



July 28, 2021

Thank you for completing your 2021 Community Star Individual Nominee Questionnaire!

Overview

Here is a copy of your answers for your records. All nominations will be reviewed and evaluated by members of NOSORH's Community Star Selection Committee. One Community Star will be selected per state. If you are selected as your state's Community Star, I will work with you to schedule an interview so that we can develop your outstanding story to share in our annual book of Community Stars released on Thursday, November 18, 2021.

If you have any questions, please reach out to NRHD Community Star Project Coordinator, Brea Corsaro at bcorsaro@powerofrural.org.

Your Information

Kalli Dempsey

Community Health Worker/Neighborhood Coordinator
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Have Questions? Contact:
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Organization or Project Website

<https://www.facebook.com/StreetHeartCreateTogether>

Please describe in as much detail as possible, your role within your organization and the nature of your work in rural health?

I am currently serving a dual role as the first Community Health Worker within the Health System that serves my community acting as a Resource Coordinator connecting vulnerable populations of people to the resources needed to reduce barriers to better overall health, while also serving as a Neighborhood Coordinator for an incredible new initiative that is designed to promote population level health and wellness within a specific neighborhood to allow ALL residents to Thrive. Within in both roles I am also working with the counties Human Services Collaborative to connect our health care, service agencies, and county residents together with a shared vision.

What inspired you to choose your career?

My own childhood experiences with poverty and trauma motivated me from an early age to be a voice for the voiceless. I have spent many years working with vulnerable populations who are often overlooked and unheard to create a safe place of understanding and support through difficult times. These experiences led me to a degree in Family Life Education that I applied as a case worker for housing instability working in supportive housing programs advocating for the Housing First Model. Eventually this led me to an opening with our Health Care Systems population health team to provide resources, support, and connection to what it means to improve community health through a broader lens, and connecting human services, health care, AND

residents in a way that allows for true collaboration on better overall wellness where all families can thrive.

What is the impact of your work in your community or the rural populations you serve?

I hope that the impact of the work that I have been doing has long reaching ripples across my county and my state leading to systems change that allows for families to feel a sense of empowerment and belonging because they feel that their voices are heard, supported, and matter. I hope that the impact of this work is leading to continued improvement to health equity and access for everyone. I hope that this work sets a lasting example of the power of collaboration that is based in radical listening leading to our county being the healthiest county in Michigan paving the way for Michigan to become a leading example as the healthiest state in our nation.

Have you accessed, benefited from, or worked directly with your State Office of Rural Health? If yes, please describe.

I am unsure if the work that I have been doing with the county has been in partnership with our State Office of Rural Health. Sparrow Eaton Hospital is a Critical Access hospital within a rural community, and I have been involved with many of our population health efforts. Eaton Community Health is also my employer, though a new organization, and I am unsure of the connections we have with the Office of Rural Health.

Are you or your organization a HRSA, Federal Office of Rural Health Policy Grantee? If yes, which grant program? If yes, which one?

No