

FIFTY EIGHTH ANNUAL

HEALTH FACILITIES PLANNING SEMINAR

MARCH 26-27, 2026

GRAND TRAVERSE RESORT
100 Grand Traverse Village Blvd.
Acme, MI 49610

PURPOSE

The Health Facilities Planning Seminar is held each year to provide architects, engineers, healthcare executives and other interested professionals with the latest available information which will assist them in planning, designing, constructing and maintaining health facilities.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

The seminar is ideal for all who are concerned with the implications of evolving healthcare technology upon facilities as they plan, design, construct, administer or maintain.

REGISTRATION

The registration fee is \$475 for early registration. THE FEE IS \$575 IF PAYMENT IS RECEIVED ON/AFTER March 1, 2026. No registration fee refunds after that date. A \$25.00 handling fee will be applied for all refunds.

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HEALTH FACILITIES PLANNING SEMINAR

THURSDAY, MARCH 26

MORNING SESSION

Moderator: Dave Imesch

7:00a

Breakfast

8:00a

Welcome - Ron Henry, AIA, 2026 AIA Michigan Vice President & Pier-George Zanoni, LARA

8:15a

Micro, but Mighty: Bringing care to the community with micro-hospitals

Andrew Zimmer, Megan Zak & Jake Gehring HGA

Micro-hospitals are redefining the community hospital, especially as health system mergers reshape care delivery across regions. This session takes you behind the scenes of a scalable micro-hospital prototype—showcasing flexible, future-ready solutions designed to support organizational growth and integration. Join us to explore design hacks, creative best practices, and bold engineering strategies for beautiful, functional, and efficient care spaces, as they scale with system needs from compact beginnings to expansive, multi-bed facilities.

9:15a

What is the REAL Why of Healthcare Design?

Gary Schindele, Paladin Healthcare & Sandra Bradley, Guidon

Post occupancy flexibility is more important than ever. Understanding the TRUE clinical environment and the integration between technology and the built environment is critical. Functional changes often take place faster than facilities can be built. During the lifecycle of a facility, or after the completion of construction or renovations, clinicians are often left to “deal with” a design intent which may no longer match their workflow and patient throughput.

10:15a

BREAK

10:30a

Mobile Medical Care for Rural Northern Michigan

Dr. David Klee, MD & Dr. Kelly J. Clark, MD Michigan State University College of Human Medicine / Munson Family Medicine

Delivering care to those under served is not isolated to urban environments. Dr. Klee and Dr. Clark will present the innovative program which highlights their 22' long mobile clinic, meeting CMS requirements. Through core partners, Munson Medical Center, Michigan State University's College of Human Medicine's residency program, and Traverse Health Clinic, Northern Michigan residents are gaining access to routine care closer to home — removing socio-economic barriers to health.

11:45a

LUNCH

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THURSDAY, MARCH 26 AFTERNOON SESSION

Moderator: Ron Henry, AIA

12:45p

Code Word Joy

Dean Lincoln Hyers, SagePresence

When life tested his presence through a violent mugging and a cancer diagnosis, Dean Lincoln Hyers discovered a mindset that transformed fear into purpose and adversity into unstoppable positivity. In this keynote, drawn from his new book CODEWORD: JOY — The Survivor's Guide to Inner Light, Dean shares powerful stories and practical insights for leading with calm, courage, and connection under pressure. Attendees will leave inspired and equipped to bring resilience, humanity, and light to the challenges they face every day.

1:45p

Designing Recovery: Exploring Respite to Mitigate Healthcare Worker Burnout

Julie Ngo, Boston University School of Medicine, **Tripti Singh**, SmithGroup, **Neil Abrams**, SmithGroup

This seminar explores how healthcare workers define and experience respite as a means of addressing burnout and fostering recovery during the workday. We will share findings from a multi-faceted survey distributed through Reddit that examines workplace culture surrounding respite, demographic differences, and how visual and experiential elements engage psychological and neuroscience-based processes of restoration. Attendees will gain insight into how these findings can guide architects and healthcare leaders in designing evidence-based spaces that support staff well-being and enhance patient care.

2:45p

BREAK

3:00p

The Electrification of Hospitals

Mark Chrisman & Brian Alessi, AIA, Henderson Engineers, Inc

As healthcare leaders pursue sustainability and carbon-reduction goals, all-electric hospitals offer a new solution to create more resilient, energy-efficient care environments. Mark Chrisman, health sector executive, and Brian Alessi, sustainability director, will break down the environmental and economic benefits of adopting all electric facilities along with sharing operational and design considerations.

4:00p

Child and Adolescent Behavioral Healthcare Hospital

Roger Hartung, AIA, IKM Architecture & **Kim Lira**, Southwood Children's Behavioral Healthcare

This program will examine strategies for creating safe, supportive, and therapeutic environments in behavioral healthcare settings, with a focus on protecting patient, staff, and public health and safety. Participants will explore how community engagement can reduce stigma and position behavioral healthcare facilities as positive neighborhood assets. The session will also address the specialized life safety, security, accessibility, and environmental requirements unique to behavioral healthcare, including applicable codes, standards, and evidence-based best practices that extend beyond minimum code compliance.

5:00p

SOCIAL HOUR

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FRIDAY, MARCH 27

MORNING SESSION

Moderator: Matt Guinta, AIA

7:30a

Breakfast

8:30a

Master Planning for Strategic Growth

Damir Vukovljak AIA, Jensen Partners & **Kathleen Hylka**, UMass Memorial Health

As the largest health system in Central Massachusetts, UMass Memorial Health operates in one of the most competitive healthcare markets on the East Coast. Known for its academic medical center (AMC), the system faced a pivotal challenge: how to grow to meet increasing demand while preserving the strength and reputation of its flagship AMC. In this session, UMass Memorial Health and Jensen Partners will highlight how a strategic master plan can provide a roadmap for sustainable growth—aligning infrastructure and investments with system priorities while positioning a health system to thrive in a competitive market.

9:30a

Healthcare Ventilation Update

Jonathan Flannery, ASHE/AHA

The primary standard governing healthcare ventilation design is ANSI/ASHRAE/ASHE Standard 170, with the most recent full revision published in 2021. The 2025 edition is in development, and several addenda have been released to the 2021 version. This presentation will cover the addenda that will be incorporated into the 2025 edition and recent developments in the operation of ventilation systems within healthcare facilities per ANSI/ASHRAE/ASHE Guideline 43.

10:30a

BREAK

10:45a

Nitrous Oxide Piping System Decommissioning

Philip Guster, Henry Ford Health

This course explores the environmental and occupational health impacts of inhaled anesthetic gases in healthcare facilities. Participants will learn to assess global warming potential, identify exposure risks, calculate nitrous oxide system leak rates, and apply the hierarchy of controls to reduce emissions and improve safety. The session also addresses building effective teams and presenting a clear business case to clinicians and leadership to support implementation of mitigation strategies.

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AFTERNOON SESSION

Moderators: Elijah Werner & Matt Guinta, AIA

11:45a

WORKING LUNCH/BREAK

12:00p

Michigan Uniform Energy Code Updates

Sean Costello, AIA, Diekema Hamann, Maxwell Murray, PE, Phil Nicholson, PE & Brett Smith PE, DH Engineering

An executive overview of impacts to facility design based on the recently adopted edition of the Michigan Uniform Energy Code. The presentation will address major, minor, and incremental changes impacting architectural, electrical, and mechanical disciplines. The presentation is from the perspective of healthcare design professionals representing each discipline.

1:00p

Bureau of Fire Services (BFS) Updates

Ryan Byrne, Bureau of Fire Services

Code updates from the State of Michigan from the Bureau of Construction Codes (BCC) and the Bureau of Community and Health Systems (BCHS). Attendees will learn specifics of latest revisions proposed to the Rules for Psychiatric Health Care Facilities and some of the recent code changes coming with State adoption of 2021 ICC codes (Michigan Plumbing, Mechanical, Rehabilitation and Building codes) including new allowances for assisted toileting and bathing in residential care. Highlights of changes found in the draft 2026 FGI Guidelines.

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Andrew Zimmer

Andrew is a Healthcare Principal at HGA, with extensive experience leading diverse project engagements on regional and national scales. Known for his open-minded curiosity, Andrew leads teams to develop innovative programming, planning, and design solutions that align with client strategies, enhance project quality, and provide lasting value for healthcare organizations and their patients. His work consistently reflects a commitment to creating innovative, patient-centered environments that drive measurable outcomes and long-term success.



Megan Zak

Megan is an Engineering Principal at HGA who partners closely with regional healthcare systems to deliver complex hospital and ambulatory projects with a focus on efficiency, flexibility, and constructability. She brings deep experience working in active healthcare environments and leveraging innovative delivery strategies, including Lean processes, modularization, and prefabrication, to improve outcomes for patients, staff, and project teams. As a board member of the Lean Construction Institute's Wisconsin Chapter, Megan integrates Lean principles throughout design and construction, helping clients achieve greater reliability, sustainability, and long-term value. She is known for her collaborative leadership style and ability to align engineering solutions with clinical, operational, and financial priorities.



Jake Gehring

Jake is dedicated to collaborative problem solving, working closely with clients to address complex challenges and drive operational improvements that benefit all stakeholders. As an experienced medical planner, he brings a comprehensive background in planning for hospitals, drawing on a portfolio of successful projects. Jake leverages this expertise to create integrated workflow strategies, advancing operational development and enhancing the quality of healthcare environments.

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Gary Schindele

Gary Schindele is an Executive Board Member and Fellow (FHFI) of the Health Facility Institute and a Certified Healthcare Emergency Professional (CHEP). A nationally recognized speaker, he is a leading expert in equipment management design and implementation and has served on two Facility Guidelines Institute (FGI) committees focused on emergency surge and alternate care sites. With more than 40 years in the industry, Gary has contributed to hundreds of healthcare projects worldwide, specializing in workflow optimization and flexible clinical environments designed for post-occupancy change. His clinical background includes pre-hospital and emergency department care. A former paramedic, he has served as a volunteer EMT and firefighter for 50 years and is active with disaster response organizations.



Sandra Bradley

Sandra Bradley, M.A., BSN, RN, EDAC is a clinical operations planner at Guidon Design, where she blends healthcare insight with evidence-based design to create functional, calming environments that improve patient outcomes. She holds a Master of Arts and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing, and is both a Registered Nurse and an Evidence-Based Design Accreditation and Certification (EDAC) professional. Sandra leverages her clinical background to inform design decisions that enhance safety, workflow, and wellbeing across healthcare settings. Passionate about human-centered environments, she works at the intersection of healthcare delivery and thoughtful spatial planning to drive meaningful improvements in care experiences.



Dr. David Klee, MD

Dr. David Klee, a Minnesota native, earned a magna cum laude degree in Biology from Luther College and completed medical school at the University of Minnesota Duluth, where he served as class president and participated in the Rural Physician Associate Program. He completed his Family Medicine residency in Midland, Michigan, and spent nine years practicing full-spectrum rural family medicine in northern Wisconsin. In 2009, he relocated to Traverse City and now serves as Associate Program Director of the Munson Family Medicine Residency, Professor of Family Medicine at Michigan State University, and Community Assistant Dean for MSU's College of Human Medicine. A Fellow of the AAFP, Dr. Klee co-founded TC Street Medicine and remains a leader in street medicine education, research, and international health.

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Dr. Kelly J. Clark, MD

Dr. Kelly J. Clark, MD is a faculty member at the Munson Family Medicine Residency Program in Traverse City, Michigan as well as a Clinical Assistant Professor in the Department of Family Medicine at Michigan State University. She has been part of the TC Street Medicine team since its inception in 2016. Originally from Ohio, she graduated from Ohio State University with undergraduate degrees in Anthropology, Life Sciences and Spanish. She completed her doctorate in medicine at St. George's University in Grenada, West Indies. She has also completed a fellowship in teaching / Professional Development from Michigan State University in 2011. Her interests in medicine focus on community health, women's health, wilderness medicine, global health and full spectrum family medicine, which she is passionate about. She splits her time between inpatient work at Munson Medical Center and outpatient care at Munson Family Practice.



Dean Lincoln Hyers

Dean Lincoln Hyers is the co-founder of SagePresence, where he has helped architecture, engineering, and construction teams secure more than \$18 billion in project awards by strengthening confident presence in shortlist interviews. A former filmmaker, Dean applies storytelling and performance techniques to high-stakes communication, coaching professionals ranging from architects and attorneys to covert agents. After surviving both a violent mugging and a cancer diagnosis, he transformed personal adversity into a powerful framework for courage and connection, forming the basis of his keynote and book, CODEWORD: JOY – The Survivor's Guide to Inner Light. Working at the intersection of business and humanity, Dean helps leaders and teams turn fear into purpose and presence into impact.



Julie Ngo, MD Candidate

Julie is currently a 3rd year medical student at Boston University Chobanian and Avedisian School of Medicine with a passion for understanding how thoughtful design impacts health and wellness. She joined the research team at SmithGroup to explore the intersection of healthcare and architecture, bringing a perspective shaped by her degree in neuroscience and current clinical experiences. Julie aims to combine her knowledge of brain function and behavior with her medical training to investigate how built environments influence the psychology of healthcare workers and patients, contributing to the team's efforts in fostering environments that support recovery.

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Tripti Singh, EDAC, LEED AP

Tripti has over twenty years of professional experience in holistic health research and project planning. She emphasizes evidence-based design, neuroscience, and trauma-informed design, focusing on a biopsychosocial approach to trauma. Her work involves bridging research and design by analyzing human interactions with the built environment physiologically, psychologically, and behaviorally. Tripti's expertise spans various types of healthcare projects, providing valuable insights for creating effective and supportive healing environments to improve the well-being of individuals and communities.



Neil Abrams, EDAC

Neil is a healthcare planner, researcher, designer, and sustainability specialist with ten years of experience with numerous healthcare projects varying in type, scale and location. He focuses on the convergence of research, data, and human-centered design to positively impact building planning to benefit occupants and health outcomes. His education, career experience, and EDAC certification provide valuable insight toward investigating and implementing design and research solutions within healing spaces.



Mark Chrisman, PE, PHD

Mark is a rare breed of smart. Not only does he love to learn, but he also naturally teaches those around him. As our health sector executive, Mark coordinates strategy for Henderson's health sector across the country. Mark has designed healthcare environments for some of the biggest names in the industry, providing technical expertise on fire protection and code consulting. He is known for his uncanny ability to recall specific codes and uses his immense knowledge of regulatory compliance requirements to help save clients' money and time on projects.

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Brian Alessi, AIA, LEED AP BD+C, CPHC

Brian is a key member of our technical leadership team as we continue to align our offerings with what's best for our planet. A 20-year veteran of sustainable design, he is responsible for leading our efforts to create building systems that are healthy, sustainable, and resilient. His knack for coming up with innovative sustainable solutions is invaluable to our environmentally conscious clients who count on him for guidance. Brian is a firm believer that sustainability blends design, equity, and social good. It's a cause he also champions industry-wide as a member of the Los Angeles chapters of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) and the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC).



Roger Hartung, AIA

Roger Hartung is a Principal at IKM Architecture, a 45-person firm with offices in Pittsburgh, Cleveland, and Columbus. He leads the design, management, and delivery of large, complex capital projects, with a primary focus on healthcare planning and design and a specialization in behavioral health architecture. Hartung earned his Bachelor of Architecture from Carnegie Mellon University in 1986 and is licensed in six states. He holds an NCARB Certificate and is a member of the AIA. He served as Principal-in-Charge for the recently completed Southwood 108-bed Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Hospital in Upper St. Clair, Pennsylvania, a 65,000-square-foot facility providing safe, supportive care for youth ages 4–18.



Kim Lira

Kim is a behavioral health professional with more than 23 years of experience focused on children and adolescent services. She earned a Bachelor of Science from the University of Pittsburgh's School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences and a Master of Science from Carlow University. Kim began her career at Southwood in 2003 as a Behavioral Health Associate and advanced through roles in case management, milieu management, and executive leadership. After leading residential and clinical operations at a multi-level care program, she returned to Southwood as Director of Compliance, Risk Management, and Performance Improvement, later becoming Chief Operating Officer. In 2019, she was promoted to Chief Executive Officer.

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Damir Vukovljak, AIA

As a Jensen Partners Vice President, licensed architect, and medical planner, Damir leads strategic facilities planning, development of needs projections, space programming, and master plan implementation. Trusted advisor to executive stakeholders, physician groups and governing officials, he focuses on the integration of physical and operational planning through problem definition, situation assessment, and scenario testing. He has worked extensively to generate master plans and define the future care model for safety-net hospitals, academic medical centers, and innovative health systems across the country. Damir works closely with executives and project owners to ensure projects get funded and implemented.



Kathleen Hylka

Kathleen is responsible for Facilities Operations, Food Services, Housekeeping, Employee Health and Safety, Public Safety and Transportation, Emergency Management, Design and Construction, and Business Continuity. She has 29 years' experience in healthcare, with the last 19 years in the hospital setting. She joined UMass Memorial in 2006, as the Director of Strategic Space Planning and spearheaded many notable projects across the system.



Jonathan Flannery

As the Senior Associate Director, ASHE Regulatory Affairs of the American Society for Health Care Engineering of the American Hospital Association, Jonathan manages ASHE's advocacy relations to federal agencies and code development organizations that affect the healthcare physical environment. Jonathan provides testimony, engages in deliberation, and develops public comments on proposed regulations to the benefit of ASHE and AHA members. Jonathan currently serves as a voting member of ASHRAE SSPC 241, 514 and 170, Chair of the G43 Work Group, voting member of NFPA 90A & B and the ICC Committee on Health Care. Jonathan has over 36 years of health care engineering experience and has served as ASHE faculty teaching national programs on healthcare construction, managing life safety, fundamentals of healthcare engineering and has presented at national conferences in relation to the physical environment. Jonathan is a certified health care facility manager, has a master's in health systems administration and fellow status with ASHE and ACHE.

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Philip Guster

Philip A. Guster is Director of System Sustainability at Henry Ford Health, where he oversees day-to-day sustainability initiatives and co-leads the System Sustainability Committee. His work includes data collection, analysis, and reporting, as well as the implementation of strategies that advance energy efficiency and organizational sustainability goals. Prior to joining Henry Ford Health, Philip led DTE Energy's Energy Efficiency portfolio, managing the development and deployment of innovative residential and commercial programs that served more than three million customers. He holds an MBA from Walsh College and a BS in Industrial Engineering from Western Michigan University and is a Certified Energy Manager (CEM) and Project Management Professional (PMP).



Sean Costello, AIA

Sean, a Project Architect at DHAE, has been part of many projects providing architectural services for healthcare organizations. His experience, expertise, and client relationships offer him the opportunity to work on a range of interesting and challenging projects. Sean is dedicated to over seeing successful planning, execution, monitoring, and delivery of his projects, keeping within scope, budget, and timeline. He ensures alignment with organizational goals, regulatory standards, and stakeholder expectations, while promoting collaboration across clinical, technical, and operational teams.



Phil Nicholson, PE

Phil Nicholson is a Principal/Senior Electrical Engineer with DHAE. As an electrical engineer, Phil's "Type A" personality has proven to be a perfect fit. The requirement for the utmost attentions to detail, organization, code proficiency, and industry best practice research, have satisfied his competitive spirit. Phil actively led and expanded the electrical engineering department to what it has become today. He implements knowledge of the guidelines for the design and construction of healthcare facilities, regulatory codes, and hospital facility licensing standards in all projects.

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Brett Smith, PE

After 25 years of equipment design, Brett decided to branch out into the larger world of building design. Brett is a Senior Mechanical Engineer at DHAE. The knowledge and collaborative drive to satisfy the customer's requirements is something he truly enjoys being a part of. Brett has become one of our in-house experts of commissioning. He divides his time between mechanical engineering and commissioning projects.



Maxwell Murray, PE

Maxwell is an Associate/Senior Electrical Engineer at DHAE. Max is a dedicated engineer focused on achieving the best outcome for clients and his own organization by developing tools and processes to ensure a successful result. He creates and maintains documentation processes so projects are organized and accessible to both the DHAE team, clients and stakeholders to secure the success of current and future engagements. His commitment to the field and his knowledge of guidelines for the design and construction of facility licensing standards make him an asset to this or any team.



Ryan Byrne

Ryan Byrne is a Region Supervisor in the Bureau of Fire Services, Fire Marshal Division, with over 20 years of professional experience in the fire service industry. When Ryan first joined the State of Michigan in 2017, he served as a Life Safety Inspector with BCHS, conducting federal CMS surveys in skilled nursing and long-term care facilities. In 2020, Ryan accepted a position with the Bureau of Fire Services; first serving as a Fire Marshal's Inspector, then in 2023 achieving the position of Region Supervisor. Prior to joining the State of Michigan Ryan served the City of Novi Fire Department for over twelve years as a Fire Protection Officer and Lieutenant and was a member of the Western Wayne County Hazardous Materials Response Team. Ryan holds multiple professional certifications including NFPA-Certified Fire Inspector II / Certified Fire Plans Examiner, CMS-Certified Fire Inspector, State of Michigan Fighter I/II and Hazardous Materials Technician, FEMA Incident Command, and is currently attending Lake Superior State University studying Management and Administrative Leadership.