



**Illinois
Rural
Health
Association**

2006-2007

**Annual
Report of
Activities**

*Committed to
Strengthening
Health Systems for
Rural Residents
through
Advocacy,
Networking and
Leadership*

3085 Stevenson Drive
Suite 200
Springfield, IL 62703
800.500.1560
Fax: 217.529.9120
www.ilruralhealth.org

President's Message

Dear Colleagues,

Serving as your president this year has been an honor I will be proud of for a lifetime.

The Illinois Rural Health Association began as a seed. A few committed rural advocates brought their vision and passion to us almost 19 years ago. I was young not only in age but in my career in healthcare when I attended the first annual conference. I remember listening to these dynamic people talking about the needs of rural Illinois and how we could make a difference if we joined together and worked towards the common goals.

I am pleased to say this year we are continuing in our efforts to meet the goals of our strategic plan. We have five main focus areas: Rural Emergency Medical Services, Rural Access to Mental Health, Serving the Un/Underinsured, Rural Access to Oral Health Services and Professional Medical Liability and its Impact on Rural Areas. IRHA has dynamic partnerships with agencies, universities, small and large businesses, individuals and non-profit networks that allow us an even bigger voice in dealing with pertinent issues.

During the spring and summer of 2006, we coordinated town meetings for IDPH Division of Oral Health to obtain community input and develop a five year statewide plan for improvement of oral health issues.

In October 2006, IRHA's Public Policy series continued with a forum on Mental Health Access and Issues. The resulting report *Recovery is the Goal* is available on our website. EMS providers also joined together last fall for a workshop co-sponsored by IRHA, Illinois Critical Access Network, Illinois Hospital Association and Illinois Department of Public Health Center for Rural Health. Partnering with like minded groups has given us an even wider audience to bring issues like those that face Mental Health and Emergency Response providers. A second meeting for EMS workers is already planned for 2007.

The Education Committee hosted a video conference series for IDPH Office of Women's Health on cervical cancer using teleconferencing technology available in various communities. The ability to bring education to the community has been a long standing goal and project of IRHA.

For the second year we have had the honor of presenting the Rural Physician of Excellence awards to devoted practitioners nominated by their own towns and villages. Lt. Governor Pat Quinn presented plaques to 14 rural physicians before a standing room only crowd. These awards honored their careers in rural Illinois and selfless devotion to the patients they serve.

In January 2007, The Joint Task Force on Rural Health and Medically Underserved Areas released its final report to the General Assembly. IRHA was instrumental in the creation of the Task Force through our legislative activities in support of House Joint Resolution 5 and 83. The Legislative and Public Policy Committee attended hearings, gave testimony and worked with legislators resulting in a five priority recommendation to meet critical healthcare needs throughout the state.

Through recommendations of the Legislative and Public Policy Committee, IRHA has contracted for legislative services to permit timely access and response to the General Assembly and key issues effecting the association. As we continue advocacy for rural issues both state and federal, representatives of IRHA attended the National Rural Health Association's Public Policy Institute in Washington DC. Locally we held the annual Legislative Breakfast and participated in Illinois Agriculture Day at the state fairgrounds.

At this year's conference we were able to offer conference scholarships to seven students, funded through proceeds from last year's silent auction. That event continues during the 2007 conference allowing us to give more and more students the opportunity to learn about IRHA. The Conference Committee has again worked diligently to offer the best educational values and networking relationships available at any statewide conference.

All the committees, board members and partners of IRHA thank each of you for taking this seed of an idea nearly 19 years ago and helping to turn it into a full fledged GARDEN of healthcare resources.


Patricia M. Bickoff
IRHA President

2006-2007 Officers & Board of Directors

Officers

Pat Bickoff, *President*

Roger Holloway, *President-elect*

Mary Jane Clark, *Secretary*

Laura Fullerton, *Treasurer*

Sheldon Keyser, *Past President*

Board of Directors

Rodney Alford

Kathy Bunting

Brian Burke

Janet Collopy

Monica Crim

Susan Farner

Kathy Fauble

Tess Ford

Roger Hannan

Carolyn Brown Hodge

Matt Hunsaker

Julie Janssen

Charles Langley

Paul McNamara

Doris McFarlin

Cris Milliken

Sharon Mumford

Nancy Rhoads Nixon

Richelle Rennegarbe

Gail Ripka

Ken Ryan

Mark Stevens

Andrew Thornton

Linda Wikoff

Lori Williams

Association Coordinator

Nathela Chatara

IRHA Legislative Consultant

Alice Foss

Don Moss & Associates

Annual Financial Report

Treasurer: Laura Fullerton

The 2006-2007 Annual Financial Report will be distributed to the IRHA membership after the close of the fiscal year June 30, 2007.

IRHA Profit & Loss Statement

March 31, 2007

Income

Dues	18,884.00
Annual Conference	57,492.00
NRHA Grant	9,500.00
Other Grants	28,000.00
Seminars	12,150.00
Public Policy Forum	26,385.00
Interest	1,293.00
Investment Income	4,147.00
Unrealized Capital Gain (Loss)	3,076.00
Miscellaneous	5,049.00

Total Income **\$165,976.00**

Expenses

Administration	33,750.00
Annual Conference	4,059.00
Awards	5,161.00
Board of Directors	1,594.00
Education Committee	4,793.00
Executive Director	10,892.00
EMS	196.00
Legislative Consultant	7,000.00
Operating Expenses	6,537.00
Policy & Legislative	1,976.00
Public Policy Forum	11,543.00
Public Relations/Membership	1,833.00
Mental Health	450.00
Oral Health	1,936.00
NRHA	3,788.00

Total Expenses **\$95,508.00**

Net Profit **\$70,468.00**

IRHA Balance Sheet

March 2007

Assets

Cash	76,409.00
Investments	122,404.00
Accounts Receivable	0.00
Prepaid Expenses	3,375.00

Total Assets **\$202,188.00**

Liabilities & Equity

Deferred Income (Dues)	8,255.00
AED Obligations	3,350.00

Total Liabilities **\$11,605.00**

Total Equity **\$190,583.00**

Total Liabilities & Equity **\$202,188.00**

Public Policy & Legislative Committee

Chair: Greg Chance

Legislative Advocate: Alice Foss

Members:

Pat Bickoff	Pat Caness
Mary Jane Clark	Monica Crim
Susan Farner	Chuck R. Fitch
Dale Flach	Tess Ford
Roger Holloway	Sharon Hull
Matt Hunsaker	Julie Janssen
Doris McFarlin	Diane Megahy
Dottie Miles	Sharon Mumford
Judy Reddick	Roger Ricketts
Mary Ring	Ken Ryan
Kim Sanders	Kappy Scates
Zainab Sher	Ross Silverman
Mark Stevens	Linda Wikoff
Harry Wolin	

Accomplishments:

- ♦ Supported HB426 and SB6 which will expand tele-psychiatry to underserved rural areas.
- ♦ Supported HB246 and SB500 which will create a Statewide Smoking Ban.
- ♦ Supported continuation of the Health Facilities Planning Act.
- ♦ Opposed nurse staffing ratio mandates.
- ♦ Responded to inadequate funding for rural health programs in the Illinois State Budget.
- ♦ Hosted a legislative breakfast and presented four legislators with awards.
- ♦ Promoted the needed funding and programmatic improvements identified in the report of the Joint Task Force on Rural Health and Medically Underserved Areas.



Nominating Committee

Chair: Sheldon Keyser

Goals:

- ♦ Nominate qualified individuals for the offices of president-elect and secretary and for seven open board of directors positions.
- ♦ Maintain a balanced level of experience, individual expertise and geographic distribution in the nomination of candidates for IRHA leadership.

Accomplishments:

- ♦ Developed a slate of candidates for officers and for the seven elected board positions opening in 2007.

Nominees for Officers:

President-elect: Mary Jane Clark
Secretary: Kathy Bunting
Treasurer: Laura Fullerton

Nominees for Board Positions:

Janet Collopy
Susan Farner
Tess Ford
Doris McFarlin
Steve Sims,
Andrew Thornton
Linda Wikoff

New officers and board members will be announced at the annual membership meeting on April 19, 2007.

Awards Committee

Chair: Monica Crim

Members:

Maxine Barth
Pat Bickoff
Mary Jane Clark
Tonya Stamper

Goals:

- ♦ Recognize individuals and organizations striving to improve the health status of residents of rural Illinois.

Accomplishments:

- ♦ Distributed award nomination forms by mail, email and placed on the IRHA web site.
- ♦ Reviewed nominations and recommended award nominees to the Board of Directors.
- ♦ Assisted with public relations for award recipients.
- ♦ Rural Health Awards to be presented on April 18, 2007 at the IRHA Annual Conference include:
 - ♦ Award of Merit
 - ♦ Rural Health Practitioner of the Year
 - ♦ Rural Health Worker of the Year
 - ♦ Student Award

Conference Planning Committee

Chair: Roger Holloway

Members:

Lori Brannan
Kathy Bunting
Mary Jane Clark
Laura Fullerton
Cherie Green
Elaine Jurkowski
Cris Milliken
Sharon Mumford
Richelle Rennegarbe
Michelle Ward
Nikki Woolverton

Goals:

- ♦ Increase awareness of the goals and strategies of the Illinois Rural Health Association as it works to improve access to health care in rural Illinois.
- ♦ Provide a forum to discuss critical rural health issues such as rural emergency medical services; rural access to mental health services; serving the uninsured/underinsured; rural access to oral health services, chronic disease management, and methamphetamine issues.
- ♦ Present sessions that identify proposed recommendations and strategies for improving and strengthening access to health care in rural areas.
- ♦ Provide participants with opportunity to share best practices and the latest research with others interested in rural health issues.
- ♦ Provide current information about proposed state and federal legislation that would have an impact on rural health.
- ♦ Create networking opportunities and build multidisciplinary partnerships with providers, educators, community representatives, and local and state government leaders.

Accomplishments:

- ♦ Held a silent auction to generate funds to establish a Student Scholarship Fund to enable rural health professional students attend future IRHA annual conferences. Seven student scholarships were awarded.
- ♦ Categories for continuing education credits have been expanded and now include: CEUs for EMS personnel, Category 1 for health educators, dentists and dental hygienists, registered nurses, and licensed social and clinical social workers.

Education Committee

Chair: Deborah E. Seale

Members:

Jim Bono
Mary Jane Clark
Carrie Edgar
Kathy Fauble
Tracey Kreipe
Kim Larkin
Shirley Longlett
Pat Schou

Goals:

- ◆ Provide training through video-conferencing to organizations and individuals benefiting rural areas.

Accomplishments:

- ◆ Developed curriculum and provided grant writing training on 7/25/06 via videoconference for 81 participants at 6 rural locations across the state.
- ◆ Held informational videoconference on 6/26/07 on the Primary Care Case Management (PCCM) Program in collaboration with the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services to provide an overview of the PCCM program to rural providers and answer questions.
- ◆ Held two women's health video-conferences on 11/16/06 and 2/8/07 in collaboration with the Illinois Department of Public Health for 71 people and 13 locations.

Join an IRHA Committee or Work Group

Members of IRHA are invited to participate on any of its committees or task forces. Please let us know if you would like to volunteer by emailing nathela@assn-srvs.com or by contacting the IRHA Office at 800.500.1560. You will be contacted by the appropriate committee or work group chair.

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Public Relations/Membership Communications Committee

Chair: Cris Milliken

Members:

Karen Carlson Stephanie George
Jim Hawker Diane Megahy
Linda Wikoff Lori Williams

Goals:

- ◆ Serve as information hub about IRHA activities.
- ◆ Be present at activities to photograph and report.
- ◆ Promote IRHA activities via press releases and news media communications.
- ◆ Analyze current membership and develop strategy for membership drive
- ◆ Set up and staff IRHA display at other conferences.
- ◆ Keep website updated.
- ◆ Conduct *2006 Illinois Rural Physician of Excellence* Award program.

Accomplishments:

- ◆ Present at activities to photograph and report.
- ◆ Set up and staffed IRHA display at other conferences.
- ◆ Conducted very successful *2006 Illinois Rural Physician of Excellence* Award.

EMS Work Group

Chair: Roger Holloway

Members:

Janet Collopy Gary Erisman
Susan Farner Tess Ford
Jennifer Haner Joe Hansen
Carolyn Brown Hodge
Shannon Lizer Bob Loftus
Diane Megahy Richard Robinson
Andrew Thornton Linda Wikoff
Ben Winick Harry Wolin

Accomplishments:

- ◆ Conducted statewide EMS Workshop in conjunction with the Illinois Hospital Association, Illinois Critical Access Hospital Network and IDPH Center for Rural Affairs.
- ◆ Created an EMS List Serve in conjunction with the Illinois Critical Access Hospital Network. as an outcome of the EMS workshop.
- ◆ Supported and followed legislation to assist rural EMS provides in accessing low cost capital dollars, licensure issues, and EMS testing.
- ◆ Made multiple presentations to interested groups regarding EMS issues in rural Illinois.

Oral Health Work Group

Chair:

Julie Janssen

Members:

Lisa Bell
Matt Hunsaker
Charla Lautar
Lori Williams

Goals:

- ◆ Improve oral health in rural Illinois.

Accomplished:

- ◆ Facilitated oral health educational sessions at IRHA annual meeting.
- ◆ Facilitated the Illinois Oral Health Plan 2 including monthly Steering Committee meetings, seven Town Hall Meetings, creating the draft Plan, culminating in the Illinois Oral Health Summit. The new Plan includes goals, priorities and recommendations with a significant focus on rural Illinois.
- ◆ Represented IRHA at an Oral Health Workforce strategic planning work group meeting hosted by the Illinois Children's Healthcare Foundation.

Mental Health Work Group

Co-chairs:

Roger Hannan
Tess Ford

Members:

Sharon Hull Elaine Jurkowski
Sheldon Keyser Paul McNamara
Cris Milliken Gail Ripka
Linda Wikoff Lori Williams
Bill Young

Goals:

- ◆ To address rural mental health access issues.

Accomplishments:

- ◆ Conducted a series of focus groups in rural Illinois to explore community constituent needs, concerns, barriers to access and recommendations for mental health.
- ◆ Prepared summary report entitled "Mental Health in Rural Illinois: Recovery is the Goal" and submitted the report to officials in Illinois.
- ◆ Public Policy Forum **Access to Mental Health Care in Rural Illinois: Moving from Crisis to Action** was held on October 11, 2006 to further refine the report's recommendations.
- ◆ Several recommendations from the Work Group are currently in some stage of the legislative process.
- ◆ Work Group continues to meet to share findings.