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## About the Initiative

In 2015, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) awarded the State of Michigan \$70 million over 4 years to test and implement an innovative model for delivering and paying for health care in the state. A major focus area has been strengthening connections among providers of clinical care and community-based organizations that address social determinants of health through the creation of Community Health Innovation Region (CHIRs).

## Contact Us

Questions can be sent to:  
[CHIR@mail.mihealth.org](mailto:CHIR@mail.mihealth.org)

## Links

[SIM Initiative Website](#)

[SIM Population Health Webpage](#)

[SIM Care Delivery Webpage](#)

Welcome to the February edition of the SIM Community Health Innovation (CHIR) Newsletter. The newsletter provides updates on SIM activities and highlights regional CHIR work and successes. It also provides resources to inform the continued development and implementation of CHIR work.

## Upcoming Action Items

### CHIRs

- ❑ **Monthly Status Report** - CHIRs are to submit their status report by **February 14**. Please use the following [template](#) and upload to your "CHIR Reporting/Status Reports" folder.
- ❑ **EGrAMS QPR/FSR**- CHIRs are to submit their Quarterly Progress Report and Monthly Financial Status Report in EGrAMS by **January 30**. A monthly Financial Status Report is due **February 28**.

### State SIM CHIR Team

- ❑ **2018 Participation Guide**- The SIM Team will have a draft version of the Participation Guide ready to be circulated for CHIR Review at the February 28 in-person meeting.
- ❑ **Unrestriction Requests** - All submitted unrestricted requests have been processed by the SIM Team and have been submitted to CMS for their review.

## Program News and Updates

### February Technical Assistance

On February 27<sup>th</sup>, the topic for our scheduled TA Call will be Integrated Service Delivery. Phillip Bergquist will be providing an update on the work-to-date and will also be taking questions from the regions.

### February In-Person Meeting

On February 28<sup>th</sup>, the SIM Team will be hosting representatives from each CHIR's Backbone Organization. The meeting will be held from 8:30am to 3:00pm at Greenstone Farm Credit Services in East Lansing, our primary aspirations for the meeting being to share lessons learned from the implementation of clinical-community linkages, establish workgroups, and review with the draft of the 2018 Participation Guide. The agenda for the meeting can be found on the SIM SharePoint site.

## CHIR Spotlight

This month's Spotlight focuses on Dr. Jeremy Lapedis, the SIM Project Manager for the Livingston/Washtenaw CHIR (LWCHIR), who brings a depth of facilitation understanding and expertise to his work.

Jeremy has been working with the LWCHIR since 2016, when he joined its regional backbone organization, the Center for Healthcare Research and Transformation (CHRT) as the SIM Project Manager. Combining a deep understanding of how to bring groups together with his position as SIM project Manager is a natural fit for Jeremy and a unique resource for the LWCHIR. Jeremy plays a key role leading the implementation of LWCHIR's SIM interventions, and is able to use his facilitation knowledge and skills to bring people from partner organizations together to talk about CHIR goals and support building the community network. This is vital to the LWCHIR's long-term success. As Jeremy describes,

*"When you try to tackle some of the issues that are at the root causes of poverty, injustice, unfairness, you run into values. Chances are, differences in values that people have. And there's no one solution that is going to solve that. It's not a matter of 'this is the right way to do things or not the right way'. It is a matter of having the conversations with people that they need to have in order to recognize another set of values, adjust our own values and behaviors, or in some combination thereof. Facilitation is a process for helping communities tackle their challenges for which there is no right answer. Every community is going to be different because everyone brings different values and experiences to the table. Facilitation can help tackle these complex issues rather than trying to give an answer to an individual or a group that says 'this is the way you have to do it'."*

An important part of the LWCHIR's work involves identifying the cultures of partner organizations, within the healthcare system itself, and within social services as a whole. Facilitation skills help examine where those cultures are clashing and creating barriers to reaching the target population of their interventions to provide good services to those people.

Further, Jeremy describes that for the LWCHIR, positive changes within the systems of care rely on changes in thought at both the individual and organizational level. Facilitation is an important part of this, as well as engaging all relevant stakeholders. Good facilitation practice also assists in reviewing everyone who is 'at the table' and who is missing but needs to be engaged for the success of the work.

Jeremy is quick to note that facilitation is more an art than a science and that there are many skilled and passionate individuals working to create their own solutions within their CHIRs. To compare notes, collaborate, or ask questions, contact Dr. Jeremy Lapedis at [jlapedis@umich.edu](mailto:jlapedis@umich.edu).

### TIPS FOR RUNNING AN EFFECTIVE MEETING

(ADAPTED FROM THE WORK OF FRANCES DUNN BUTTERFOSS)

1. Clarify purpose and spend a lot of time preparing for the meeting
2. Make sure you have ground rules describing how you work together – how you make decisions, what you can expect from each other and how you will hold each other accountable
3. Involve as many people as possible
4. Summarize conversations
5. Assign action items
6. End on time
7. Review action items

"If you do these things, and you do them at every single meeting, you will hold yourself and others accountable for the decisions that have been made and following up on them in between meetings."

## Housing for Health: Cross-Sector Impacts of Supportive Housing for Homeless High Users of Health Care

The Housing for Health (HFH) Initiative, created in 2012 within California's Los Angeles County, provides permanent supportive housing (PSH) and rental subsidies to homeless individuals who are high-utilizers of public health care services. This initiative has helped the homelessness population decrease. Currently, HFH is studying the following research questions:

1. Does HFH improve health outcomes for its clients?
2. Does HFH reduce inappropriate use of health care services by its clients?
3. How does the effectiveness of HFH compare to other PSH programs?
4. How does HFH affect service utilization and costs across public sectors when compared to other PSH programs?

HFH is taking a mixed methods approach, collecting qualitative (*e.g., focus groups*) and quantitative (*e.g., difference-in-difference analysis of matched samples*) data. Through their preliminary analysis, HFH has determined that African-Americans (44%) are the most represented in HFH enrollment in Los Angeles County, followed by Latinos (25%). Additionally, HFH offers clients short-term and long-term housing intervention options, based on client need. Overall, HFH has had a 96% retention rate for their clients, while continuously decreasing the usage of various health services (emergency room, inpatient, and outpatient visits) by clients. The study team has various next steps, which are heavily focused on additional qualitative and quantitative data analysis. The [slide deck for the webinar](#) is posted on the SIM SharePoint site.

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## Resources

Building and fostering community partnerships is an important component needed to improve health equity practices, and can be done in a multitude of ways. Through their intentional and resourceful actions, Kansas City Health Department developed into a leader in for health equity practices, across the nation. The webinar, “Fostering Community Partnerships to Advance Health Equity”, describes some of the most impactful methods. To view and download [the PowerPoint slides](#), visit the SIM SharePoint site.

For More Information

[www.michigan.gov/SIM](http://www.michigan.gov/SIM) | [CHIR@mail.mihealth.org](mailto:CHIR@mail.mihealth.org)

