

WASHTENAW HEALTH INITIATIVE



NEWSLETTER | MAY 2021

A voluntary, county-wide collaboration focused on improving the health of low-income, uninsured, and under-insured populations.



Welcome Dr. Thomas, new WHI Steering Committee member

A new voice. Tendai Thomas, MD, FACP, is a board-certified internal medicine physician at IHA. Dr. Thomas earned her medical degree from Wayne State University School of Medicine, completed her internal medicine residency at St. Joseph Mercy Ann Arbor, and was recognized as Internal medicine Resident of the Year in 2002-2003.

[Learn more about Dr. Thomas](#)

Meet Erin Horne, new community engagement program manager

Our warmest greetings. Erin Horne is CHRT's community engagement program manager. For the WHI, she will provide strategic support on racial health care equity and justice and will

work closely with Vital Seniors and the Healthy Aging Collaborative to create enduring outcomes for vulnerable elders and their caregivers in Washtenaw County.

[Learn more about Erin](#)

Prepared to save a life? OHCA wants to hear from you

Help the OHCA learning community, improving survival for out-of-hospital cardiac arrest, by completing this short survey about hands-only CPR.

[Learn more and take the survey](#)



Voice of the WHI

In April, WHI Communications Committee co-chair Liz Conlin spoke with Jack Billi, University of Michigan physician and faculty member, to discuss his proudest moments after 40 years of clinical practice and teaching and continued passion for getting at the root causes of complex health issues.

[Read More](#)

News of Note

Ann Arbor nonprofit hosts event series on The State of Black Health,
Concentrate, Maria Patton

Whitmer, Dingell tour Washtenaw County vaccine clinic, aim to increase access for vulnerable persons, MLive,

Washtenaw County reacts to guilty verdict in Derek Chauvin trial, MLive,
Samuel J. Robinson

Washtenaw County group aims to improve conditions and fight injustice for Michigan migrant workers,

Samuel J. Robinson

Sheriff Clayton urges the U.S. Senate to increase mental health funding, The Sun Times News, Doug Marrin

Washtenaw County predicted to recover 'all the jobs lost' amid pandemic by 2023, MLive, Dana Afana

Concentrate, Jaishree Drepaul-Bruder

Encouraging news for county broadband improvements, The Sun Times News, Doug Marrin

Commissioners approve \$15 minimum wage for all regular, full-time Washtenaw County staff, Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners

Grant Opportunities

Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan, **General fund**.
Deadline: May 17, 2021

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, **Health services and health equity**.
Deadline: May 2021-June 2021

Department of Health and Human Services, **Learning health system small grant pilots**.
Deadline: June 16, 2021

Michigan Health Endowment Fund, **Health aging initiative**.
Deadline: anticipated June 30, 2021

Harry A. and Margaret D. Towsley Foundation, **Health and human services**.
Deadline: July 2, 2021

Ethel & James Flinn Foundation, **Various opportunities in mental health care and services**.
Deadline: Mid-July 2021

McGregor Fund, **Basic needs and housing**.
Deadline: Rolling

Community Resources

The Washtenaw County Public Health Department is hosting various COVID-19 vaccination sites with limited walk-up capacity. [Learn more.](#)

NAMI Washtenaw is offering programs that provide education surrounding mental health conditions and how to navigate and access health care systems. [Learn more.](#)

New Parkridge in Ypsilanti is hosting free COVID-19 vaccine clinics throughout May.

[Learn more.](#)

WAVE public transit is providing free rides to COVID-19 vaccine clinics for residents in Manchester, Chelsea, Dexter, and surrounding areas. [Learn more.](#)

The COVID Emergency Rental Assistance (CERA) program is now available for those in need. [Learn more.](#)

St. Joe's Farm Share accepts SNAP/EBT benefits and offers a sliding pay scale for fresh, local produce. [Learn more.](#)

SummerWorks is offering a summer professional development, employment, and mentorship program, including some paid positions, for youth and young adults (aged 16-24) in Washtenaw County.

[Learn more.](#)

Ozone House is offering prevention and diversion services for youth 10-18 years old. [Call 734-431-0185.](#)

Corner Health and the #wishyouknew campaign are holding a virtual event for youth 12-25 years old about having difficult conversations with adults. [Learn more.](#)

Washtenaw County Community Mental Health is offering telehealth appointments. [Learn more.](#)

YpsiWrites is offering virtual writing tutoring and other writing programs for Ypsilanti residents. [Learn more.](#)

Washtenaw County is considering creating a financial empowerment center (FEC) to help residents with finance goals and would like to hear from residents. Survey participants are entered to win a gift card.

[Learn more.](#)

COVID-19 information

Latest Washtenaw County Health Department COVID-19 vaccination updates. [Read](#)

As Michigan COVID vaccine rates ebb, pop up clinics and casino cash appear. [Read](#)

Michigan's COVID-19 emergency temporary standards for the workplace extended to October. [Read](#)

What's causing Michigan's COVID surge, and who's getting sick? [Read](#)

Whitmer may be right. Michigan may have turned the corner on COVID surge. [Read](#)

New COVID-19 cases in Washtenaw County surpass mark set during fall surge. [Read](#)

Collaboration helps with COVID vaccination outreach with Black, Latino residents in Washtenaw County. [Read](#)

[Where to find COVID vaccine appointments in Washtenaw County](#)

WHI calendar



WHI Communications Committee

May 11 @ 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Hospital community health assessments and improvements (UNITE)

May 13 @ 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Healthy Aging Collaborative

May 14 @ 10:30 am - 12:00 pm

WHI Opioid Project

May 18 @ 11:00 am - 12:30 pm

[Additional WHI events calendar](#)

SHARE THE WHI

If you know others who might be interested in the work of the **Washtenaw Health Initiative** — share this newsletter and encourage them to **sign up** for regular updates.

SHARE YOUR STORY

We are happy to report on work group activities, the accomplishments of our **member organizations**, and more. **Share your news** via our simple online form.

