

Great Lakes Bay Region Selected As Pilot for Healthcare Improvement Initiative

The Great Lakes Bay Region has been selected by the Institute for Health Improvement (IHI) as one of an exclusive set of healthcare regions in the US to address health system improvement at the regional level. During the next two years representatives of our region will be focused on convening effective coalitions for change that will develop and implement a complex, challenging agenda focused on reducing per capita health care costs, with simultaneous improvement in the experience of care and population health (what IHI refers to as the Triple Aim).

Each region is asked to commit to a population-level set of measures encompassing the three Triple Aim dimensions. Recommended measures for the initiative include the following:

- Population Health:
 - Mortality
 - Self- assessed health status
 - Measures customized to local needs such as infant mortality or obesity rates
- Experience of Care:
 - Access to appropriate care, especially primary care, regardless of payer
 - Other health related measures such as safety, effectiveness, timeliness, efficiency and equity
- Per Capita Cost: calculation based on weighted average of the 'per person per month' cost for payers

This opportunity is the result of work conducted by the Michigan Health Information Alliance (MiHIA) a collaborative group of professionals including several representatives from Midland County. MiHIA has been working on several initiatives in the past three years including a health information exchange and a health dashboard. Efforts to date have been spearheaded by Tim Pletcher of Central Michigan University and Cathy Basse, MD of The Dow Chemical Company. MiHIA currently represents the geographic area of Michigan that includes the counties of Arenac, Bay, Clare, Gladwin, Gratiot, Huron, Iosco, Isabella, Midland, Ogemaw, Roscommon, Saginaw, Sanilac and Tuscola.

If successful, this project will provide a template for routinely measuring population health and lowering health care costs while improving overall quality. For more information about MiHIA or this exciting opportunity, contact Tom Smith, MiHIA Executive Director at 989-293-8590 or at the MiHIA website: www.mihia.org.