



# THUMB COMMUNITY Health Partnership

## NETWORK STATEMENT

*Living in a rural community is often perceived as idealistic. Rural Michigan is where many families go to play, relax, and enjoy the beauty of the Great Lakes.*

*However, the tranquil rural setting in the Thumb area of Michigan can mask significant health problems. Making health disparities worse are poverty, lower education levels, and limited income opportunities.*

*Chronic diseases and behavioral health are significant issues. Untreated and uncontrolled, these conditions are compounded by limited services and barriers to accessing services. These circumstances interfere with health and wellbeing in our rural community.*

*Beginning in 2018, our multi-sector partnership embraced the opportunity to join our neighbors, family, and friends on the journey to optimal health and a healthier community. We recognize that our collective resources and collaboration are critical to effectively address the persistent barriers and conditions that prevent all individuals from achieving greater levels of health.*

*Members of the Thumb Community Health Partnership are ready to empower our community on the journey of health and wellness.*

## CONTACT

**Kay Balcer, Network Director**  
thumbhealth@gmail.com  
(989) 553-2927

## MEMBERSHIP

Deckerville Community Hospital  
Harbor Beach Community Hospital  
Hills & Dales Community Hospital  
Human Development Commission  
Huron Behavioral Health  
Huron County Health Department  
Lapeer County Health Department  
Lapeer County Mental Health  
List Psychological Services  
Marlette Regional Hospital

McKenzie Health System  
McLaren Hospital-Caro  
McLaren Hospital-Lapeer  
McLaren Hospital-Thumb Area  
Sanilac County Health Department  
Sanilac County Mental Health  
Scheurer Hospital  
Tuscola Behavioral Health  
Tuscola County Health Department

## PRIORITY AREAS



**Behavioral Health:** There are a number of residents in the Thumb Area who have unmanaged behavioral health conditions which impacts quality and length of life and results in co-morbidities.



**Chronic Diseases:** In the Thumb area, chronic disease is prevalent and has an impact on the quality and length of life and the cost of health care. Many chronic diseases are impacted by nutrition and physical activity.

## ACTIVITIES

Identify and establish ways to obtain community support for the Thumb Community Health Partnership plan

Conduct a self-assessment of the Partnership's sustainability and viability

Implement projects and strategies that improve community health.

This network was developed using funds from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of an award totaling \$900,000 with 0% financed with other resources. The contents of documents created through the project are the work of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by HRSA, HHS or the U.S. Government.