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For Immediate Release

MEDIA REQUESTS:
Janenne Irene Pung, PIO
231-547-7653
media@nwhealth.org

Ironmen Health Center Recognized as Adolescent Friendly
Bronze certification being celebrated Nov. 2 during open house in Mancelona

If you want to know how to improve, ask the people/students you serve. The staff at [Ironmen Health Center \(IHC\)](#), located adjacent to the Mancelona Public Schools campus, has spent more than a year asking students, school staff, and parents questions to better meet their needs.

In recognition for the detailed self-assessment, IHC has earned Bronze Adolescent-Centered Environment Certification through the University of Michigan's Adolescent Health Initiative. The certification is based on the center minimizing barriers to health and improving care for kids.

IHC is in the Mancelona Family Health Resource Center, which was opened in 1996 to improve people's access to social services, higher education, employment opportunities, and healthcare. The health center—operated by the Health Department of Northwest Michigan (HDNW)—prioritizes adolescents by scheduling appointments for health and wellness during the school day. The staff includes a nurse practitioner, mental health professional, and telehealth option—all designed to help kids stay in school.

“The IHC team worked diligently over the last school year to ensure services provided to clients are adolescent centered,” says Kathleen Jakinovich, HDNW Director of Community Health. “A thorough evaluation was conducted, earning the center Bronze Certification, which recognizes IHC staff's commitment to the health and wellness of adolescents in the Mancelona community.”

“It's affirming to be recognized for the steps we take to make adolescents feel comfortable here,” says Stephanie Vanniman, IHC Mental Health Professional. “The process has provided us with information on ways we can continue to improve.”

Attend the Open House

To learn more about IHC and the staff who welcome students, parents, and other residents through the doors each day, plan to attend the center's open house from 12:30-4:30 p.m. Thursday Nov. 2 during Mancelona schools' parent-teacher conferences. The staff is ready to show you around and answer questions about the services they provide.

IHC & Cost for Care

While the focus of IHC is youth 5 to 21 years old and their children, clients from outside Mancelona and the school system are welcome. With a shortage of local providers, IHC staff welcome all.

Appointments are available year-round and same-day appointments may be available. No one is denied services due to inability to pay. There are no out-of-pocket costs. We bill health insurance policies—Medicaid, MI-Child, Healthy Kids, or private insurance like Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan if youth have coverage. We also assist uninsured families with [MIChild](#) and [Healthy Kids](#) applications.

IHC is open 8 a.m.-noon and 12:30-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday. Call 231-587-9830 to learn more or schedule an appointment.

Cutline: Ironmen Health Center and Health Department of Northwest Michigan staff (from left) Stephanie Vanniman, Mental Health Professional; Rachael Miller, Public Health Technician; and Julie Korth, Nurse Practitioner; show their new Bronze Certification from the Adolescent Health Initiative. The certification recognizes the staff's efforts to tailor care to youth.

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