



# MI HEALTH LINK

Linking Medicare and Medicaid for you  
**Bulletin June 2022**



## **Meet the MI Health Link Team: Kristin Guise**

Hello! I'm Kristin Guise, one of three C-Waiver Analysts on the MI Health Link team. My typical day consists of reviewing waiver applications submitted, assisting with questions or concerns, approving access to WSA users, and other necessary coordination from the State side.

I have a Bachelor's of Social Work with a minor in American Sign Language from Central Michigan University and a Master's of Social Work from Michigan State University. Since then, I have worked in multiple different locations and roles around Michigan, primarily in healthcare and mental health

fields. During my master's program, I worked as a contingent social worker at an inpatient short-term physical rehab unit as well as a Clinical Research Interviewer. Following graduation, I worked as a case manager and clinical supervisor for individuals in the CMH system and later an Access Clinician for the same system. I was also able to work for a local FQHC as a social worker in a new satellite office where I provided therapy and health coaching to create goals and change related to mental and physical health needs. Most recently before joining the MHL team, I worked as a Disability Examiner for the State of Michigan where I reviewed and assessed applications for SSA Disability. All of these roles and more have helped me to gather skills and experience that allows me to review and assist the members of our program!

Outside of work, I love spending time with my husband and 5-year-old daughter while we prepare to welcome a baby boy in July. I enjoy crafting, playing softball, singing, camping, traveling, and spending time with family and friends. I also am the coordinator of Food for Kids, a program providing bags of food for weekends during the school year for kids at a local elementary school.

I love the MHL program and team and am so blessed to be able to continue to provide services to our members!

-Kristin Guise

## Help Connect Veterans to Earned Benefits

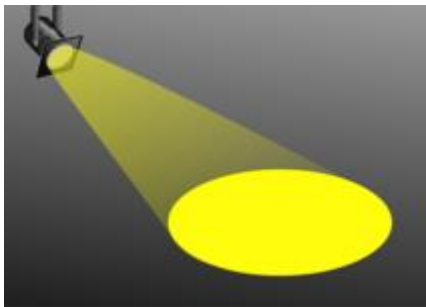
The Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency (MVAA) has expanded its emergency financial assistance this year to any honorably discharged veterans 65+ (peacetime veterans qualify in addition to those with wartime service). Surviving wartime widows can qualify for emergency financial assistance as well. To inquire about eligibility, individuals can reach out to 1-800-MICH-VET (emergency financial assistance can include home/car repairs, transportation, and utilities). A brief overview of available resources and the simple process to make a referral to the MVAA can be found [here](#).

The MVAA has also released information on how organizations such as Integrated Care Organizations can be designated as a 'MI Veteran Connector.' Formal criteria can be found [here](#).

## MILITARY SERVICE?

Are you fully connected to all of your earned benefits? Call **1-800-MICH-VET** for a free benefits consultation.

Learn more at [Michigan.gov/MVAA](https://Michigan.gov/MVAA)



## MI Health Link Service Spotlight: Chore Services

Chore Services are available through the MI Health Link Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) waiver and are used to maintain a beneficiary's home in a clean, sanitary, and safe environment. Additionally, these services provide safe access inside the home and yard maintenance and snow plowing to provide access to and egress outside of the home. Chore services include tasks such as heavy household chores (washing floors, windows, and walls), tacking loose rugs and tiles, moving heavy items of furniture, mowing, raking, and cleaning hazardous debris such as fallen branches and trees, and pest control. Materials and disposable supplies used to complete chore tasks can also be covered.

Chore services are allowed in cases when neither the enrollee nor anyone else in the household is able to provide and/or capable of financially paying for chore services, and where no other relative, caregiver, landlord, community or volunteer agency, or third party payer is capable of, or responsible for, their provision.

Goals of the MI Health Link HCBS waiver program include allowing individuals that require Nursing Facility level of care to reside in the most appropriate and least restrictive setting of their choice and supporting engagement in their community. Chore services is one of many potential interventions that can be used to help achieve these goals for a beneficiary. For additional information about the MI Health Link HCBS waiver and chore services benefit please see the [MI Health Link Minimum Operating Standards](#).

# Beneficiary Health and Welfare



Exploitation is a critical incident type that is required to be reported to MDHHS, APS and, if the beneficiary chooses, Law Enforcement. Financial exploitation is the most common form of elder abuse, though it often goes underreported. Perpetrators can be a family member, caregiver, friend or a complete stranger. According to the National Council on Aging, it is estimated that \$36.5 Billion dollars are lost annually due to financial exploitation. In the upcoming MHL monthly bulletins, we will highlight various scams and tactics individuals use to

get money or personal information from individuals, particularly vulnerable adults.

Financial exploitation from a family member, caregiver or friend could be forging a signature on a check or using their ATM or credit cards without their permission. Other forms of financial abuse could be coercing or threatening the older adult to sign a deed to property or having their will changed. An individual who has been exploited by a loved one can deeply weaken a person's ability to trust others. This can lead to the older adult becoming withdrawn and isolated, which can make a person more vulnerable and be re-victimized.

Signs an individual may be a victim of exploitation include:

- Unmet needs or unpaid expenses – when the individual has adequate income and assets
- Missing financial statements
- Missing personal property
- Unusual banking activity or credit card usage
- Adding names to financial accounts
- Sudden or unexplained changes in estate plans
- Family members suddenly appear that have been absent

Learn how to prevent financial exploitation and protect beneficiaries within your communities. Click [here](#) to learn more about the warning signs and what to look for.

## Education Opportunities

### *Understanding and Working with Tribal Health Populations*

Wednesday June 29th, 2022 1:30-3:30pm

Quarterly training from MI Health Link will be held Wednesday June 29, 2022 1:30-3:30pm. Meredith Kennedy of Miigwech Inc. will be sharing how to improve work with tribal populations by sharing the history and culture of tribes in Michigan. If there are any questions or topics you would be interested in for this presenter please contact the MHL team at [MDHHS-MHL-Waiver@michigan.gov](mailto:MDHHS-MHL-Waiver@michigan.gov).



## Resource Link

**Every U.S. household can get up to 3 orders of at-home, rapid COVID-19 tests at no cost!**

Visit [COVID.gov/tests](https://www.covid.gov/tests) to place your order. You'll need to enter your name and mailing address. (You can also give your email address if you want status updates on your

order.)

Each new order includes 8 free COVID-19 tests shipped to your home at no cost — 2 separate packages of 4 tests each.

**[Order Now](#)**

At-home tests, or "self tests," give rapid results and can be taken anywhere, regardless of your vaccination status or whether or not you have symptoms. [Visit CDC.gov](https://www.cdc.gov) to learn when to test yourself, how to use an at-home test, and what your test results mean.

**MI Health Link Care Coordinators please share this information with beneficiaries and provide support as needed for members to place orders for tests.**

## **The National Council of Dementia Minds Announces Five New Dementia Minds Groups Forming in Michigan**

### **A message from the President:**

Hello, my name is Bonnie Erickson, and I was diagnosed with White Matter Disease and Vascular Dementia in 2018. I am also the Board President and a founding member of the National Council of Dementia Minds. If you are a Michigan resident who is living with dementia or a mild cognitive impairment, I would like to personally invite you to join a Dementia Minds group and experience a life-enriching opportunity.

Dementia Minds groups are small groups (usually 8) of people living with dementia or mild cognitive impairment. We meet on a weekly basis (using Zoom) and provide each other with support and so much more. Our groups:

- Share the experience of living with dementia and mild cognitive impairment
- Share strategies to live well
- Develop friendships
- Learn new things
- Have fun
- Create resources, presentations, and more for others
- Conduct presentations for persons living with dementia, licensed health care professionals, researchers, families, care partners, policymakers, and communities at large

To learn more about joining a Dementia Minds group visit our website at [www.DementiaMinds.org](http://www.DementiaMinds.org). You are also welcome to contact our executive director, Brenda Roberts, via email at [Brenda@DementiaMinds.org](mailto:Brenda@DementiaMinds.org) or phone 989-330-0290.

Ready to join? [Click here to provide your contact information.](#)

I hope to see you at a Dementia Minds meeting.

Bonnie

P.S. Please click [here](#) to read what Dementia Minds group participants have to say about joining a group.



## Q & A: Your Questions About MI Health Link

*If you have a question about the MHL program we want to hear from you. We will work to get you the information you need.\**

Please send any questions for future bulletins to [Integratedcare@michigan.gov](mailto:Integratedcare@michigan.gov)

**Q: Does the state have required educational trainings for MHL care coordinators?**

**A: Yes, MDHHS has training requirements for MHL care coordinators that are outlined in Appendix 16 of the [Minimum Operating Standards](#). Many of the requirements can be met by completing the required courses in the MHL Learning Management System (LMS) found [here](#). Additionally, ICOs are notified of ad hoc trainings that may be mandatory for care coordinators as scheduled by CMS, MDHHS, or the ICO throughout the year.**

\*IMPORTANT: Beneficiaries with questions concerning their own enrollment or eligibility should call Michigan ENROLLS Monday through Friday, 8AM-7PM for assistance at 1-800-975-7630 or 1-888-263-5897 if they use TTY. Providers may work directly with the ICO health plan for beneficiary related inquires. In order to protect beneficiary personal identifiable information (PII) and protected health information (PHI) please refrain from sending MI Health Link this information.

## Topic Submission

If you have suggestions for topics to be addressed in future additions of the MI Health Link Bulletin, please send them to [Integratedcare@michigan.gov](mailto:Integratedcare@michigan.gov)



## Quick Links

[MI Health Link Website](#)

[CMS Financial Alignment Website](#)

[MI Health Link Minimum Operating Standards](#)

[MDHHS Medicaid Provider Manual](#)

## Previously Released MHL Bulletins

Previously released MI Health Link Bulletins can be found by visiting the [MI Health Link Website](#).

*Become a foster parent through Michigan Department of Health & Human Services foster care program.*



Questions? [Contact Us](#)

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