



## MID-MICHIGAN DISTRICT HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Your public health team, connecting with our communities to achieve healthier outcomes

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### **Certification helps disabled homeless**



Ithaca- Meet Molly Smith, one of Mid-Michigan District Health Department's (MMDHD) four Community Health Workers, making miracles happen every day in the Pathways to Better Health Program.

Smith recently became certified in Supplemental Security Income/Social Security Disability Insurance Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR). This certification enables her to assist disabled applicants who are homeless or at-risk of being homeless apply for disability. Applying for disability can take years, but when submitted by someone certified in SOAR, it only takes a few months! She is the only person in Gratiot County to be SOAR certified and MMDHD is proud to have her on its team!

Community Health Workers understand that managing multiple chronic medical conditions can be overwhelming. The person may feel as though they have nowhere to turn and no one to ask for help. But that just isn't the case, thanks to the Pathways to Better Health Program and its Community Health Workers.

The Pathways to Better Health Program connects qualifying individuals and families to community programs and services to better their health and their lives. The program's specially-trained Community Health Workers help their clients access doctors, specialists, counseling, medication assistance, health insurance, nutrition education, health condition education and management services, clothing, food, housing, transportation, and so much more.

Services are totally free to those who qualify and are provided in the client's home. To be eligible to participate in the Pathways to Better Health program, one must be 18 or older; have two or more chronic medical conditions; have or qualify for Medicaid, Medicare, or Healthy Michigan; and live in Clinton, Eaton, Gratiot, Ingham or Montcalm county. For more information, or to see if you qualify, call 866-291-8691 or visit [www.carehubihp.org](http://www.carehubihp.org).

Here's just one example of how Smith is making a difference: She recently had a client (we'll call her "Jane") in her early thirties who wanted to take control of her health and her life, but she needed help. She didn't know what steps to take and was overwhelmed at the thought of tackling so many issues on her own. That's when she was referred to the Pathways program and to Smith. The first thing Smith did was help Jane apply for Medicaid. Smith then helped Jane find affordable housing, a family physician, and dental and vision providers who accept adult Medicaid. All this positive change inspired Jane to enroll at Ross Medical School to become a medical assistant. Jane was extremely grateful for Smith's guidance and is on the right path to turning her life around.

*Mid-Michigan District Health Department serves the residents of Clinton, Gratiot and Montcalm Counties.*

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