



MICAHA QN Mission Statement: As a premier system of quality, the Michigan Critical Access Hospital Quality Network (MICAHA QN) will be a model in developing processes that demonstrate the high-quality service provided by CAHs. MICAHA QN will identify opportunities for change that lead to continued improvement in the health status of the population we serve.

MICAHA QUALITY NETWORK MEETING February 20th, 2026

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| <u>Welcome and Sharing</u> | | |
| 8:30 | Welcome | MICAHA QN Executive Committee |
| 8:35-9:00 | Welcome and Safety Story/Lessons Learned/MICAHA QN Recognitions <i>Please be prepared to share a safety story/lesson learned with your MI CAH peers.</i> | Mariah Hesse, UMH Sparrow Clinton & Carson |
| Strategy Group #3 – Hot Topics! What CAHs Need to Know Now! | | Chair: Heather Schragg, Eaton Rapids Medical Center |
| 9:00-9:30 | <p style="text-align: center;">Behavioral Health Boarding in Critical Access Hospitals</p> <p><u>Purpose of the Discussion:</u> Behavioral health boarding continues to be one of the most pressing and complex challenges facing CAHs. Feedback from MICAHA-QN members, including insights gathered during the Transition of Care Roundtables in November, highlighted that CAHs are experiencing increasing difficulty managing behavioral health patients who require extended stays while awaiting transfer to appropriate inpatient psychiatric facilities. Key challenges identified include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing length of stay for behavioral health patients in emergency departments • Limited statewide inpatient psychiatric capacity • Emergency department staff providing care outside their typical scope, often for extended periods • Increased risk of workplace violence and staff burnout • Limited access to trained sitters and behavioral health-specific staff <p>MICAHA-QN members acknowledged that expanding inpatient psychiatric bed capacity is beyond the scope of MICAHA QN. <u>However, there is a clear opportunity to improve the care experience and outcomes for patients who remain in CAHs during these extended boarding periods,</u> recognizing that prolonged behavioral health stays have become a reality rather than an exception. These challenges contribute to significant operational strain and safety concerns. Rural patients often remain in CAHs for hours, and sometimes days, while awaiting appropriate placement or transfer.</p> <p>MICAHA QN can support CAHs by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying and sharing best practices for behavioral health care delivery within CAH emergency departments • Supporting staff education, protocols, and practical resource development for extended behavioral health stays • Aligning improvement efforts with emerging rural behavioral health transport and pilot initiatives • Exploring data sharing and collaborative learning opportunities related to length of stay and care approaches <p><u>Small Group Activity:</u> SG3 participants will break into small groups to identify and share best practices for behavioral health care in CAH emergency departments and explore strategies to better support staff and patients</p> | |

MICAHA QN Vision Statement: MICAHA QN will be known as the statewide and national leader in the measurement of healthcare quality for Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs).

during extended boarding situations.

Bright Spot & Best Practice Wins

- What is something your organization has implemented that has noticeably improved behavioral health boarding care?
- When behavioral health boarding goes well at your facility, what does that look like?
- What is one change your team made that produced better outcomes or smoother workflows?
- Can you share a moment when staff felt especially supported while caring for a behavioral health patient?

Teamwork

- What small or low-cost solution has made a meaningful difference for your team?
- What workflow or communication strategy has helped reduce chaos or confusion during boarding?
- What has helped your team maintain consistency across shifts?
- How has your team successfully engaged leadership support for behavioral health initiatives?

Staff Engagement

- What has helped build staff confidence in managing behavioral health patients?
- What support strategies have helped sustain staff resilience or morale?

Peer Learning

- What is working better today than it was two years ago, and what helped drive that improvement?
- What is one best practice from your organization that you believe every CAH should consider?

Strategy Group #1 – Making Care Safer by Reducing the Harm Caused in the Delivery of Care

Chair: Tiffany Friar, UMH Sparrow Eaton and Ionia

9:30-10:00 National Pediatric Readiness Project (NPRP) – State of MI Update

Purpose of the Discussion: Children have unique health needs in emergencies, requiring specialized care. High levels of Pediatric Readiness is associated with 76% lower mortality risk for children cared for in an ED. All EDs across the nation are invited to participate in this assessment, a nationwide opportunity for every ED to evaluate their Pediatric Readiness, using national EMSC guidelines and recommendations from AAP, ACEP, ACS and ENA. The updated 2026 assessment is based on revised joint standards developed by professional societies representing emergency physicians, emergency nurses, pediatricians, and trauma surgeons.

Samantha Wroblewski, DO, MPH
 EMS for Children
 Coordinator, Division of EMS and Systems of Care
 Bureau of Emergency Preparedness, EMS and Systems of Care, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

- Learn more about the history of pediatric readiness and evolution of the national QI initiative and assessment
- See where to access support resources and services as your team prepares for the 2026 assessment and how to use these tools after you receive your Gap Report
- Understand what Michigan EMSC offers Pediatric Champions and teams working on pediatric readiness now, and the plans for future recognition of your efforts

Partner Updates

10:00-10:15

Superior Health Quality Alliance Update

Tesia Looper, Superior Health Quality Alliance

10:15-10:30

BCBS PG5 Update – Looking Forward to Program Year 2026

Brad Whittle, BCBS of Michigan

Strategy Group #2 – Data Management & Analysis

Chair: Kena Nicholson, Schoolcraft Memorial

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| | | Hospital |
| 10:30-11:30 | National Rural Rating System presentation MICAHA QN Core Measures/MBQIP report out | Julie Russell, Founder, NRRS Amanda Saint Martin, MCRH Jeff Nagy, MCRH |

MICAHA QN Reminders

MICAHA QN Member Meeting Calendar (2026)

- February 20th, 2026 (Virtual)
- May 7th, 2026 (In-Person, Grand Traverse Resort). See Amanda’s email on 2/19/2026 for additional details.
- August 21st, 2026 (Virtual)
- November 12th, 2026 (In Person Traverse City, MI)

MICAHA QN Resources:

[MICAHA QN Measures – Excel Spreadsheet](#)

MICAHA QN Educational Webinars

[2024 MICAHA QN Educational Webinar Recordings](#) – Topics included but not limited to:

- Leveraging 211 to address Social Drivers of Health,
- Antimicrobial Stewardship,
- Michigan Health Information Network (MiHIN) & Michigan Value Collaborative (MVC) Overview and Updates,
- Transforming Rural Healthcare through Remote Patient Monitoring (RPM),
- Blue Cross Blue Shield Peer Group 5 P4P Overview,
- Understanding Stroke and STEMI Administrative Rules and Updates,
- Bridging the Gap between EMS and Hospitals (regulations and relationships),
- Working Quality Improvement into Contracts,
- Strategies to Enhance HCAHPS Response Rates

[2025 MICAHA QN Educational Webinar Recordings:](#)

- Rural Veterans Care – January
- AHA Get with the Guideline – February
- MDHHS Stroke and STEMI Update – March
- Enhancing Rural Care: Bridging Gaps in Quality Through Proactive Physical Therapy and Fall Prevention– July
- eCQM Update: The Future is Digital. This session will help your Critical Access Hospital understand the current eCQM reporting requirements and be aware of upcoming and anticipated measure changes.

[2026 MICAHA QN Educational Webinar Recordings](#)

- Swing Beds: What, When, Why and How

MBQIP Open Office Hours & Resources:

Topics included but not limited to:

- [The Future of MBQIP \(Are you Ready?\), Question and Answer Session with Telligan, MBQIP Technical Assistance Provider](#)
- Hybrid Hospital Wide Readmission – May 29, 2025. Reach out to Amanda St. Martin for a link to the video and power point presentation