and other resources within this industry. This industry is large and complex, but organized, transparent, easy, seamless access to health IT information and efforts is among our primary goals.

HealthIT.hhs.gov has only recently been implemented and, in this early stage, is governed by a charter and Advisory Board. The charter describes the purpose and scope of the site as well as its governance including the composition of the Advisory Board. As the site is expanded to include health IT activities from other organizations, the Advisory Board will also expand to include these organizations as partners.

Helpful Web Sites on Pandemic Influenza



www.flu.gov

- One-stop access to U.S. Government H1N1, avian, and pandemic flu information including public service announcements, disease control guidelines and recommendations, and planning checklists for different industries and segments of the population.

CDC Home



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Your Online Source for Credible Health Information

www.cdc.gov/H1N1flu

- The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention information on H1N1 including the latest situation update, vaccine and treatment guidance, and clinical information.



www.fda.gov/Drugs/DrugSafety/InformationbyDrugClass/ucm100228.htm

- The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) information on antiviral drugs.



www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM6539.pdf

- This article from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has information for physicians, providers, and suppliers submitting claims to Medicare contractors (carriers, Fiscal Intermediaries (FIs), and/or Part A/B Medicare Administrative Contractors (A/B MACs)) for influenza and pneumococcal vaccinations provided to Medicare beneficiaries.

For additional information or questions about materials contained in this newsletter, please contact:

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http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Emergency/Downloads/H1N1_Medicare_FFS_Emergency_QsAs_091109.pdf

- Revised on September 11, 2009, information for Medicare Fee-for-Service Providers on emergency and disaster-related policies and procedures that may be implemented without 1135 Waivers. Section 1 is for the Urgent Preparedness Initiative: The H1N1 Influenza Pandemic, of which Section P pertains directly to Critical Access Hospitals.

Interesting Quote

“Kindness is always fashionable”

-Amelia Barr