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**HEALTH
DEPARTMENT**
of Northwest Michigan

Health Department of Northwest Michigan congratulates Pat Fralick on retirement after 42 years of service

CHARLEVOIX, Mich. – Patricia Fralick retired this year after 42 years of service at the Health Department of Northwest Michigan. During her tenure, she served as a public health nurse, family health county coordinator, family health supervisor, and director of the Family Health Division. Recently, Fralick was awarded the 2018 Athena Award by the Petoskey Regional Chamber of Commerce, in recognition of her decades of dedicated servant-leadership in Northern Michigan.

“It has been a privilege to work with Pat for many years,” stated Joshua Meyerson, Medical Director for the health department. “I have learned so much from her passion and focus on providing client-centered services to thousands of clients and families in Northern Michigan.”

Since beginning her career as a public health nurse in 1975, Fralick has been driven by her love for public health nursing and her belief that every family deserves equal access to care. She committed to ensuring services could be provided wherever they were most needed: in the home, the school, the office, or anywhere in the community. Through her leadership and expertise as a grant writer, program designer, and administrator, Fralick developed and sustained needed programs which today provide important services to individuals and families at all stages of life. These programs reflect Fralick’s tireless advocacy for vulnerable populations, especially pregnant women and infants. Her belief in and commitment to social justice set the standard to which the Health Department of Northwest Michigan continues to strive.

Fralick cultivated an empathetic and compassionate workplace as she led a staff of more than 50 nurses, social workers, public health technicians, and coordinators to carry out countless programs across four counties, holding both people and programs to high standards of excellence. Lisa Peacock, current Health Officer for the Health Department of Northwest Michigan, states “I remember lessons Pat has taught me every single day, it has been such a privilege to learn under her amazing leadership.”

Fralick’s dynamic leadership has reached far beyond the health department through her contributions to the leadership programs in Charlevoix and Emmet counties, where she encouraged the development of future community leaders, as well as her leadership on the Northern Michigan Perinatal Collaborative Network, participation as a board member for the Women’s Resource Center of Northern Michigan, Chair of the Human Services Collaborative Body, and as a member of the local Child Abuse Prevention Council. Through her knowledge and passion, Fralick made a positive and lasting impact on Michigan health policy, serving on numerous Statewide committees and workgroups and holding the position of Chair of the Michigan Nurse Administrators Forum.

Fralick's service embodied the mission of the Health Department of Northwest Michigan: To serve the entire community and to achieve health equity by promoting well-being, preventing disease, and protecting the environment through partnerships, innovation, and excellence in public health practice. Her example will live on in the culture of the Health Department of Northwest Michigan and surrounding community for years to come. While she will certainly be missed, everyone at the health department congratulates her on a well-deserved retirement. The Board of Health unanimously approved a resolution thanking Fralick for her many years of service and extending best wishes for a long and happy retirement.

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