



COUNTY OF SAGINAW QUARTERLY REPORT

OCTOBER 2023





Christopher S. Boyd, Chairman
Board of Commissioners
County of Saginaw
111 S. Michigan Avenue
Saginaw, MI 48602

RE: Saginaw County Quarterly Report–2023

Dear Chairman Boyd:

The Saginaw County Quarterly Report is a summary of activities taking place in Saginaw County departments and or agencies. Departments contribute information to this report to assist in keeping the Board of Commissioners and County residents informed. The report can now be accessed through the county website at:

<https://www.saginawcounty.com/departments/controller-finance/>

Please use the site to share the report with residents and or other elected officials.

If you, or other Commissioners have questions regarding the subject matter presented, or ideas about future editions, please feel free to contact Jaime Ceja at 989.790.5211.

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10TH CIRCUIT SAGINAW RECOVERY COURT

Susan Smith, Coordinator - ssmith@saginawcounty.com

In August, Judge Julie A. Gafkay joined our Recovery Court Team and presides every other Monday. She is a welcome addition to our Team. Hon. Julie A. Gafkay was appointed to the Saginaw County Circuit Court bench by Governor Gretchen Whitmer on April 26, 2023, filling the vacancy created by the retirement of the Hon. Janet M. Boes.

Prior to her appointment, Gafkay owned a law firm in Saginaw County for 20 years specializing in civil rights, employment discrimination, sexual harassment, retaliation, Whistleblowers' Protection Act, and personal injury. She was the union attorney for Flint School Administrators. She also worked as an adjunct professor at Saginaw Valley State University and an instructor in employment law at the National Business Institute.

She served as president of the Saginaw County Bar Association and Women Lawyers Association of Michigan. She has also served on numerous other boards and committees throughout Michigan and Saginaw County. She has authored several legal articles in publications including the Michigan Bar Journal.

Gafkay was recognized by Michigan Lawyers Weekly as a Michigan Women in the Law honoree, she has been honored by Saginaw County with its Community Service Award and recognized her for her pro bono services. In 2022, Gafkay received the Margaret Louise Rorke Leadership Award from Women Lawyers of Michigan – Great Lakes Bay Region. Most notably, in 2019, Gafkay was honored by the State Bar of Michigan with the Champion of Justice award.

Gafkay was born and raised in Macomb County. In 1997, Gafkay chose Saginaw County as her home, where she and her husband raised their two children. She attained her bachelor's degree from James Madison College at Michigan State University and Juris Doctorate from Whittier Law School.

A Quad County Meeting with the Problem-Solving Courts from Saginaw, Bay, Midland and Isabella Counties was held on Wednesday, September 27th. We meet quarterly to discuss our programs and issues that we have in common. This opportunity for dialogue has afforded ways to improve our respective programs and to provide the best possible services to the participants in each jurisdiction.

9-1-1

Chris Izworski, Director - cizworski@saginawcounty.com

We are delighted to provide you with this update, highlighting the continued development, dedication, and achievements of our staff.

Personnel Developments

We currently have nineteen fulltime dispatchers, three part time dispatchers and five supervisors, and we continue to strive for twenty-four Dispatchers by 2024. We currently have five employees in our training program.

Our scheduling software is now fully operational across all staff categories, enhancing efficiency and communication.

In an exciting development, we recently finalized an innovative 9-1-1 apprenticeship program in collaboration with the Saginaw Career Center.

Recognition and Training

Our team's commitment to ongoing professional development is truly commendable. Eight dispatchers are now Communications Training Officers (CTOs), with seven having attended the DeWolf CTO Course with two more planning to attend this fall. Moreover, all Supervisors have attended the DeWolf CTO course, signifying our commitment to quality and excellence. In the spirit of continuous learning, we hosted a MABAS Dispatch Class and a DeWolf CTO Course this summer. An on-site Liability Course is also planned for this fall.

We have started revamping our Dispatcher Continuing Education Program for a more targeted training approach, including individual meetings with employees to establish their specific training needs. We are also preparing for the launch of our Quality Assurance Program, projected for late fall 2023.

Policy, Procedure, and Technology

Our Administrative Policies and Dispatching Procedures were recently completed.

We successfully completed the Viper Phone upgrade and have automated all 9-1-1 monthly and nightly reports. We integrated a large language model chatbot as a tool for accessing our policies and procedures. Furthermore, we installed new Equature recorder hardware, and a software update is slated for the fall.

Administration

We completed our State Certification requirement, and Saginaw County 9-1-1 passed with a clean bill of health and is fiscally in compliance with PA 32.

Our staff continues to inspire with their commitment to public service, professional growth, and team spirit. I am confident that these efforts will significantly enhance our service delivery, propelling us toward our goal of becoming a benchmark for 9-1-1 services.

H.W BROWNE AIRPORT (AIRPORT COMMITTEE)

Alan Kaufman, Airport Manager - (989) 295-0675

Hello again from the HW Browne Airport! Fall is in the air and the leaves are starting to change.

Many new airplanes visited the airport over the summer bringing new business to Saginaw County! Repair work was completed in June on the Saginaw Valley Air Museum building and the repairs are looking great!

Transient jet-powered turboprop



Self serve jet A fuel Terminal

Fuel prices are stable from the last report, with 100 low lead fuel at \$6.25 per self serve gallon, jet A fuel at \$5.90 per self serve gallon, and \$7.00 per gallon full-serve from the fuel truck. The county hangars remain at near 100% capacity.

BUILDING AUTHORITY

Timothy M. Novak, Building Authority Chairman - tnovak@saginawcounty.com



The Building Authority celebrated the Grand Opening of the new Animal Care & Control Resource Center on September 29th.

Saginaw County Board of Commissioners, Vice-Chairman Jack Tany welcomed the crowd with his words of encouragement to the staff and volunteers of SCACCRC. The ribbon cutting was performed by long time employees, Abbe Balderstone, Diamond Phillips, Chase Smith and 20 year Volunteer Terry Martin.

The community was invited to come out and take a self-guided tour of the facility, meet the staff and volunteers and ask questions. With roughly 350 people attending it was truly a memorable day!



COMMISSION ON AGING (HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE)

Jessica Sargent, Director - jsargent@saginawcounty.com



50th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION: Join us as we celebrate 50 years of serving Saginaw County older adults. On Thursday, October 26th, we will be offering an open house with facility tours, information, and in-house prepared hot chili bowls, right from our nutritious menu. The event is open to the public (if you are unable to attend on this day, and would like to schedule a private tour or information session, contact Jessica Sargent at jsargent@saginawcounty.com or 989-797-6876).

THANK YOU TO THE TAXPAYERS OF SAGINAW COUNTY FOR CONTINUING TO SUPPORT THE COMMISSOIN ON AGING IN OUR MISSION TO MEET THE NEEDS OF OLDER ADULTS IN OUR COMMUNITY.

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (MDOT) GRANT: Our agency was provided notification of a grant award for two (2) electric (lift accessible) transportation vehicles and the training and infrastructure to support them. This grant is funded 100% by federal and state funding and will allow our agency to expand transportation services available to seniors in Saginaw County. The grant award totaled \$356,250 and we officially received the project authorization to go forward with purchasing the vehicles/charging stations in September 2023.

REGION VII AREA AGENCY ON AGING: The Saginaw County Commission on Aging's application for FY 2024 State and Federal Funds through Region VII Area Agency on Aging for service programs for persons age 60 and older in Saginaw County was approved. The funding allocation for Older American Act programs is \$1,098,767 which requires a 10% local match. Service categories include Case, Coordination & Support, Senior Center Staffing, Senior Center Operations, Caregiver Support Program, Congregate Nutrition, Home Delivered Meals, Minority Outreach/Senior Center Staffing/Transportation, and In-home Support Services.

SENIOR TECH CLASSES: Partnership with Team Texperts to offer one-on-one technology classes at the Eleanor Frank and Marie Davis locations in October (this is a group with students from Delta, SVSU, and high school grads) (in Oct newsletter). We are so grateful for our volunteers that assist our agency throughout the year. They certainly play a vital role in our service delivery to older adults. We have developed new protocols to keep our employees, volunteers, and clients safe during the pandemic. If you are interested in learning more information please contact Beverly, Volunteer/Activity Coordinator, 989-797-7566.

FREELAND SENIOR CENTER: The Freeland Senior Center (inside the Freeland SportsZone) closed in March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and continued to be closed due to staffing challenges. We are EXCITED to announce the center re-opened on September 12, 2023! Surveys are being distributed to gather interest for activities and programs. Meals require an RSVP and the center is open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Contact Joy (Center Coordinator) for more information (989) 695-2000 x1017.

COMMISSION ON AGING (HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE)

Jessica Sargent, Director - jsargent@saginawcounty.com

SENIOR DAY AT THE ZOO: Sheila McIntosh, the Activities/Volunteer Coordinator did a great job planning COA's annual Senior Zoo Day. Thank you to the Saginaw Children's Zoo for hosting this wonderful event! We had beautiful weather, a delicious lunch from our COA kitchen, music from Stix and Stone, active animals, dancing, and great company. We had record attendance of over 300 people! If you missed the event this year, be sure to pencil in your calendar to look out for this event next year!

MEDICARE OPEN ENROLLMENT: Open enrollment for Medicare is October 15th through December 7th. COA will be partnering with Region VII Area Agency on Aging's Medicare/Medicaid Assistance Program (MMAP) to offer office space so Saginaw residents do not have to travel to Bay City for assistance. If you need one-on-one help with your Medicare Plan, the MMAP program schedules individual appointments to offer this assistance. Appointments book up fast, contact the MMAP program at 1-800-803-7174 for more information.

STRENGTH AND STRETCH CLASSES: Partnership with the YMCA of Saginaw to offer strength and stretching classes at the Friendship Center (inside the YMCA) and Marie Davis Center (in Oct newsletter).

SENIOR HEALTHY LIVING EXPO & ENERGY SMART SENIORS WITH CONSUMERS:

ENERGY SMART SENIORS WITH CONSUMERS ENERGY

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIPS PRESENTATION

Friendship-October 2nd- 989-797-6801
Chesaning - October 5th- 989-845-6565
Eleanor Frank - October 9th-989-797-6895
Maple Grove - October 12th-989-845-7444
Buena Vista - October 19th -989-752-1655
Hemlock - October 23rd-989-642-2610
Marie Davis-October 30th-989-758-2441
Freeland-November 1st-989-695-2000 x1017
Frankenmuth-November 29th-989-652-3430x197

Time of presentation for all centers: 11 a.m.

TO RECEIVE THE FREE KIT YOU MUST RSVP
AT THE CENTER YOU PLAN TO ATTEND

FREE KIT FOR PARTICIPANTS

- LED A-light bulb/Dusk-till-Dawn PAS LED BULB
- LED Nightlight
- Door Weatherstripping
- High Efficiency showerhead
- Bathroom & kitchen aerators
- Water pipe insulation



the 

Brought to
you by:
The Saginaw
YMCA and the
Saginaw
County
Commission
on Aging

Senior Healthy Living Expo

When: Oct. 13th, 2023
Where: Saginaw YMCA
Time: 10 AM - 1 PM

Vendors, prizes, giveaways, tours, sample
classes, lunch and more!

Lunch served: 11:30 AM
RSVP for Box Lunch by October 3rd, 2023
by calling SCCOA @ 989-797-6880

Saginaw YMCA
1915 Fordney St.
Saginaw, MI
48601

COMMISSION ON AGING (HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE)

Jessica Sargent, Director - jsargent@saginawcounty.com

WAIT LISTS:

IN-HOME SUPPORT SERVICES: Services include light housekeeping, personal care, and respite care. This program is supported through the Region VII Area Agency on Aging (AAA) with limited funding availability. Our agency contracts with authorized service providers approved by Region VII AAA. A wait list for services was established in January 2018.

- Currently there are 54 clients on the wait list for services. Clients are prioritized by need for service, and priority scale score (which is determined through the assessment process). Currently, there is approximately a one-year wait for individuals on the wait list for Homemaking services.

HOME DELIVERED MEALS: A wait list was established in August 2023 due to several delivery routes operating at capacity for the number of clients that can be put on the route and maintain safe food delivery guidelines. Additional routes can be created if a wait list is maintained in specific areas. Volunteer interest to deliver meals on wheels and ability to staff routes are the current challenges on already established routes.

- Currently, there are 18 individuals on the wait list.



The poster is for the Saginaw County Commission on Aging, featuring a green header with the text "Saginaw County Commission on Aging" and "Volunteers Needed!". Below this, it says "Join us in sharing kindness to others!" and "MEALS on WHEELS AMERICA" with the logo. It includes the tagline "TOGETHER, WE CAN DELIVER." and a call to action: "Deliver a smile and a meal to a senior or help out in one of our centers." The address "2355 Schust Road, Saginaw MI 48603" is listed. At the bottom, it provides contact information: "For more information, contact Sheila @ 989-797-7566" and "smcintosh@saginawcounty.com".

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Lt. Mark Przybylski, Emergency Manager - (989)790-5434

Information Sharing

- Attended local, state, and federal meetings covering public safety, current situation updates, funding, and new Emergency Management requirements.

Planning and Resource Management

- Met with schools and local government units to assist in Emergency Operations Plan development.

Disaster Response

- EOC Monitoring of one potential hazmat incident. No EOC activation was needed.

Training and Exercise

- Conducted ten Stop the Bleed Trainings at six different Saginaw County Schools, training 265 school staff.
- Attended training on Response to Active Shooter, Bomb Threat, and Swatting Hoaxes.
- Participated in the AVSEC tabletop exercise at MBS Airport.

EQUALIZATION (COUNTY SERVICES COMMITTEE)

Denise Joseph, Director - djoseph@saginawcounty.com

The Equalization staff is working on the Apportionment Report for the October Board of Commissioners session. There are numerous units that still need to submit their L 4029 (Tax Rate Request Form) to the County. They have until September 30, 2023 to do so. The report also can be altered by any elections held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November (the November election date). As a result, if the voters approve additional Millage at a November Election, the County Board of Commissioners must then meet again to confirm the millage and, if necessary, amend its direction for the spread of the Millage (MCL 211.36 (5)). Due to the possibility of millages being approved after the Apportionment meeting, the Apportionment Report is now due to the State Tax Commission on November 30 instead of the 4th Monday in October.

The Department is also working on equalization studies in the various classes of property within Saginaw County. State Tax Commission rules require that every classification of property in every unit be studied every year. For the 2023 assessment year, this requires Equalization to produce 116 studies in the real property classification and 30 studies of personal property among the 30 assessing jurisdictions in the County.

At this point work is proceeding on the Agricultural, Residential, Commercial and Industrial studies.

GREAT LAKES BAY CONVENTION AND VISITOR'S BUREAU

Annette Rummel, CEO, Travel Trailblazer - (989) 245-1223

Please see Great Lakes Bay Convention and Visitor's Bureau quarterly report attached.

GREAT LAKES BAY MICHIGAN WORKS!

Kristen C. Wenzel, Interim Director - kristenw@michiganworks.com

Please see Great Lakes Bay Michigan Works! quarterly report attached.

MAINTENANCE (COUNTY SERVICES)

Tony DePelsmaeker, Director - adepelsmaeker@saginawcounty.com

COURTHOUSE Irrigation System

A new system is being installed to replace the old and abandoned system that was nonfunctional and inefficient.

Water Meter Upgrade – To provide water for the recently installed irrigation system, we are installing a separate metered supply. During this process we will replace the original oversized water meter to the appropriate size needed for additional savings with monthly meter service fees.

MAINTENANCE (COUNTY SERVICES)

Tony DePelsMaeker, Director - adepelsmaeker@saginawcounty.com

Cooling Issue's – The new coil has arrived and has been installed to resolve cooling issues for the PPO offices.

Outdoor Improvements – Aged and/or problematic trees and shrubs around the facility are being replaced with new shrubs and landscape design is being coordinated for fall installation.

Carpet & Paint – Much needed improvements at the Courts on the fourth floor have been completed.

Security Upgrades – A new Video Management System has been identified and will be ordered and installed.

Fire Escape – Our south end egress area will be reworked as needed for safety concerns and upgrades.

Access Cards – Maintenance is working with the Emergency Management Division towards a transition for a more secure Access System with a new platform and badges.

911 BUILDING

Foundation Repairs – The foundation has been repaired and sidewalk sections replaced.

Window Replacement – Upper floor replacement windows have been installed installed with inside trim work remaining.

MEDICAL EXAMINER

Dr. Russell Bush MD, Chief Medical Examiner - rbush@saginawcounty.com

2023 Cremation Permits		1129			
Autopsies		154			
	CP	Aut	ME Cases	Non MEC	All Cases
Jan	155	6	65	28	93
Feb	128	9	65	23	88
Mar	122	13	56	39	95
Apr	110	9	54	30	84
May	130	12	70	38	108
Jun	132	5	52	38	90
Jul	136	12	55	45	100
Aug	131	13	48	34	82
Sep	85	7	49	16	65
Total	1129	86	514	291	805

Through sept 24th

19% Decedents Receiving Autopsies

MOSQUITO ABATEMENT (HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE)

William Stanuszek, Director - stanuszek@scmac.org

The 2023 mosquito season and our control operations will end in October. With rainfall more than 12 inches throughout most of the county in August, mosquito nuisance has been prevalent through September, especially in the central portions of the county. This area is where we find the most floodwater habitat, associated with floodplains along our rivers and large tracts of wildlife refuge and state game areas. Our control operations have been concentrated on adult control in those most impacted areas.



Adult control (spray trucks) is more difficult in September as weather conditions affect treatment. The cooler weather often limits our spray time as temperatures are too low to treat. We need mosquitoes actively flying during spray time to come into contact with the spray, however, when temperatures get below 55F mosquito flight becomes very limited. In spite of weather conditions our spray efforts have included additional shifts and extending spray hours as weather allows.

Mosquito-borne disease activity was representative of a normal season, other than the unique collection of mosquitoes that tested positive for Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE). This collection was unique and likely due to the mosquito feeding on a migrating bird infected with the virus. Saginaw County does not have the habitat that promotes the proliferation of the EEE virus or the mosquito, *Culiseta Melanura*, that spreads it. West Nile virus activity is normal for the season and to date 16 collections of mosquitoes and a two dead crows tested positive. Another first for the county this year was the reporting of a red tail hawk found positive as well.

Our scrap tire collection program came to an end in August with a total of 5,140 tires removed from the environment, eliminating a large amount of mosquito breeding habitat. Our education program is wrapping up its summer activities and getting ready to get back into our schools to discuss curriculum related mosquito, mosquito-borne disease, and their control. Our GIS incorporation continues to streamline workflows allowing for the visualization of real time resident needs as well as our response, for example this year we incorporated “bad mosquito” reporting on our website (saginawmosquito.com) allowing for awareness and response through adult control.

We will continue to provide control operations through September and likely into early October. October treatment is unique as normal fall weather brought an end to mosquito activity by late September. The last couple of years’ weather has been favorable to mosquitoes into October. This may become the norm as weather patterns and mosquito threats continue to change.

October will mark the end of our control season, but certainly not the end of our efforts; the fall and winter being a time of reflection, evaluation and preparation for the next. We will also be very busy related to the transition and planning of a new mosquito facility.

MSU EXTENSION (HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE)

Mark Rankin, District Coordinator - rankin1@msu.edu

Please see MSU Extension report attached.

PARKS & RECREATION (COUNTY SERVICES COMMITTEE)

Brian Lechel, Director - blechel@saginawcounty.com

Saginaw County Parks kicked off the summer with our annual 32nd annual “Catch Me If You Can” youth fishing contest with over 200 youth participants. The big fish of the day was caught by a 10 year old participant, a 23 inch Northern Pike. This was far from the largest catch coming out of Haithco Lake this summer, as a 42” Northern was caught in mid-July by one of our regular fishermen (see attached photo). Saginaw County Parks kept right on running on the programming front, hosting over 50 programs this summer with nearly 10,000 participants. Our programs continue this fall having just hosted a successful “Pints and Paddles” event with over 100 paddling 6 miles of the Tittabawassee River, senior golf cart rides in early October, and our annual “Jack O’ Dash” luminary lit trail hike/Halloween event upcoming at Price Nature Center October 20th.

Park Patron Numbers – Imerman Memorial Park and Haithco Recreation Area between Memorial Day and Labor Day 2023 – 100,415 park patrons. This represents our 2nd busiest season on record at Saginaw County Parks, despite a rainier than typical second half of the summer. Over 300 pavilion reservations took place across this same time period for events like family/high school reunions, birthday parties, baby showers and even a few weddings. Another fantastic summer season in our Saginaw County Parks.

Have you visited your newest Saginaw County Park yet??? **Saginaw River Headwaters Rec Area**, located at 77 W. Center St, Saginaw, 48602, softly opened on April 28th, 2023 and has welcomed thousands of visitors in our first summer of operation. Although additional development and restoration are planned over the next few years, over three miles of accessible trails are ready to be explored across this unique and critical corner of the Saginaw Bay watershed. An interpretive timeline of the site designed by experts at the Castle Museum/Saginaw County Historical Society was installed earlier this month which helps tell the story of the site, including its past industrial use as Saginaw Malleable Iron for nearly 100 years (photo of the timeline attached). In addition to a \$750,000 maintenance fund established for the property, Saginaw County Parks has current grant awards totaling another \$1 million for continued habitat restoration and development. Saginaw County Parks will host a more formal ribbon cutting celebration at the park in early summer 2024. Please feel free to contact me for a personal tour or more information on this site or any other Saginaw County Park offering.

PARKS & RECREATION (COUNTY SERVICES COMMITTEE)

Brian Lechel, Director - blechel@saginawcounty.com



PERSONNEL/LABOR RELATIONS (LABOR RELATIONS COMMITTEE)

Jennifer Broadfoot, Personnel Director - jbroadfoot@saginawcounty.com

All collective bargaining agreements are currently settled. Contracts with 14 of the 16 bargaining units will expire on September 30, 2024. Negotiations with these groups will begin next summer.

The County has contracted with Saginaw Psychological Services, Inc. to be its Employee Assistance Plan Provider. The contract provides for an initial screening visit and up to 5 sessions for employees and their immediate family members annually. Employees can contact Saginaw Psychological Services Monday-Friday between the hours of 8:00 am to 5:00 pm at (989) 799-2100 to schedule an appointment. They are located at 2100 Hemmeter Rd. in Saginaw Township. Callers must clearly identify themselves as employees (or immediate family members of an employee) calling for EAP services through Saginaw County.

The County has continued its membership in the American Society of Employers (ASE). ASE offers its members a number of training opportunities at discounted rates. General courses of study are for Administrative Assistants, Leadership and Customer Service. Many Human Resource classes are also offered.

SAGINAW COUNTY COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH AUTHORITY (HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE)

Sandra M. Lindsey, CEO - (989) 797-3400

Saginaw County Community Mental Health Authority (SCCMHA) Bi-Annual Full Quality Assurance Review July 18 & 19, 2023

Every other year, Mid-State Health Network (MSHN), the Region 5 PIHP under Contract to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, completes a Full Quality Assurance Review of SCCMHA.

During a Full Review, MSHN reviews all the Delegated Managed Care Functions, Programs and Services (Medicaid Waiver & Non-Waiver), Contracts, Training, Credentialing, Chart Specific reviews, BH-TEDs demographics and care and treatment episodes, Encounters and Critical Incidents. The review covers not only the SCCMHA Board-Operated programs, but the SCCMHA Contracted Provider Network agencies as well. In-between the Full Review, an Interim Review occurs which is a review of any new standards and compliance with any findings cited during the last full review. The next Interim Review will occur in July of 2024.

In preparation for the full review this summer, the SCCMHA staff had to gather proof documents and then upload the files to the MSHN portal one week prior to the review. The proof documents are evidence of how SCCMHA is meeting the clinical and program standards outlined in the review tools and contractually required by MDHHS.

SAGINAW COUNTY COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH AUTHORITY (HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE)

Sandra M. Lindsey, CEO - (989) 797-3400

Sixteen (16) MSHN staff participated in the process and a total of 1,732 files were uploaded for examination and review. The full Quality Assurance Review covers 297 standards, and the overall result was a 96% compliance score with very few citations. SCCMHA received significant praise from MSHN during the Exit Conference. The MSHN staff noted numerous strengths in clinical interventions, chart documentation and agency policies and procedures. They further called out SCCMHA coordination of benefits with commercial insurance coverage and clinical documentation that was well written and supported by individualized service plans and attention to detail.

Kudos to our staff and network contract agencies for all their efforts that contributed to a wonderful outcome for our full Biannual Quality Assurance Review.

SAGINAW COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Christina Harrington, Health Officer - charrington@saginawcounty.com

Please see Saginaw County Health Department quarterly report attached.

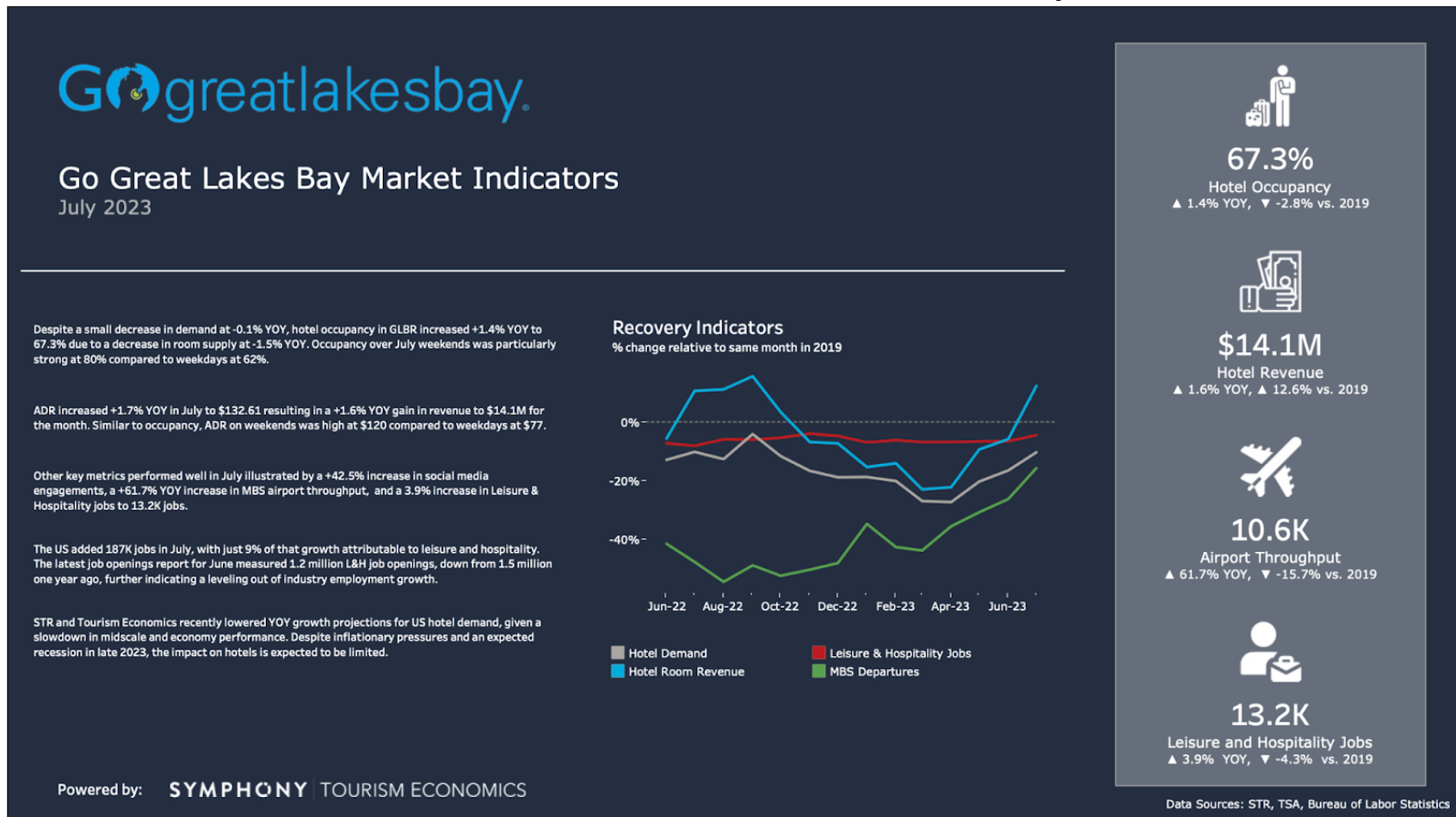
Great Lakes Bay Convention and Visitor's Bureau Quarterly Report

Challenges:

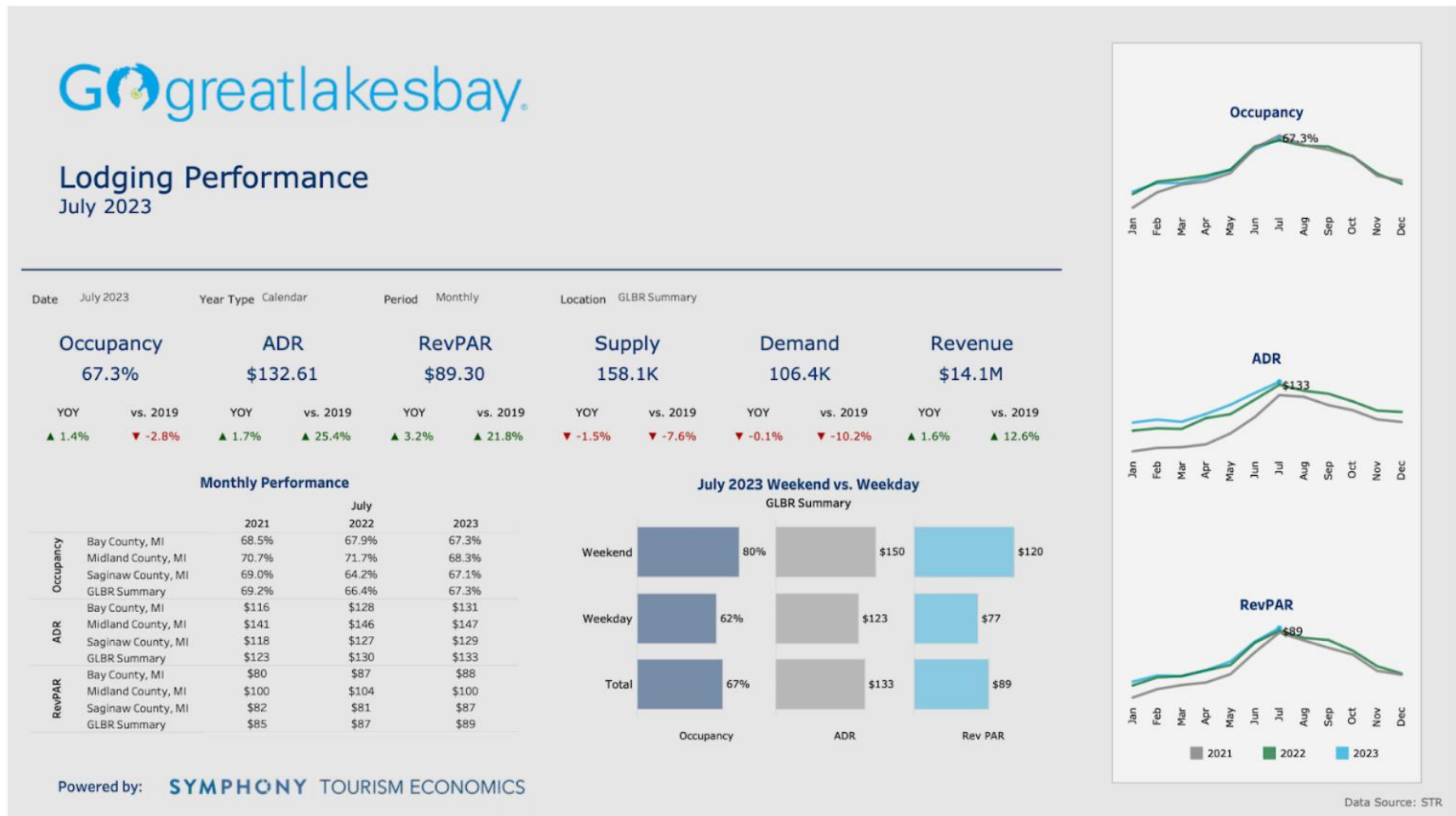
Ongoing: Staff was reduced due to Covid-19. Full replacement of staff has yet to occur. A conscious decision has been made to complete all the organizational plans prior to adding staff. The final draft plans have been submitted to the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration. These plans will guide the organizational programming in 2024, 2025, 2026 and beyond.

KPI Update & Organizational Financials

GLBR Market Indicators Executive Summary



Smith Travel Research Report



These reports reflect the following on a regional level:

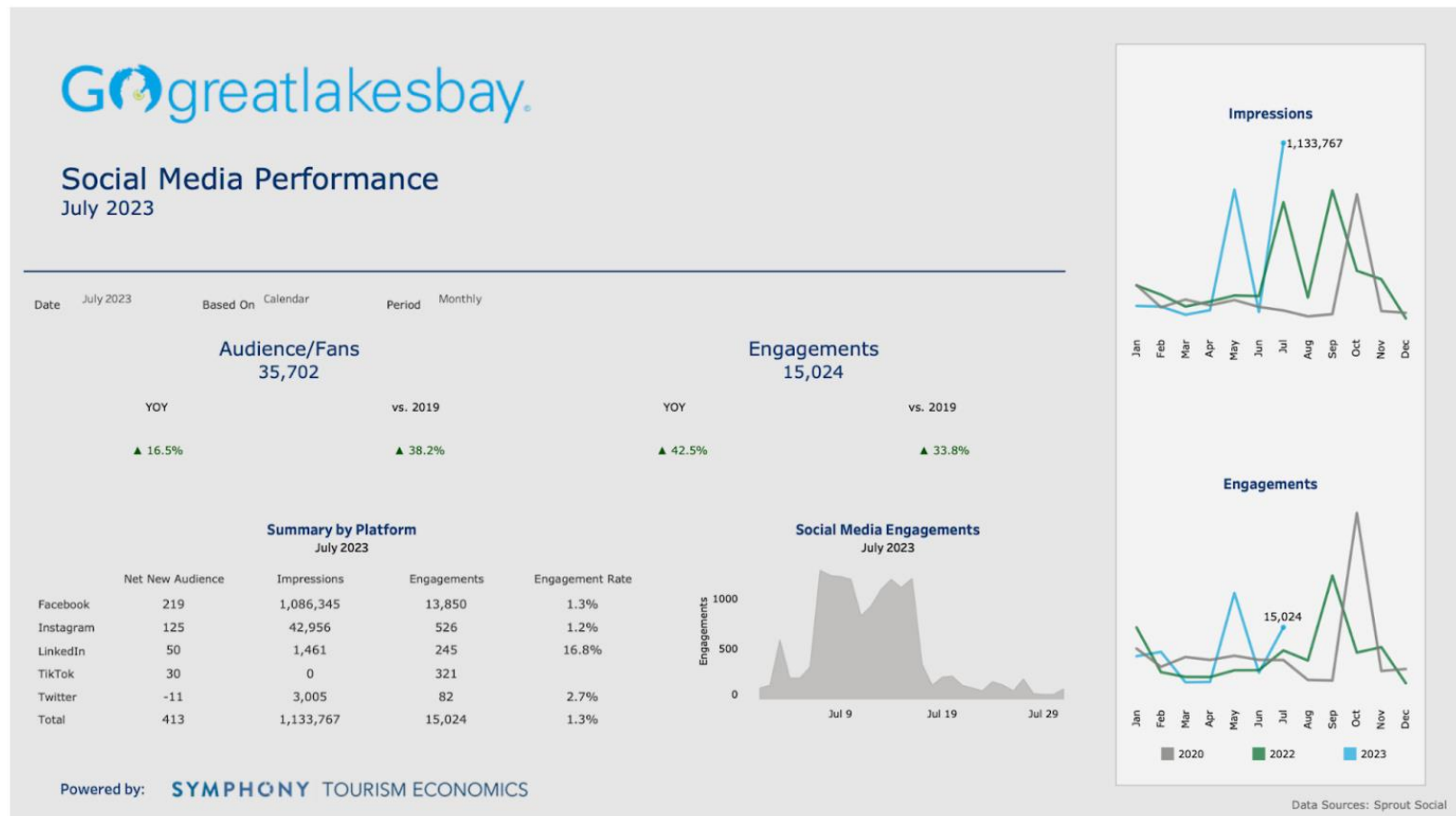
Despite a small decrease in demand at -0.1% YOY, hotel occupancy in GLBR increased +1.4% YOY to 67.3% due to a decrease in room supply at -1.5% YOY. Occupancy over July weekends was particularly strong at 80% compared to weekdays at 62%. (**Demand** is the number of rooms sold in a specified time period (excludes complimentary rooms). Rooms Sold (Room Demand). **Occupancy** is the percentage of available rooms sold during a specified time period. Occupancy is calculated by dividing the number of rooms sold by rooms available. $\text{Occupancy} = \text{Rooms Sold} / \text{Rooms Available}$)

ADR increased +1.7% YOY in July to \$132.61 resulting in a +1.6% YOY gain in revenue to \$14.1M for the month. Similar to occupancy, ADR on weekends was high at \$120 compared to weekdays at \$77.

STR and Tourism Economics recently lowered YOY growth projections for US hotel demand, given a slowdown in midscale and economy performance. Despite inflationary pressures and an expected recession in late 2023, the impact on hotels is expected to be limited. However, as of 8/5/2023 Goldman Sachs Group Inc. now sees a 15% chance the US will slide into recession, down from 20% previously as cooling inflation and a still-resilient labor market suggest the Federal Reserve may not need to raise interest rates any further. This announcement may boost consumer confidence throughout the balance of 2023.

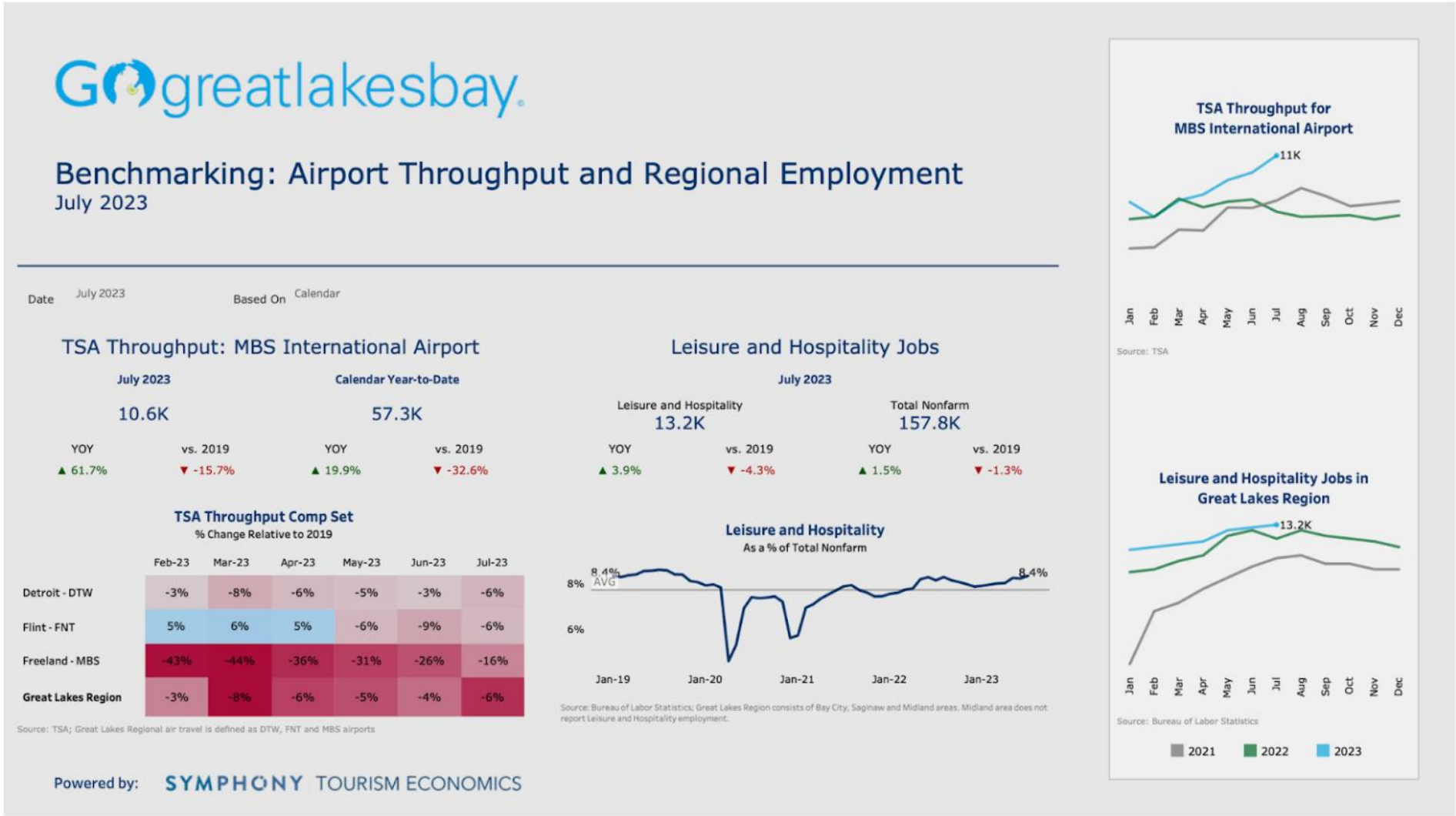
Occupancy in June is 67.1% up .7% as compared to June of 2022, ADR in Saginaw reached \$129 and RevPar reached \$87 for June of 2023.

Other key metrics that performed well in July illustrated by a +42.5% increase in social media engagements. Amber Bailey submitted substantial information to Cruise the Great Lakes and received accolades for her efforts and received praise from a business member mentioned within her social media efforts that attributed to a spike in business to mentions within her posts.

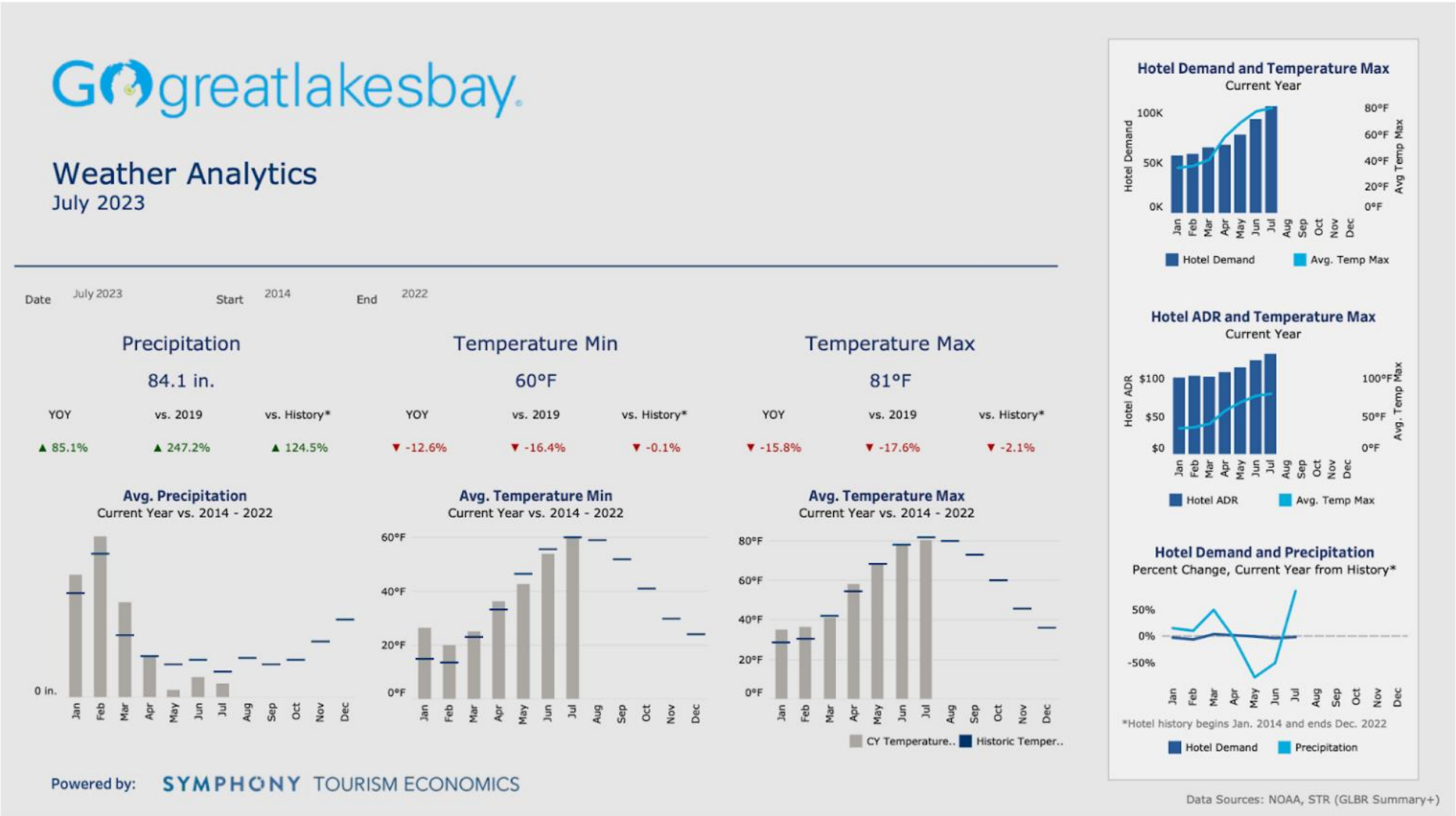


A 61.7% YOY increase in MBS airport throughput. Airport Director James Canders attributes this to recent conversations between airport officials, Delta Airlines and United Airlines to add additional flights for business and leisure.

The Region experienced 3.9% increase in Leisure & Hospitality jobs to 13.2K jobs. Talent to fill positions remains a challenge. In July, Michigan’s leisure and hospitality had the highest unemployment rate of any sector at 5.8%.



Precipitation and temperatures both were above average in the first quarter of 2023. The second quarter experienced lower than average precipitation with temperatures remaining near average during a period when heat and challenging storms plagued most of the rest of the country. Weather plays a very important factor for our Region, therefore the CVB is working to obtain the weather forecast. At the very least, the weather forecast will contribute to future social media content and placement decisions.



MiCareerQuest Middle Michigan 2023 Wows the Region and Ends the Quarter with a High Note

Roughly 5,000 10th graders, 500 volunteers, and 75 employers looking to fill their talent pipelines converged on SVSU's Ryder Center on September 29 for the region's most robust career exploration event – MiCareerQuest Middle Michigan 2023, co-hosted by Great Lakes Bay Michigan Works! and Michigan Works Region 7B.

High school students from 11 counties attended the event – which, for the first time ever, was also livestreamed so their parents could watch – and interacted with working professionals in advanced manufacturing, agribusiness, construction, health sciences, and information technology.

Innovative hands-on activities engaged students and their teachers, designed to showcase the wide variety of exciting, high-demand careers right here in the middle of Michigan. For exhibitors, their goal was to connect with students early in the career development process so that families can make smarter decisions about the future – getting kids into training earlier to save money and fill the much needed talent pipeline right here at home. For schools, MiCareer Quest Middle Michigan provides a unique hands-on way for students and teachers to discover careers and opportunities they haven't even imagined exist.



Middle Michigan
MiCareerQuest



Cycle Two Going PRO Talent Fund Grants Awarded to 17 More Employers in Region

While our Business Services team readies for another Going PRO application cycle beginning in early October, we end the quarter celebrating the 17 additional employers from Saginaw, Bay, Midland, Gratiot and Isabella counties who were awarded \$848,372 for the second of two application and award cycles this year. When combined with the 24 employers awarded \$1,063,709 from earlier this year, the total comes to \$1,912,081 for the region.

Our team has worked really hard to guide employers in drafting solid training plans leading to high-scoring applications. We are committed to bringing much-needed training dollars to our area to keep employers highly competitive in their markets.

Going **PRO**
IN MICHIGAN

TALENT FUND

**Great Lakes Bay Region employers
awarded Going Pro Talent Funds this
year in Cycle 2 include:**

- Acra Cast
- Granite Construction
- Michigan Sugar
- Modern Machine Company
- Aludyne
- Medler Electric
- Enterprise Tax Solutions
- Winn Telecom
- Corteva Agriscience
- Woody's Traction – International Engineering & Manufacturing
- Three Rivers Corporation
- Essex Energy
- FP Horak
- Merchant Foods – Culver's of Saginaw
- Pretty Delicious Designs
- Trinity Creations Photography
- Fullerton Tool Company

**Great Lakes Bay Region employers
awarded Going PRO Talent Funds this
year in Cycle 1 include:**

- Cambron Engineering
- United Bay Community Credit Union
- ATS Printing
- Dresco Machining & Fabrication
- ESCON
- SC Johnson
- GM – Bay and Saginaw
- Avalon & Tahoe Manufacturing
- Midland Country Club
- Solution Planning and Contract Environment, Inc. (SPACE, Inc.)
- AHB Tooling & Machinery
- Amigo Mobility International
- Duperon Corporation
- Erie Custom Signs
- Merrill Technologies Group
- Spicer Group
- U.S Graphite
- William A. Kibbe & Associates
- WTA Architects
- Wolgast Corporation
- UMBRAGROUP
- Hausbeck Pickles & Peppers
- Nexteer
- Saginaw Products (Cignys)

GLBMW Awarded \$120,000 for Early Care and Education Apprenticeships

GLBMW is among 12 MWAs awarded funds to help finance, provide educational support, and increase compensation for job seekers in our region who want to become early childhood educators.

The investment is part of the \$12.9 million in federal American Rescue Plan Act funding awarded by the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) as part of the Caring for MI Future initiative, a \$100 million investment to open 1,000 new, or expanded, childcare programs by the end of 2024.

The partnership between the Early Childhood Investment Corporation and Michigan Works! underscores the state's commitment to fostering high quality childcare and driving economic growth hand-in-hand.

We will continue to update our counties as we learn more about some of the innovative ways we can begin working with our \$120,000 grant to address the workforce shortages of early educators in our area and bolster the attempts by many employers to create child care solutions for their employees.

Changing Lives and Impacting Businesses – It's What We Do Every Day

This is truly the most important information we can share with you. What the team at GLBMW does each and every day is about PEOPLE -- changing lives for the better and directly impact the success of businesses and their employees. Here are a few highlights for this quarter from Saginaw:

Henry Flores participated in our Out-of-School Youth program at just 16 to explore his options in a skilled trade. He lacked a high school diploma, driver's license, and work experience.

With our help, he obtained his diploma and his NCCER certification in Construction. He then participated in the Young Professional Program, got his driver's license, and a job as an installation technician at G. W. Heating & Air Conditioning.

"A month after I got my driver's license, I bought my first vehicle," Henry says. "Michigan Works was the best thing that could have happened to me at my age. My plans and future are looking good as I move forward in life."

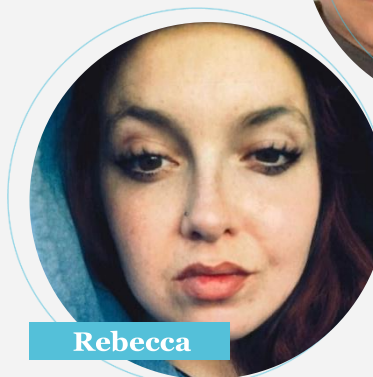
Rebecca Morse was determined to be a stay-at-home mom. Her husband was working a part-time job but was not making enough to support the family.

So, when she was referred to us by MDHHS, she was concerned about maintaining stability for her children.

Once Rebecca attended some of our workshops such as Resume Writing, Job Search/Networking and Interviewing, she discovered how helpful our staff and programs truly are. She soon realized that trying to survive on one income for a family was probably not practical. With the right attitude, finding the right job didn't take her long. She applied at McBride Quality Care, interviewed twice, and was hired at \$15.85 per hour, and she quickly went from 25 hours per week to 40 plus hours per week. Best of all, she works third shift so she can sleep while the children are at school and be home when they return.



Henry



Rebecca



Mya

Mya Belvin came to our Out-of-School Youth program to explore her options in healthcare. She utilized the resources available to her through Michigan Works and started a tutoring activity through Edmentum, increasing her math skills to qualify for training funds. She was hired full-time at CSL Plasma before her phlebotomy training even started.

After sitting for her phlebotomy exam, she said of GLBMW, "It's an awesome program, and I always tell people about how easy it is to get started."

Michigan Sugar turned to GLBMW for assistance with its General Laborer Job Fair. We assisted with phone calls to set up appointments for job seekers and publicized the event widely. In all, 100 job seekers attended the event, with Michigan Sugar extending 80 job offers!

Spicer Group used a \$25,410 Going PRO Talent Fund award to send 19 of its employees to training programs focused on building skills in areas that often require outsourcing. Building these industry skills had a significant impact on productivity, profitability, and personal development. Spicer Group's Human Resources Manager, Jennifer Taylor-Chaltraw, had this to say about the experience: "We are so very thankful to have received this funding from the GPTF. The support shown and the value of the training has made a positive impact on all of us here at Spicer Group."

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Michigan 4-H Youth Development

Stacie Gath, MSU Extension 4-H Program Coordinator, Saginaw County,
gathstac@msu.edu



- **Water Bugs at Chesaning Summer School**

This summer 75 youth from the Big Rock Elementary Summer School program participated in the 4-H Macroinvertebrates program. Students learned about water quality, the life cycle of insects, and basics of bug identification.

- **Saginaw Bay 4-H Fish Camp**



It's a wrap! The Saginaw Bay 4-H Fish Camp at Haithco park was a HUGE success. We want to give a big shout out to all of our 4-H Teen Counselors and volunteers for their help this year. Campers left with a fully loaded tackle box, rod and reel, and a t-shirt.

We learned how to tie knots, assemble fishing rods, cast, identify fish, make our own tackle, bait our hooks, and learned about how to stop the spread of invasive species and dissected a fish. We even got to practice using the boat washer!

A special thanks to all of our community partners that joined us to help at the event. MI SEA Grant, Project F.I.S.H., Clean Boats, Clean Waters, MI Department of Natural Resources, the Saginaw Conservation District, and Saginaw Bay CISMA.

- **4-H Exploration Days**

This year 29 youth from Saginaw County attended the annual pre-college, 4-H Exploration Days event in Lansing. We want to especially thank our 4-H volunteers, chaperones and instructors for their help! This opportunity would not happen without our volunteers, and we are so appreciative of their time.

4-H Exploration Days strives to prepare youth for their future, introducing them to new ideas and career paths to develop important life skills and learn more about themselves and their passions. Youth chose from more than 100 sessions taught by 4-H volunteers, MSU Extension staff, and community partners.

In addition, youth practiced important skills such as time management, responsibility and problem-solving as they navigated campus life on their own.



"Attending [4-H Exploration Days] has helped me with being more independent and confident. It has also informed me about all the career choices that MSU has to offer." ~ 4-H Exploration Days Participant~

Health and Nutrition - SNAP-Ed (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program)

Maggie Dougherty, MSU Extension Community Nutrition Instructor-SNAP-Ed,
Saginaw County, dough109@msu.edu



DATE	JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER 2023 PROGRAMMING
July 10	Sag Comm on Aging Hemlock Senior Center to provide nutrition presentation for Senior Project Fresh
July 11	First Ward Cooking for One – Series
July 12	WIC Saginaw Health Department - WIC Project Fresh
July 12	Innerlink Runaway Shelter – Teen Cuisine Series
July 13	Merril Preschool and Extended Care – Grow It Try It Like It – Series
July 14	WIC Janes Street -to provide nutrition presentation for WIC Project Fresh
July 17	Covenant Childcare Center – Show Me Nutrition – Series
July 18	First Ward – Cooking For One – Series
July 19	Innerlink Runaway Shelter – Teen Cuisine Series
July 20	Merrill Preschool and Extended Care – Grow It Try It Like It - Series
July 20	Talk Event for teens and families– Success Academy
July 24	Covenant Childcare Center – Show Me Nutrition – Series
July 25	First Ward – Cooking For One – Series
July 25	Susan Arthur - A & D Home Health Care – One Time Presentation - Start Simple With MyPlate
July 26	WIC Saginaw Health Department – WIC Project Fresh
July 26	Innerlink Runaway Shelter – Teen Cuisine – Series
July 27	Merrill Preschool and Extended Care – Grow It Like It Try It Series
July 28	WIC Janes Street – WIC Project Fresh
July 31	Covenant Children’s Center – Show Me Nutrition – Series
Aug 1	First Ward – Cooking For One – Series
Aug 3	Merrill Preschool and Extended Care – Grow It Try It Like It – Series
Aug 3	Event – Saginaw County Fair
Aug 4	WIC Janes Street – Project Fresh
Aug 7	Covenant Childcare Center – Show Me Nutrition – Series
Aug 8	First Ward – Cooking For One - Series
Aug 9	WIC Sag. Health Department – WIC Project Fresh
Aug 10	Brady Senior Center – Cooking For One – Series
Aug 10	WIC Sag. Health Department – WIC Project Fresh
Aug 11	Event – African American Cultural Festival
Aug 12	Event – African American Cultural Festival
Aug 14	Covenant Children’s Center – Show Me Nutrition – Series
Aug 15	First Ward – Cooking For One – Series
Aug 16	Childrens Night at Haithco Park 4-H Event
Aug 17	Brady Senior Center – Cooking For One – Series
Aug 18	WIC Janes Street – WIC Project Fresh
Aug 24	Brady Senior Center – Cooking For One – Series
Aug 31	Brady Senior Center – Cooking For One - Series
Sept 6	WIC Janes Street – WIC Project Fresh
Sept 7	Brady Senior Center - Series
Sept 14	Brady Senior Center – Series
Sept 16	Event - 26th Annual Cathedral District Children Festival



Quarterly Report: July 1st – September 15th, 2023 - Saginaw, MI



Michigan State University (MSU) Extension delivers affordable, relevant, evidence-based education to help adults, young people, and families in urban and rural communities be healthy. Programs focus on helping participants gain the skills they need to buy and prepare nutritious, budget-friendly foods; increase their physical activity; breastfeed their babies; and stretch their food dollars.



Throughout the state, community nutrition instructors (CNI's) deliver comprehensive, evidence-based programming to **SNAP-Ed** and **EFNEP**-eligible participants in their communities. These programs include face-to-face classroom instruction, one-time health presentations or demonstrations, and initiatives that improve the policy, system, or environmental factors of an organization, worksite, or school.

PROGRAM REACH



65

Youth participants
reached through
direct education
programming

334

Adults reached
through direct
education
programming

8

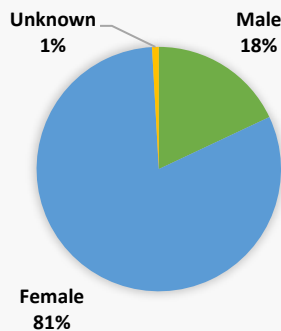
Partner
organizations

24

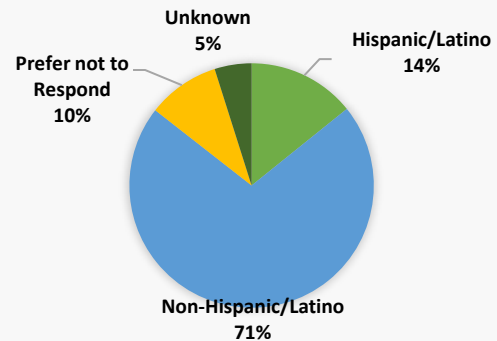
Local network
coalitions

PARTICIPANT DEMOGRAPHICS

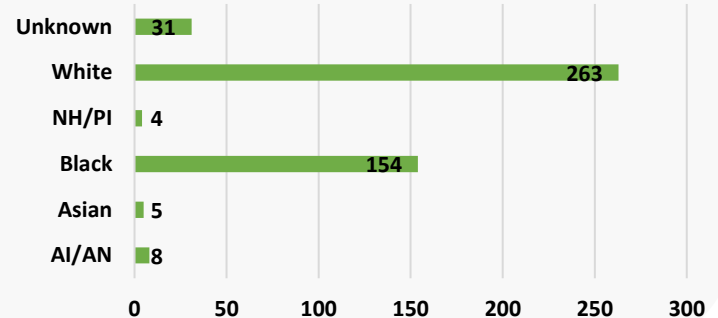
GENDER



ETHNICITY



RACE



Success Stories

Maggie Dougherty writes this about her program at Covenant Children's Center:

"The first day I was at the daycare I recognized some familiar faces; also, one that was familiar but unexpected. A few months prior to this class I had a class in a special needs classroom. One of the special needs students was present this first day at my class; she had some cognitive and hearing challenges.

When I was in the special needs class I talked a bit with this particular student and she was telling me that she would be working with kids this summer, telling me that she liked working with kids and was excited about the opportunity. She was getting ready to graduate from high school.



SNAP-ED: ADULT PARTICIPANTS

Below is a summary of **SNAP-Ed** nutrition education adult programming in **Saginaw County** from July 1st to September 15th, 2023. Participants in series-based programming were asked to complete a pre- and posttest survey before and after the program, respectively. Only participants who completed both surveys are included in the following outcomes: missing data for each item was excluded case-wise.

Food Resource Management

- 35% of participants **planned meals in advance** more often
- 45% of participants **check for sales before shopping** more often
- 46% of participants reported **using a food budget** when shopping more often
- 33% of participants reported **using coupons while shopping** more often
- 33% of participants reported using a **grocery list** more often

**Food Safety Practices**

- 45% of participants were less likely to **thaw frozen meat at room temperature**
- 30% of participants improved **hand washing** behaviors
- 26% of participants use a **meat thermometer** while cooking more often

**Diet Quality**

- 48% of participants reported an increase in **fruit** consumption
- 33% of participants reported an increase in **vegetable** consumption
- 42% of participants reported consuming more **legumes**
- 33% of participants reported consuming more **milk or soymilk**
- 28% of participants reported consuming less **sugary beverages**

**Physical Activity**

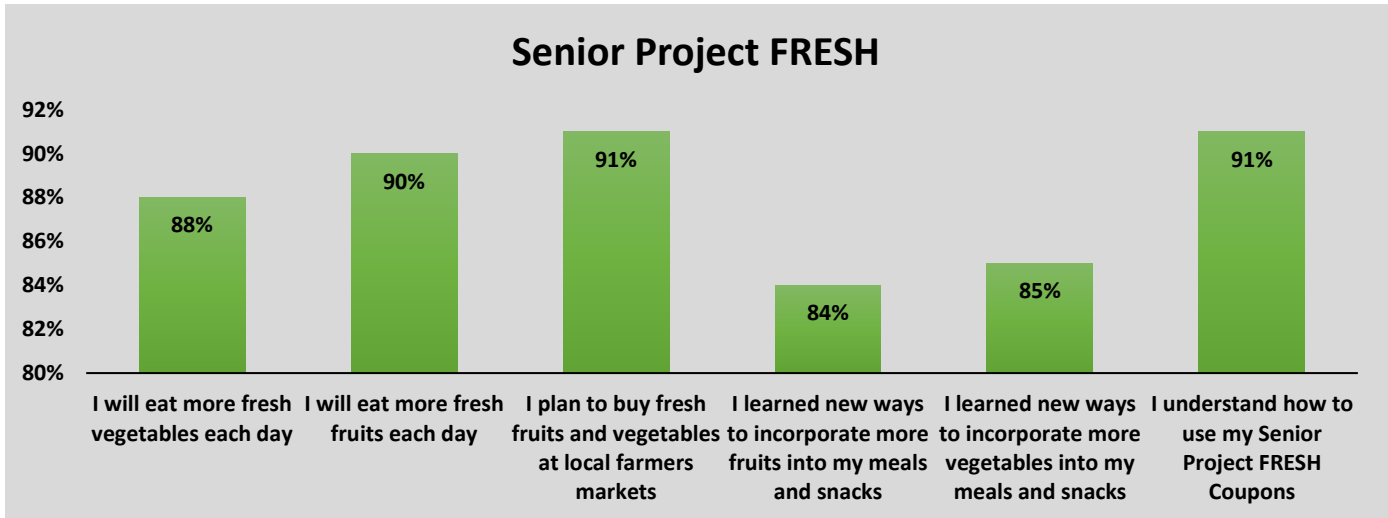
- 44% increased their participation in **moderate physical activity**
- 32% of participants increased participation in **muscle-strengthening activities**
- 36% of participants made **small changes in their daily routine** to be more active



Senior Project FRESH

Senior Project FRESH is a nutrition education program designed to help older adults improve their fruit and vegetable consumption. The program encourages participants to shop their local farmers markets for fresh produce and instructs participants how to use their food assistance benefits to purchase fruits and vegetables.

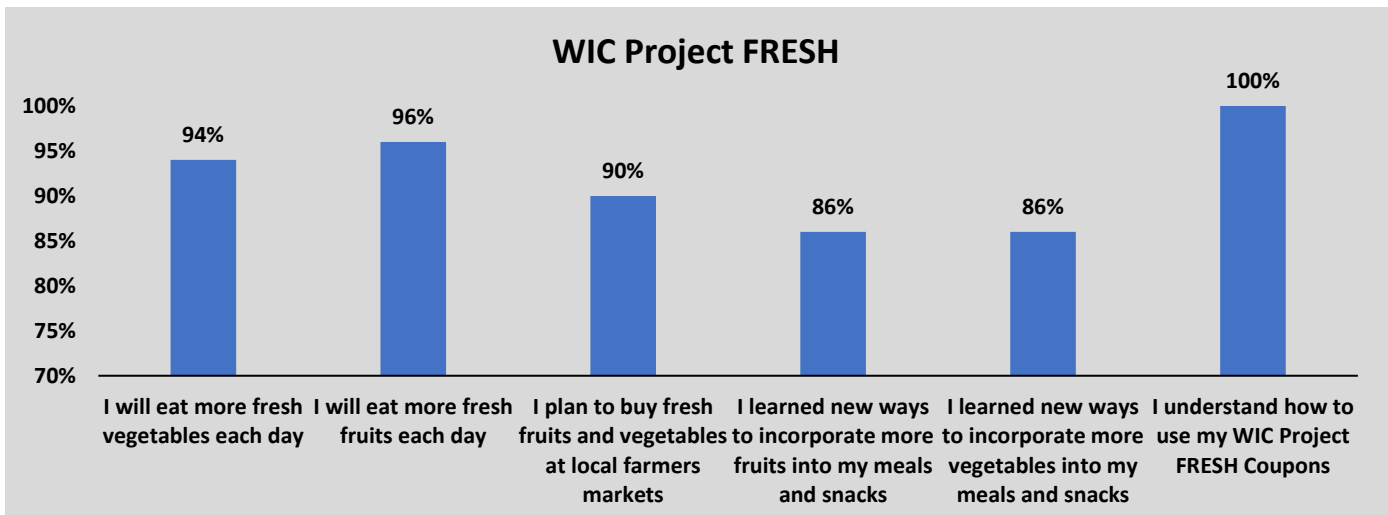
In the summer of FY23, 50 adults participated in the Senior Project FRESH program in Saginaw County. At the end of the presentation, participants were asked to complete a brief survey about their intentions to purchase and consume fruits and vegetables, as well as use their program coupons at their farmers market. Below is a summary of their responses.



WIC Project FRESH

This program provides healthy and nutritious produce to Michigan WIC participants. The program encourages participants to shop their local farmers markets for fresh produce and instructs participants how to use their food assistance benefits to purchase fruits and vegetables.

In the summer of FY23, the program reached 230 participants in Saginaw County. At the end of the presentation, participants were asked to complete a brief survey about their intentions to purchase and consume fruits and vegetables, as well as use their program coupons at their farmers market. Below is a summary of their responses.



Program Impact – Policy, Systems, and Environmental Changes

From July 1 – September 15, 2023, an estimated 498 adults and youth were impacted by nutrition or physical activity changes at 13 different sites in Saginaw County. Nine sites were childcare provider daycares, one faith-based center, and three within a healthcare system. SNAP-Ed staff coached site champions to make the following changes:

- Policy that encourages the establishment of new food distribution sites, food banks, food pantries, etc.
- Clients have the opportunity to choose at least some foods they would like to take from food pantries, food banks, or soup kitchens (i.e., a client-choice model)
- Improved food safety practices
- Initiation, improvement, expansion, reinvigoration or maintenance of edible gardens
- Improved child feeding practices (e.g., served family style, adults role model healthy behaviors, staff sit with children, children decide when they are full, etc.)
- Onsite garden produce for meals/snacks provided onsite
- Improved Menus/recipes (variety, quality, etc.)
- Farm-to-table/use of fresh or local produce
- Storage for fresh produce and other perishable foods

498

Estimated Participants reached
with Policy, System or Environmental

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Health and Nutrition - EFNEP (Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program)

Sheila Salo, MSU Extension Community Nutrition Instructor-EFNEP, Saginaw County,
salo@msu.edu



Throughout the last few months, EFENP has been programming with Houghton Jones Neighborhood House. The students learned about healthy eating habits and made their own healthy fruit pizza! The JIFF curriculum helped them increase their physical activity. I also worked with a group of teens, ages 16-18 through the DNR doing a series of Teen Cuisine. The group of 10 teens learned about knife safety, food safety, how to increase their vegetable consumption and made some turkey tacos with carrots during the 6-week series.

EFENP also helped host a breastfeeding walk with many other organizations including Covenant Health, Molina, Saginaw Health Department, WIC and many others.

Quarterly Report Q3 2023

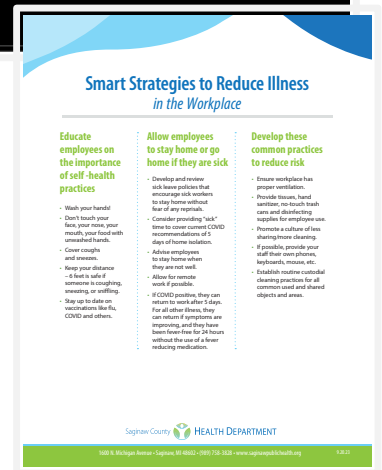
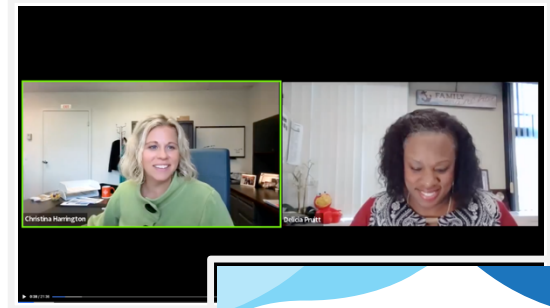
Public Health: (Human Services Committee)
Christina Harrington, MPH, Health Officer (989) 758-3818

Health Department Provides Guidance for Upcoming Cold/Flu/RSV/COVID Season

With the respiratory season approaching, SCHD's health officer Chris Harrington, MPH, and medical director Dr. Delicia Pruitt took to Facebook Live to provide the community with guidance for navigating the annual and expected spikes in colds, flu, RSV, and COVID-19.

Key takeaways from the FB Live event – which is recorded and available on Facebook for anyone who missed it – include:

- If you don't feel well, stay home.
- Recommit to washing your hands often, keeping your hands out of your mouth/eyes/nose, and covering your coughs!
- Get vaccinated to prevent illness or minimize symptoms – this year, that means getting a flu and COVID-19 shot.
- COVID-19 vaccines are particularly recommended for anyone over the age of 65, those with compromised immune systems, and pregnant woman.
- Your doctor can help you determine your illness – but know that certain symptoms provide good clues. Commonly loss of taste or smell is COVID, wheezing is RSV, and fever/body aches are flu.
- Test first for COVID – if positive, call your doctor to find out if you're eligible for treatment. If negative, talk to your doctor about flu. Remember, there are "windows" for treatment – 3 days for flu and 5 days for COVID.
- With COVID, current CDC guidance recommends staying home and away from others for 5 days (10 days if symptoms are severe), followed by 5 days wearing a mask around others.



We have posted updated guidance for the respiratory season on our website at saginawpublichealth.org.

BWell Saginaw Partner Coalition Approves Overall Community Health Improvement Goals – SCHD Strategic Plan Aligns Services to Do Our Part

The health department, under the coordination of community health improvement coordinator Tracy Metcalfe, continues to lead our BWell Saginaw Partner Coalition members in

- Evaluating the results of our Community Health Assessment
- Creating measurable goals to drive the work necessary to address our health priorities of obesity/chronic disease, mental health/substance use, and maternal/child health with a COVID-like sense of urgency
- Developing a comprehensive health improvement plan to guide the county over the next three years

This quarter, BWell partners approved four measurable goals of the Community Health Improvement Plan – all of which require systems-level changes in how we all work together to improve health outcomes by December 2026. The goals include redefining a comprehensive “healthy body status” beyond BMI and improving measures significantly, developing an integrated continuum of mental health care focused on adolescents in Saginaw County, reducing overdoses and reducing infant mortality rates in the City of Saginaw.

SCHD recently completed its own strategic plan, aligning and reimagining services to focus on these important goals – all with the aim of improving the health outcomes of residents to move Saginaw County from one of Michigan's least healthy communities to one of the Top 25 healthiest.

Maternal/Child Health

Initiatives Aim to Improve Health Outcomes

The SCHD Women's, Infants, and Children program (WIC) has re-established the Saginaw County Breastfeeding Coalition – co-led with WIC staff at valued BWell partner Great Lakes Bay Health Centers. The new coalition has initiated four support groups, breastmilk circles (supports for breastfeeding families), and held a breastfeeding event to educate the public on the new PUMP Act.

Through this work, Saginaw has also seen an increase in breastfeeding initiation and duration numbers with nearly 74% of moms at least initiating breastfeeding and 26.5% providing breastmilk 6 months later.

SCHD WIC staff are gearing up to expand services through mobile delivery. WIC has been providing services at the Saginaw Farmer's Market all summer and is scheduling our van and RV out this fall to offer services in some of our remote county areas.

Immunizations staff recently attended Bulldog Days in St. Charles, offering vaccines to school-age children and families. In addition, to help keep kids healthy, our clinical health resource advocates (HRAs) in Saginaw's public school districts have been trained to administer vaccines in their district buildings.

SCHD will be the new fiduciary agency for the Region 5 Perinatal Quality Collaborative for FY24. This regional oversight is being spearheaded by Saginaw and Bay County health departments to ensure a public health lens for regional work to improve maternal and infant health outcomes. Saginaw will be awarded \$500K in FY24 for this work across the region.

Each of these initiatives is an important step in reducing our infant mortality rates and improving the health outcomes for mothers and their children.

Obesity/Chronic Disease

BWell Race Series, GirlTrek, Step Up & BWell

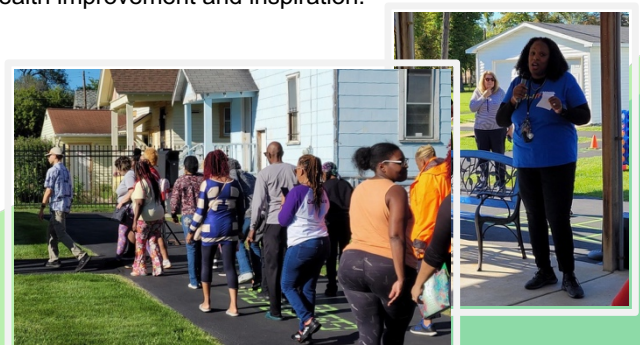
The signature event for BWell Saginaw takes place on Saturday, September 30, beginning and ending at the Saginaw YMCA. This year's **BWell Race Series** features a 1-mile fun run, 5K, 10K, and a BWell Double Challenge for Change (both the 5K and 10K). The theme is "Building a Healthier Community One Step at a Time."

This community event is hosted by Dig Deep Races, the Saginaw YMCA, and BWell Saginaw Partner Coalition members including Saginaw County Health Department, Covenant HealthCare, Ascension St. Mary's, HealthSource Saginaw, Great Lakes Bay Health Centers, CMU Medical Education Partners, United Way of Saginaw County, Saginaw Community Foundation, Saginaw County Community Mental Health Authority, MiHIA and DHHS. We also have sponsor support from Family First Credit Union, Team One Credit Union, CMU College of Medicine, and Saginaw County Parks & Recreation. Course entertainment will be provided by several local high school bands and choirs.



The Saginaw YMCA has been offering a race training program called BReady. It was free to all participants, thanks to sponsorships by the health department and Saginaw County Parks & Recreation.

Saginaw joined the national **GirlTrek** movement, thanks to the health departments' Health Equity Council, with a welcome walk in late August at the Dr. Rufus Stanley Sr. Park on Janes Street. Called a health revolution for black women, GirlTrek walking groups around the country walk for self-care and to reclaim the streets of their neighborhoods. We thank Joyce Seals and Dr. Pruitt for spearheading this effort to engage our community with a national movement of 1.2 million other black women focused on health improvement and inspiration.





Our county health resource advocates (HRAs) stationed in each public school district were hard at work over the summer making enhancements and improvements to the **Step UP & BWell** program, which launches October 2 in county elementary, middle and high schools. Children are encouraged to exercise more, track their minutes of exercise on an app, learn about healthy eating, and earn bonus stars for healthy behaviors like eating more fruits and veggies and foregoing junk food. Schools compete against one another for bragging rights and quarterly prizes.

Last school year, more than 2,000 school-age children exercised more and ate healthier – thanks to our HRAs and the Step Up & BWell program – a pilot program funded by the Michigan Health Endowment Fund and launched by the SCHD to address Saginaw’s alarming childhood obesity rates.

Mental Health & Substance Use

SCHD Partners on New Behavioral Health Clinic, Overdose Prevention

SCHD is partnering with CMU Medical Education Partners, Saginaw County Community Mental Health Authority, Great Lakes Bay Health Centers, HealthSource Saginaw, and SVSU in the creation of a new behavioral health clinic in Saginaw’s Medical Diamond, which could serve as a point of entry for those needing mental health services.

SCHD continues to work with the San Francisco Health Department to develop a county-wide comprehensive overdose “dashboard” to house all pertinent data for partners working to reduce overdoses. In addition, SCHD harm prevention, community health improvement, and health promotions staff participated in International Overdose Awareness Day in August, which included a candlelight vigil, Narcan training and giveaways, and syringe services.

In our public health laboratory, drug testing panels are also being expanded from a 9- to 12-panel test, including more sensitivity for methadone and adding creatinine, hydrocodone, ecstasy, oxycodone, and heroin metabolite TSC.



Other Q3 2023 SCHD Highlights

- Latino Resource Fair – provided screenings and education to the Latino community.
- Great Lakes Bay Health Centers annual celebration event – provided screenings and nutrition education.
- Pulse 3 Foundation Hearts & Paddles Pickleball Tournament – assisted with coordination of health fair providing screenings, flu shots and education to players and spectators.
- HRA and EPC staff became certified CPR instructors working toward the goal for every Saginaw County public school district to be designated MI HEART Safe by the end of the school year. Working on this designation is a partnership with CMU College of Medicine.