



MI Health Link

OCTOBER 2023 BULLETIN



MHL Partner Spotlight: Kristi Sugarman-Coats

Hello, I am Kristi Sugarman Coats, one of the Michigan State Leads from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Medicare-Medicaid Coordination Office (MMCO). I work with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) staff to oversee the MI Health Link demonstration.

I have a master's degree in public policy and international security from George Mason University's School of Public Policy and a bachelor's degree in international studies and Spanish from the University of California, Santa Barbara. Before working at CMS, I worked on post conflict stabilization and reconstruction projects for a Department of Defense contractor after graduate school and taught middle and high school for a few years after college.

I live in San Diego, CA with my husband and two boys. My family is very active, we all play sports (soccer, lacrosse, football, rugby) and enjoy hiking, going to the beach and taking adventurous family trips.

I really enjoy working with the MDHHS MI Health Link team and look forward to our continued partnership.

-Kristi

Program and Policy Notes

MI Health Link Program, Contractual, Policy Requirements and Highlights

**Integrated Care Organizations Able to Temporarily
Assist Individuals with Medicaid Application Forms**

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) has received CMS' approval of a 1902(e)(14)(A) waiver that allows health plans, including Integrated Care Organizations (ICOs), to aid beneficiaries in the completion and submission of Medicaid application forms. This is an optional activity for health plans and is a time limited initiative as the authority will expire in 2024. The goal of this policy is to promote enrollment and retention of eligible individuals and protect beneficiaries from inappropriate procedural terminations. Michigan has resumed normal operations following the expiration of the continuous enrollment condition present during the COVID-19 emergency, and this waiver may also help to ease administrative burden associated with the large volume of eligibility and enrollment actions that need to be completed.

MDHHS announced in July 2023 that a one-month extension for Medicaid beneficiaries to submit eligibility renewal information has been extended through May 2024 ([press release](#).) MDHHS has also made an [eligibility timeline](#) and [Medicaid renewal public dashboard](#) available online.

Questions about the 1902(e)(14)(A) waiver can be directed to integratedcare@michigan.gov



Latino-Hispanic Heritage Month

September and October are nationally recognized as the Latino-Hispanic Heritage month beginning September 15th and ending October 15th. The MI Health Link team would like to help celebrate by highlighting the significance of this month.

The celebration begins in the middle of September to coincide with independence days in several Latin American countries and honors the cultures and contributions of both Hispanic and Latino Americans. The terms Hispanic and Latino/a are often used interchangeably although they have different meanings. It is generally accepted that *Hispanic* refers to people with a Spanish-speaking background. People from the geographic region of Latin America are called Latino. Hispanic and Latino Americans make up more than 18% of the U.S. population. Over 57 million Hispanics and Latinos live in the U.S. Fun fact: the United States has a larger Spanish-speaking population than many Hispanic countries (including Peru and Venezuela). The

Latino-Hispanic influence is evident in the diverse and enriched culture, food, music, dance, celebrations, fashion, literature, and art that can be found in the U.S.

The Protestant and Roman Catholic Churches have played a huge role in shaping Latino-Hispanic cultural traditions. Holidays are centered around family, community, and a strong faith. Christmas Posadas occur when people dress up as Mary and Joseph in small processions held during the nine days before Christmas Eve. Cinco de Mayo commemorates the Mexican Army's victory over the French Empire at the Battle of Puebla, on May 5, 1862. Quinceanera's are held to celebrate a girl's 15th birthday as she passes into adulthood. Candy filled pinatas are featured at many birthday parties. Mexican cuisine is enjoyed with dishes that are corn-based like tortillas, tacos, and tamales. Salsa and tortilla chips are now one of the highest selling snack foods in the U.S.! Delicious Latino-Hispanic recipes may be found [here](#) and [here](#). Celebrities with Latino roots include Morena Baccarin, Cameron Diaz, Uma Thurman, Bruno Mars, Victoria Justice, Mariah Carey, and Frankie Muniz.

Learn more about the richness and complexity of Latino-Hispanic diversity by visiting these sites.

1. [U.S. Hispanic population continued its geographic spread in the 2010s](#), Pew Research Center
2. [Latinos and the Changing Face of America](#), PRB Resource Library
3. [A mosaic, not a monolith: a profile of the U.S. Latino population, 2000-2020](#); UCLA Latino Policy & Politics Institute
4. [Immigration Stories](#), National Museum of the American Latino
5. [Facts for National Hispanic Heritage Month](#)
6. [Latino Art | National Museum of the American Latino \(si.edu\)](#)
7. [Top 10 Most Popular Mariachi Songs - YouTube](#)
8. [Here are some of the most known Latin songs in one playlist - YouTube](#)
9. [11 Famous Hispanic Painters Who Shaped the History of Art \(mymodernmet.com\)](#)
10. [Latin American Painters - Bing images](#)

Education and Support Opportunities

MI Health Link Quarterly Training: Veteran Benefits and Services

Thursday November 16, 2023 at 10:00AM

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) MI Health Link Team is hosting an informational webinar on Veteran Benefits. Allen Dow with the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency will provide an overview of benefits and services available to veterans and their families. This training will provide you with the knowledge and tools to assist eligible veterans enrolled in the MI Health Link Program. The presentation will be held on Thursday, November 16, 2023 from 10am – 12pm. Invitations to register will be sent to all ICO's at the end of October. If you did not receive an invite and would like to attend, please contact the waiver team at MDHHS-MHL-Waiver@michigan.gov. Thank you!

Expanding Your Knowledge of Pain Management

Wednesday November 1st, 2023 at 12:00PM

The Michigan Center for Rural Health presents a learning opportunity with speaker Leslie Simons DNP, MSN, ANP-BC, PMGT-BC on pain management. This continuing education opportunity will help participants gain increased knowledge of pain management and non-pharmacologic interventions. Click [here](#) if you would like to register or for more information.



Beneficiary Health and Welfare:

Screening Can Identify and Prevent Elder Abuse

With Elder Abuse on the rise, it's imperative for healthcare workers and others working with older adults to be informed about elder abuse and prevention. The American Medical Association recommends all older adults 65 and up receive regular elder abuse screening. Research has shown that screening can detect and prevent elder abuse. Unfortunately, there is not one universal screening tool that exists. There are a variety of tools that have been developed, mostly by health care providers, that can assist in the identification of abuse, neglect and exploitation. Elder Mistreatment screening tools can be viewed [here](#)

<https://medicine.uiowa.edu/familymedicine/research/research-projects/elder-mistreatment-elder-abuse/em-screening-instruments>.

According to Caldwell and Burnett, elder abuse screening instruments are currently held to the same standards as disease screening tests and are determined to be valid if they meet the following criteria: (1) are sensitive (effectively identify individuals with the disease); and (2) are specific (effectively identify individuals who do not have the disease as not having the disease). As with all disease screening tests, the screening process results in the label of “positive” or “negative” but a positive screen does not universally mean that elder abuse is occurring but does indicate that further information should be gathered.

When determining screening questions to ask, they should be clear, simple, culturally sensitive, neutrally construed, and non-judgmental. Some examples include:

- How are you managing your money?
- Does anyone prevent you from using a telephone or accessing your mail or computer?
- Has anyone physically harmed or threatened to harm you?
- Has anyone touched you without your consent?

The MI Health Link program requires the use of a Standardized Level 1 assessment (SL1A) which is used by the ICO care coordinators that contains several questions to assist in identifying abuse, neglect and exploitation of vulnerable adults. These questions can be conversation starters to delve deeper if there is suspicion of abuse, neglect or exploitation based on the beneficiary’s responses. The questions developed for the Level 1 assessment are:

- Has someone forced you to give them money or sign strange papers in the last 12 months?
- Has anyone limited your daily activities such as the amount or type of food you eat, the medications you take, or the medical services and equipment you use in the last 12 months?
- Has anyone hurt you physically, emotionally, sexually, mentally, or otherwise made you feel unsafe in the last 12 months?
- Have you received information and education from (ICO/Health Plan) on how to report abuse, neglect, and exploitation and other critical incidents?

Identification is key to stop the abuse from occurring and working to assure the members health, safety and welfare. When there is suspicion of abuse or a positive screen, it is required to be reported to MDHHS through the critical incident reporting system. Depending on the type of abuse, the incident may need to be reported to other agencies as outlined in the MOS.



Resource Link: World Mental Health Day

World Mental Health Day is observed globally Oct. 10, serving as a reminder of the significance of mental health in our lives and in the workplace.

You can connect with mental health organizations like [Mental Health America \(MHA\)](#) or [National Alliance on Mental Illness \(NAMI\)](#) to learn about specific campaigns and resources. A mental health test is also available through an [online screening](#), which can also help guide you in connecting to additional information and tools to improve your mental health.

World Mental Health Day was observed October 10th, and it is encouraged that people take time to reflect on their own mental health and well-being. Remember that it's okay to seek help and support when needed, whether from a friend, a trusted colleague, or a mental health professional.

Your dedication is appreciated, and your hard work is noticed. The MI Health Link Team wishes everyone a happy Mental Health Day and year!



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: I have suggestions for upcoming trainings, where can I send those ideas?

A: If you have any suggestions or ideas for trainings or educational events, we would love to hear from you! Please send any suggestions to the MI Health Link Waiver team at MDHHS-MHL-Waiver@michigan.gov .

Please send any questions for future bulletins to Integratedcare@michigan.gov

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



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.](#)



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