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**Former Health Officer and Agency Recognized for Service
*Presented with Roy R. Manty Distinguished Service Award, Director's Award***

During the Michigan Premier Public Health Conference June 15-17, the Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department (BLDHD) former Health Officer and the agency were recognized for dedication and service to their communities.

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services commended the dedicated service, support, and resiliency of the local public health departments across Michigan throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, awarding each agency with the Director's Award. BLDHD Interim Health Officer Dan Thorell and health officers from across the State of Michigan accepted this award on behalf of their agencies.

In addition to the recognition of increased support for local communities during the pandemic, former Health Officer Lisa Peacock was selected as this year's recipient of the Roy R. Manty Distinguished Service Award.

"It is strongly believed that the Roy R. Manty award should remain the highest individual award given by the local public health community," said Norm Hess, executive director at MALPH in presenting the award at last week's conference. "His (Roy R. Manty) philosophy may be stated as helping the helpless, correcting the correctable, and assisting all people to fulfillment through good health. Lisa is a true servant of public health. She has served her community, through many challenges, with grace, professionalism, and a steadfast commitment to the best of public health."

Noted in her nomination, Peacock's progression in public health highlights the work that can be done when one has the drive and commitment to serving their community. From serving as a nurse practitioner providing gynecological care to women of all ages, and a clinical instructor helping others discover their love and dedication to public health, to being a school nurse serving the needs of children who were physically and/or cognitively impaired so they could attend school and reach their fullest potential, and as a staff nurse and nurse practitioner at a medical facility serving pediatric patients and their families – she impacted the health and wellbeing of countless individuals.

"Lisa's sheer dedication to promoting the health of the community is evidenced by her achievements and the success of each agency she supported over the last 28 years," said Dr. Josh Meyerson, BLDHD Medical Director. "We are so fortunate that her vision and enthusiasm for public health touched our agencies. Lisa has always been an exemplary professional and an empathetic chief."

Since beginning her career in 1991 as a staff nurse at Munson Medical Center, the former health officer has dedicated her personal and professional life to enhancing health.

Peacock continued her career in public health with the Grand Traverse County Health Department, serving as a program coordinator for Adolescent Health and then as an administrator overseeing the Maternal and Child Nursing division. Peacock joined the Health Department of Northwest Michigan in July 2010 as a Nurse Practitioner/Family and Community Health Supervisor, and within five years was named health officer overseeing agency operations for the Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department through a shared staffing arrangement.

"I was so honored to be nominated for this incredible award, and now to be selected as the recipient, I am truly at a loss for words. None of the successes noted of our agencies would have been possible without the unrelenting support, dedication, and passion for public health demonstrated by our incredible staff at both agencies!" To my colleagues and staff both in the agencies I served and across the state, I thank you for the guidance and steadfast support," the former health officer said.

In her nomination, Peacock is said to embody the heart, soul, and scientific application of public health. This has fueled her commitment to providing interventions and support through programs and initiatives she worked in or helped establish. She always fights for health equity and to ensure excellence and innovation are achieved.

“The prestigious Roy R. Manty Distinguished Service Award not only recognizes Lisa’s incredible achievements and dedication to public health in Northwest Michigan but also embodies the passion and service displayed every day by the employees of HDNW and BLDHD,” said Dan Thorell, BLDHD Interim Health Officer.

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