



MI Health Link

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***MARCH 2024 BULLETIN***

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## Monthly Spotlight:

### *Welcome Matt Seager!*

Hello- I'm Matt Seager. I am the Division Director for the Integrated Care Division, which oversees the MI Health Link Program. In my role, I make sure MI Health Link is getting everything it needs in terms of leadership direction, and I support the section in meeting its "big picture" goals and objectives. I also work with stakeholders such as health plans leads, government officials and advocates to make sure everyone is happy with how the program is running.

I am a fully licensed master social worker, and I earned my professional degree from Michigan State University. I have worked in various capacities in Michigan Medicaid for over 10 years, including serving as a quality analyst for the MI Health Link program from 2018-2021. Most recently, I served as the quality manger for Michigan Medicaid managed care.

I've seen Iron Maiden perform eleven times I have two kids, ages 6 and 3. By the end of 2024, my Iron Maiden concert count will be 13 and my kid count will be 3. I feel like I'm maintaining a pretty healthy ratio there.

I think MI Health Link is special because it is one of the most comprehensive public health benefits available anywhere today in the United States. I'm honored to be part of this program and its incredible team.

-Matt

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## Program and Policy Notes

### **MI Health Link Program, Contractual, Policy Requirements and Highlights**

### **Electronic Visit Verification Implementation**

As part of the 21st Century Cures Act, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) requires states to implement an Electronic Visit Verification (EVV) system. Electronic Visit Verification (EVV) is a validation of the date, time, location, type of Medicaid funded Personal Care or Home Health Care Services provided, and the individual(s) providing and receiving services. This information helps to ensure that beneficiaries receive expected care. In the MI Health Link (MHL) program, Home Health Care Services are funded primarily by Medicare and as a result will not require EVV. The MHL services that will require EVV include state plan personal care, expanded community living supports (ECLS) and respite.

MDHHS will require the submission of EVV data for the MHL program starting Tuesday September 3, 2024. The [MDHHS Electronic Visit Verification Website](#) contains helpful links and resources for beneficiaries, caregivers, providers, and other stakeholders and will continue to be updated as more information is available. MDHHS has partnered with HHAeXchange to achieve EVV implementation and additional information can be located through their [Michigan Information Center](#). Questions or feedback related to EVV can be directed to [MDHHS-EVV@Michigan.gov](mailto:MDHHS-EVV@Michigan.gov). To receive e-mail alerts and notifications related to EVV sign up for the [EVV Listserv](#).



## Beneficiary Health and Welfare:

### *Celebrate the Senior Nutrition Program*

Nutrition is a vital component of our health and well-being, especially as we age. But in communities throughout the U.S., older adults sometimes lack access to the high-quality, nutritious food they need to remain healthy and independent.

Funded by the Older Americans Act, the national Senior Nutrition Program has provided nutrition services to older Americans since 1972. The Administration for Community Living (ACL), part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, provides grants to states to enable a network of local programs that deliver nutrition services to older adults. These programs promote healthy eating, foster meaningful social connections, and support overall health. They also act as a gateway to other

home and community-based services like falls prevention programs, chronic disease management resources, and more.

The MI Health Link program strives to ensure older adults receive the services they need to remain healthy and independent as possible. Home Delivered meals is a MI Health Link waiver service that can provide one to two nutritionally sound meals per day to enrollees who are unable to care for their nutritional needs. Meal options must meet enrollee's preferences in relation to specific food items, portion size, dietary needs and cultural/or religious preferences. Integrated Care Organizations (ICO's) should take steps to inform enrollees about local, State, and Federal food assistance programs and assist enrollees to obtain such benefits. Working to ensure older adults have access to nutritious meals can positively impact the overall health and wellbeing of MI Health Link members.

This March, we are proud to celebrate the 52<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the national Senior Nutrition Program with others across the country.

Visit ACL's [celebration webpage](#) to learn more and use #SeniorNutritionProgram to join the conversation.

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## Education and Support Opportunities

Screening for Chronic Kidney Disease and National Kidney Foundation of Michigan Programs and Services

**Thursday April 4th, 2024 12:00PM**

This learning opportunity is provided by the Michigan Center for Rural Health. Participants in this learning opportunity will be able to discuss the benefits of early detection of chronic kidney disease, describe screenings and tools for patients, and identify programs and services to support patients with chronic kidney disease. To learn more or register click [here](#).

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Determining Medical Necessity for Addiction Treatment

**Tuesday April 9th, 2024 12:00 PM**

This continuing education experience is provided by the Michigan Center for Rural Health. After attending this session, participants will report an increase in knowledge of documenting the client's episode of care to create a complete record of care,

demonstrate medical necessity, and demonstrate the effectiveness of treatment. To register or learn more click [here](#).

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Social Isolation and Loneliness in Rural Areas: Impact on Older Adults

**Wednesday May 1st, 2024 12:00PM**

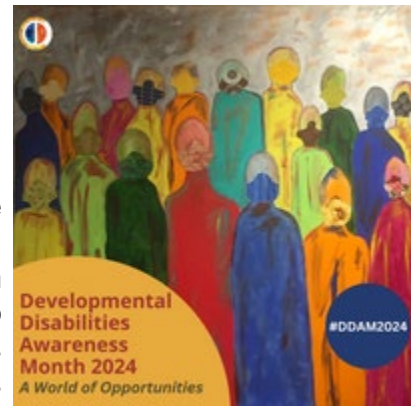
This learning opportunity brought by the Michigan Center for Rural Health will educate participants on the state of social isolation and loneliness in Michigan with a focus on rural communities. Participants will be able to explain the impact of social isolation and loneliness on mental and physical health, particularly in older adults and identify strategies for addressing these issues. To register or learn more click [here](#).

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## Resource Link:

### ***Developmental Disability Awareness Month***

This past month has been a time to celebrate Developmental Disability Awareness Month and an important time to spread awareness and resources in our communities. The month of March is intended to spread awareness of the inclusion and contributions of people with developmental disabilities in all aspects of community life, and it's a time to explore the work we still need to do to remove barriers.



The National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD) leads awareness by sharing resources and determining the theme each year. NACDD's 2024 theme, *A World of Opportunities*, had a focus on people working together to remove obstacles to building communities where everyone can do well and succeed. This year's [DDAM poster](#) features artwork by [Lee Waters](#). NACDD encourages others to use the image in their own branding and materials.

Below is a list of resources and work currently being done to help further educate and increase awareness on developmental disabilities and the work still needed.

- [State Councils on Developmental Disabilities](#) (DD Councils) identify the most pressing needs of people with DD in their states/territories and work to address them through advocacy, systems change, and capacity-building efforts that promote self-determination, integration, and inclusion. [DD Council fact sheet](#)
- [University Centers for Excellence in DD Education, Research & Service](#) (UCEDDs) are a nationwide network of independent but interlinked centers that address issues, find solutions, and advance research. [UCEDD fact sheet](#)
- [State Protection & Advocacy Systems](#) (P&As) help people navigate the legal system to achieve resolution and encourage systems change, ensuring they can exercise their rights to make choices, contribute to society, and live independently.
- [Projects of National Significance](#) (PNS) focus on the most pressing issues affecting individuals with DD and their families, creating and enhancing opportunities for people to contribute to and participate in all areas of community life.
- [Independent Living Programs](#), including Centers for Independent Living (CILs), work to support community living by providing resources and supports that promote inclusion, integration, equal opportunities, and self-determination. [CIL fact sheet](#)



## 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.*

**Q: Where can I go to learn more information about the MI Health Link program?**

**A: Please click [here](#) to check out the MI Health Link website and learn more.**

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

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## 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)



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## 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](#).

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[Become a foster parent through Michigan Department of Health & Human Services foster care program.](#)



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