



Dear All,

## 1 – Governor’s Service Award

I was honored to be chosen to receive one of the **2023 Governor’s Service Awards**. I am one of 6 receiving the Older Adult Volunteer Award. The Award is for the work with FernCare Free Clinic and Free & Charitable Clinics of Michigan. The ceremony was at the Fox Theatre on Tuesday, the 28<sup>th</sup> and it was quite an event. Three Board members wrote the nomination application, Beverly van den Berg, Stacy Doyle and Jody Buttery. I am honored and humbled, thank you.

## 2 – More resources

This month:

- a. Join NAFC if possible. Their member portal on their website is constantly updating granting organization and grant opportunities.
- b. A basic source in Michigan:  
[www.michiganfoundations.org/directory](http://www.michiganfoundations.org/directory)
- c. Local hospitals. Contact their Community Relations department. Many clinics have great relationships with their local hospital...everything from grants to supplies to services. Also a great Board potential?????
- d. SEE #3 following.

Also, if you went to the BCBSM Conference, one of the items they were handing out was *Help with Health Care – Resources for the Uninsured and Underinsured*. There are 4 volumes: Northern Michigan, Mid Michigan, West Michigan and Southeast Michigan.

These are so helpful. All have a lot of information, but the best part (in my opinion) is the second section in

each: “a list of clinics that offer free or low-cost medical, dental, mental health and vision care”. Many, many resources and not just our clinics and FQHCs.

If you want a copy or copies you can download from their website at [bcbsm.com/home/healthier/help\\_with\\_health\\_care\\_brochures.html](http://bcbsm.com/home/healthier/help_with_health_care_brochures.html)

OR you can email [socialmission@bcbsm.com](mailto:socialmission@bcbsm.com) or call 517-325-4602 to order extra copies and large orders free of charge. When you send an email, be sure to include your name, address, phone number, number of brochures you’d like and which version you need (Southeast MI, Mid MI, West MI or Northern MI). The SE Michigan brochure is available in Arabic as well.

## 3 – FCOM – Outreach to Your Own & Surrounding Communities

This was created in 2021 and it is still relevant. I am attaching it to the Update as a refresher because of so many clinics reporting a drop in patient appointments and as a source for possible grant opportunities. There are a lot of ideas...I hope something sparks something that works for you.

## 4 – Legislative Update

**HB 5966** – Carrie Rheingans, (D) Ann Arbor – Universal publicly funded health care for all Michigan residents. No meetings on the bill were scheduled.

**Broadband expansion** – We continue to support the work to extend broadband capability across the state. No meetings but there were two announcements detailing additional grants received to extend the capability.

**House Bill 5166 – Stephanie Young (D) Detroit and others**

- Creating a perinatal quality collaborative. No meetings on the issue were scheduled.

I am meeting with Representative Regina Weiss (d) this Friday Dec. 1st). In 2017 she sponsored our appropriation increase from 250,000 to 400,000. I am hoping she will sponsor or co-sponsor an increase for the 2025 budget.

**5 - Medicaid Unwinding Continues**

Michigan's website with **current information** [www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/end-phe](http://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/end-phe)

***Assistance from FCOM:***

- A) Carolyn Barr -- FTCA submission paperwork/questions [cbarr240@comcast.net](mailto:cbarr240@comcast.net)
- B) Christine Rainey -- Pharmacy/dispensary/medications/ questions [crainey@ferncare.org](mailto:crainey@ferncare.org)
- C) Ann Heler -- Clinic operation issues/questions [admin@fcomi.org](mailto:admin@fcomi.org)
- D) Mary Jo Byrne -- FCOM Board President/ everything [mjbyrne@fountain-clinic.org](mailto:mjbyrne@fountain-clinic.org)
- E) Nimesha Liyanage -- VISTA member; Data Survey questions, conference registration, legislative issues [liyanage.bn@gmail.com](mailto:liyanage.bn@gmail.com).

**6 - Region Meetings Calendar**

**Southwest** and Southeast's next regional bi-monthly meeting is: SE Dec. 12 Tuesday, 10AM – Zoom and SW Dec. 12 Tuesday, 1PM – Zoom

**Mideast** and **North** regional meetings are quarterly: ME is Jan. 16 at 10AM and N is Jan. 16 at 1PM and is meeting *in person* at 1

**Midwest Region** also meets about quarterly but independently of FCOM. Their next meeting is in person February 13<sup>th</sup>. If you are in the Midwest region, contact Jeff Compagner [jcompagner@hfhclinic.org](mailto:jcompagner@hfhclinic.org) he will gladly add you to their region list.

