



The Northern Michigan University Center for Rural Health

Established in July 2020, the Northern Michigan University Center for Rural Health (NMUCRH) was created to strengthen the rural healthcare system throughout the Upper Peninsula. It is a collaborating center of the Michigan Center for Rural Health using the World Health Organization (WHO) framework for collaborating centers. Overall efforts include developing a network of committed partners who support creating efficiencies in healthcare delivery, expanding access to healthcare, increasing the coordination of care and improving the quality of healthcare services. The establishment of the Center strives to improve outcomes, reduce costs, ensure access and efficient transitions of care and promote innovative approaches in the region.

Our Mission: To improve the health and well-being of Upper Peninsula residents and communities by developing collaborative partnerships that improve the access and availability of affordable, quality healthcare services.

Our Vision: “The Northern Michigan University Center for Rural Health will be recognized as the regional collaborating Center committed to strengthening the rural healthcare system”.

Network Statement: The environmental conditions where we are raised, educated, work, and live impact our quality of life and health outcomes. Here in the U. P. of Michigan, our remote location and sparse population often result in challenges for achieving and maintaining good health. In addition to a dearth of primary and specialty health care services, the region has a large low-income population, poor health status indicators, inadequate social support, and major transportation barriers that affect access to health care services.

Partners of the Northern Michigan University Center for Rural Health Network have joined forces to take action through the engagement of a wide variety of public, private, and volunteer sectors. We understand that basic needs must be addressed before individuals are empowered to plan ahead and be proactive about their health. Until this is done, efforts to encourage and support preventative and routine healthcare will remain ineffective, and the progression of chronic diseases will persist. As our network continues to grow, we will be guided by our passion and determination to cultivate a sustainable healthcare workforce and create healthy and resilient communities throughout our region.

NMUCRH Network Development Goal & Objectives

Goal: Implement a structured process that supports on-going organizational development of the NMUCRH Network

Objective 1.1: Increase the development and awareness of the NMUCRH Network in a systematic manner

Objective 1.2: Ensure consistent and continuous exploration of matters impacting the NMUCRH Network’s efforts

Objective 1.3: Evaluate the Network’s capacity to address adaptive challenges and execute on high-leverage, short-term strategies and better position the Network for sustainability and maximum impact



NMUCRH Network Programming Goals & Objectives

Goal I: Expand access to comprehensive healthcare services

Objective 1.1: Reduce barriers to care by addressing social determinants of health (SDOH)

Objective 1.2: Increase the capacity of healthcare services, systems and infrastructure

Objective 1.3: Improve access to preventive services, home and community-based services, social supports and care management by expanding the healthcare delivery platform

Goal 2: Improve the quality of essential healthcare services

Objective 2.1: Increase the availability of data to make informed decisions

Objective 2.2: Leverage community partnerships and stakeholder collaboration to achieve health equity and enhance population health

Objective 2.3: Increase retention of healthcare workforce

Goal 3: Address regional health priorities by identifying and advancing solutions

Objective 3.1: Facilitate collaboration to develop and disseminate public diabetes communication programs to all population segments

Objective 3.2: Promote mental health by supporting collaboration among leaders, professionals and community members working in mental, emotional and behavioral disorders

Objective 3.3: Increase the knowledge of and access to prevention, treatment and recovery services for Opioid Use Disorders (OUD)/Substance Use Disorders (SUD)

Goal 4: Strengthen the rural healthcare system as a whole

Objective 4.1: Increase awareness of the NMUCRH

Objective 4.2: Increase and maintain collaborative relationships that improve health equity and enhance population health

Objective 4.3: Anticipate and take action to meet future healthcare needs

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