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“Community Conversations” seek public input on what makes a healthy community

NORTHERN MICHIGAN – What do YOU think makes a healthy community? Local health officials want to know, and they’re giving Northern Michigan residents a chance to speak up and be heard.

It’s part of a comprehensive Community Health Assessment that encompasses all Tip-of-the-Mitt counties across Northern Michigan. Jane Sundmacher, who is leading the assessment, said the “Community Conversations” are special community roundtable events that enable members of the public to engage directly with the decision-makers in local health care.

“We’re hosting multiple Community Conversations throughout the region,” Sundmacher said. “We want as much public participation as possible. The concerns, suggestions and ideas people bring to these meetings directly influence the priorities health departments, hospitals and other community partners will address for the next three years.”

Event dates, times and locations are as follows:

September 28, 9:00am: District Health Department #4, Atlanta

October 14, 1:30pm: District Health Department #4, Cheboygan

October 16, 10:30am: Forest Home Township Hall, Bellaire

October 21, 11:30am: Northeast Michigan CMH Authority, Alpena

October 28, 10:30am: North Central Michigan College, Petoskey

All members of the public are welcome, but space is limited. Those wishing to attend should RSVP with Sheila Goupell at (231) 347-5057 or s.goupell@nwhealth.org. The Community Conversations are sponsored by the Health Department of Northwest Michigan, District Health Department #4, Charlevoix Area Hospital, McLaren Northern Michigan, Otsego Memorial Hospital with funding from the Northern Health Plan.

The Health Department of Northwest Michigan is mandated by the Michigan Public Health Code to promote wellness, prevent disease, provide quality healthcare, address health problems of vulnerable populations, and protect the environment for the residents and visitors of Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet, and Otsego Counties.