2015 HEALTHCARE FORUM: PURSUING AN EMPOWERED AND HEALTHY WORKFORCE

Dean Sienko, associate dean of prevention and public health with the MSU College of Human Medicine, was one of the featured speakers at the 2015 Healthcare Forum.

On Thursday, October 29, the Lansing Regional Chamber hosted their annual Healthcare Forum program at the Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center. This year’s program, Pursuit of an Empowered and Healthy Workforce, explored the underlying reasons and trends that cause people to need health care, strategies and local resources to improve our health indices, and the most common health issues affecting employers and employees.

Dean Sienko, Associate Dean of Prevention and Public Health with the MSU College of Human Medicine, spoke on the difference between health and healthcare. “Healthcare does not mean you have good health. Healthcare is necessary, but is insufficient on its own. Our current healthcare system is not focused on prevention. It is a reactionary system.”

The final keynote speaker of the morning was Dr. Peter Graham, Executive Director with Physician’s Health Plan. He spoke to the business side of unhealthy employees, stating that chronic conditions account for $3 trillion in medical spending in the United States and that obese or overweight employees miss 450 million additional days of work a year.

“In terms of a healthier workforce, people need to realize a silver bullet does not exist. However, we do have a "silver buckshot" of options and solutions that can help move the needle,” said Dr. Graham.

Special thanks to this year’s sponsors: Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, Consumers Mutual Insurance, Foster Swift Collins & Smith, Michigan State University College of Human Medicine, Sparrow, Olivet Nazarene University and Independence Village.

Blue Shield of Michigan; and Kathy Hollister, the Executive Director of Capital Area Health Alliance.