



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

June 1, 2017

CONTACT:

**Mike Swain
(231) 489-4275**

m.swain@nwhealth.org



**HEALTH
DEPARTMENT**
of Northwest Michigan

www.nwhealth.org

**Health Department of Northwest Michigan Medical Director Dr. Josh Meyerson
Named Michigan Health Policy Champion**

CHARLEVOIX, Mich. – Dr. Joshua Meyerson was granted the 2017 Jean Chabut Health Policy Champion award for his significant contributions toward the health and well-being of Michigan residents. Meyerson serves as the medical director at the Health Department of Northwest Michigan, District Health Department #4 and the Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department. He was honored at an April event in Lansing at the Capitol during Michigan Public Health Week.

The Jean Chabut Health Policy Champion award is presented to individuals who have made significant contributions toward the health and well-being of Michigan citizens in the policy arena at the local and/or state level.

Meyerson received the award because of his policy work on public health issues, specifically immunizations and tobacco. Meyerson helped start the Tobacco 21 project aimed at raising the minimum sales age for tobacco products to 21 years. Throughout this work, Meyerson met with legislators, coalitions and media to present the public health case on how raising the age can prevent tobacco use and mortality. Ann Arbor and Genesee County have since implemented Tobacco 21, in large part because of advocacy from a statewide group that Meyerson and others started.

“This award reflects a lot of people’s hard work as well as the commitment to public health shown by our commissioners that serve as our Board of Health,” Meyerson said. “The departments have encouraged me over the years to do advocacy work and promote our vision for healthy communities not just locally but statewide as well through serving on workgroups, advisory committees, and being active in my medical societies.”

Meyerson added: "I am honored to receive this award, especially as it is named after Jean Chabut, who in many years of service promoting public health across the state, became a good friend of this agency."

Meyerson received his medical and public health degrees from Tulane University. In addition to his duties as medical director at three health departments, he also works as a pediatrician at the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians health clinic in Petoskey.

“Dr. Meyerson’s knowledge of and commitment to public health is nothing short of amazing,” stated Lisa Peacock, Health Officer at the Health Department of Northwest Michigan. “He is a passionate champion for the health of our region and his work has touched individuals and families, as well as our environment. What an honor for him to be recognized in the memory of Jean Chabut who was a long-time public health advisor for local agencies and someone we held in the highest regard.”

###