# Let’s Chat!

Michigan’s Governmental Public Health Workforce:
Workforce Development Successes, Challenges, and Lessons Learned.

Thursday, October 8, 2026.

MDHHS
Michigan Department of Health & Human Services

# Mission

MDHHS provides services and administers programs to improve the health, safety and prosperity of the residents of the state of Michigan.

# Session overview:

This breakout session, led by MDHHS, will highlight workforce development progress and ongoing barriers, and will invite local public health partners to share their perspectives in a panel format.

- Tamara Brickey, MS, CHES, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.
- Michelle Estell, RS, MSA, Genesee County Health Department.
- Alescia Farr, PhD, MPH, Detroit Health Department.
- Jori July, MSN, RN, ANP-BC, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.
- Elizabeth Suggitt, LMAS District Health Department.

# Question 1.

Describe your workforce – what do staffing numbers look like, demographics, work structure (hybrid, in person?) Rural vs. Urban?

# Question 2.

What are some innovative strategies you've implemented to support workforce needs?

# Question 3.

Do you incorporate staff feedback when making decisions on workforce?

# Question 4.

Where are you experiencing challenges/barriers? Are there consistent barriers that have been hard to overcome?

# Question 5.

How are you addressing staff burnout? Do you have any approaches that have been successful?

# Question 6.

Any new and upcoming ideas for workforce strategies?

# Question 7.

Have you had success in tracking/ensuring staff training needs are being met? How have you tracked this? Spreadsheets? Performance management tools?

# Question 8.

How have you been able to incorporate skill building into your training plans? Any partners that have been helpful in accomplishing these goals?

# Question 9.

What do you think the future workforce needs to be successful?

# Question 10.

Have you had success in onboarding/ succession planning/ recruiting/ retention?

# Question 11.

What have you found to be the most challenging issues in workforce development within your agency? Are there any specific barriers related to governmental public health? And if so, how did you go about navigating those barriers?

# Question 12.

Describe success within your agency related to workforce development.

# Q & A

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# Thank you for your participation!

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