

# MICHIGAN PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK PARTNERSHIP

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## HOMETOWN HEALTH HEROES JEAN CHABUT HEALTH POLICY CHAMPIONS 2020

### 2020 Hometown Health Hero Award

- Michael Craig  
Providing vocational horticulture skills to special needs students, which can lead to more intensive summer school training, work study placements in the industry, and from there, possible full and/or part time employment. The program also provides access to healthy foods and fresh produce for the school families in Detroit and Highland Park.
- Sally Hanley  
Ms. Hanley proposed the idea of creating a baby pantry for families over 17 years ago when she was a volunteer for local food pantries. Sally identified the community need and then started a baby pantry to provide infant diapers, clothes, bedding, baby foods, infant formula, toys, books, etc. for low-income families in the Grand Traverse County area. In 2019, 863 families were helped by the Baby Pantry.
- Daniel McGinnis, Director, Department of Public Safety, City of Benton Harbor  
Through community engagement, Director McGinnis addressed the health hazards of the large-scale and illegal dumping that was taking place in Benton Harbor. Through his efforts at both clean up and enforcement, the city has seen significant and measurable improvements in the environment and health of its citizens.
- Action for Child Care, Denise Meyer, CEO  
Action for Child Care reaches vulnerable children and families in Genesee, Ingham, and Shiawassee counties, while being a fully volunteer-run nonprofit organization. Action for Child Care gives children the opportunity to thrive in healthy, safe environments by ensuring access to vital health and safety equipment.
- Jamaine Atkins  
Upon returning to civilian life after serving in the U.S. Navy, Mr. Atkins observed a gap in appropriate services, supports and housing for veterans with PTSD, substance use disorder and a history of trauma in Washtenaw County. These observations motivated Mr. Atkins to create what was lacking during his return to civilian life. Through the founding of Any Lengths Sober Living, he seeks to provide a safe, drug and alcohol-free environment for men seeking to experience the promise of a

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healthier and more productive lifestyle, which is guaranteed with a life in recovery from substance use.

- Stewart Wang, MD, PhD, Director, Burn Center – Michigan Medicine  
Dr. Wang provided strategic leadership in the development and implementation of the state of Michigan Mass Casualty incident Burn Surge Plan. Hospital burn beds are limited in Michigan and across the country. This innovative plan provides an important mechanism to increase capacity should an incident occur, either natural or man-made disaster, that results in a larger number of citizens with significant burns. This plan has become an example to other states and other countries.
- Community Health Awareness Group, Cindy Bolden-Calhoun, Executive Director  
Since 1997, with limited funding and many volunteer hours, CHAG has conducted the Life Points program, a comprehensive harm reduction outreach program providing a continuum of public health services to intravenous drug users and their partners, including overdose prevention, in the City of Detroit and the wider Wayne County area.
- Ride with Pride, Jon Gale, Chief, Norton Shores Police Department  
The current initiative serves 4,800 students among seven high schools and middle schools in Muskegon County. This individual school-based approach engages community members on underage drinking, builds the capacity of communities to improve alcohol-related issues, and has had a dramatic effect on local school climate and culture, including drops in violence and bullying, and has built positive relationships with teachers, administrators, and law enforcement.

## 2020 Jean Chabut Health Policy Champion Award

- Allegan County Health Department – Project Public Health Ready Re-Recognition
- Kent County Health Department – Project Public Health Ready Re-Recognition  
Through Project Public Health Ready (PPHR), local health departments demonstrate preparedness and response capability and capacity by demonstrating they meet a nationally recognized set of criteria that are aligned with federal requirements and national best practices. Kent County Health Department and Allegan County Health Department first achieved PPHR recognition in 2015. The recognition is valid for a 5-year period during which time these LHDs continued to build and strengthen their readiness utilizing a CQI approach.