

Updates for Our Partners

December 2023

A Letter from Our Director



Dear Partners in Health,

As 2023 comes to a close, I want to thank you all for the tremendous work you have accomplished to improve the health of people with HIV and affected by STIs. 2023 has had a lot of changes for local health departments and clinical and community agencies. These stressors come with major funding changes post-pandemic, workforce shortages and burnout. The Bureau of HIV/STI Programs (BHSP) went through a reorganization that allows us greater visibility in the Public Health Administration but has come with major changes in communication and coordination.

The Bureau of HIV/STI Programs (BHSP) went through a reorganization that allows us greater visibility in the Public Health Administration but has come with major changes in communication and coordination. In addition, we have had to address a surplus of Ryan White rebate funding this year by eliminating some MDHHS positions and pursuing some reductions in pilot programs and expenditures in HIV contracts. We know that this has created stress and disappointment, but this puts us in a solid position to address any changes to federal 340B changes coming soon.

There is so much to be proud of in 2023. There has been such a huge increase in attention to Sexual Orientation Gender Identity/Expression (SOGIE) data collection across broad health and human sectors in addition to very promising collaborations with Medicaid. BHSP is collaborating on several initiatives with Medicaid related to quality improvement of viral load suppression for people with HIV on Medicaid, pregnant persons getting complete testing for congenital syphilis, and SOGIE and PrEP.

Our Bureau thanks all of you for your important engagement around MIDASH (**Michigan Integrated Data Application for STI and HIV (MIDASH)**). BHSP remains committed, along with our vendor, to true, authentic engagement with users and those affected by this data system at each point in the process. Please look for more update meetings in 2024.

We look forward to FINALLY seeing everyone in person again at our conference in Kalamazoo on August 13-14, 2024. Please make sure you save the date! It will be a great time—we can't wait to see you there!

As the New Year approaches, I have such gratitude for each and every one of you.

In Michigan, we do the fundamentals well and are constantly thinking of new ways to serve people better and improve health. Cheers to 2024!



HAPPY HOLIDAYS

from our team to yours

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