



Spring 2019

IL RURAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

Illinois Rural Health
Association

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Darien, IL 60561

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www.ilruralhealth.org

IRHA Awards \$14,000 in Scholarships to Address Workforce Shortages in Rural Areas

Because of the great shortage of dental providers and mental health professionals in rural areas, coupled with the growing demand for HIT and Medical Billing & Coding experts, the IL Rural Health Association awarded \$14,000 in scholarships in these various disciplines this year to students with a strong interest and intent in working in a rural area. Special thanks to Gibson Area Hospital for their generous support of the behavioral health scholarships! See pages 2-4 for recipients.



Save the Date

April 30th

IRHA

Legislative

“Fiesta”

Reception

5:00-7:30 p.m.

Boone’s

Springfield

**See details on
page 7.**

IL Rural Health Association's 30th Annual Educational Conference

August 7-8th, 2019

Hilton Garden Inn | Champaign, IL

Register at: www.ilruralhealth.org See page 6 for details.



IRHA Awards Scholarships for Spring Semester 2019

Dental Scholarship Recipients



**Ben Sowle
Crawford County
SIUE School of
Dental Medicine**



**Parker Upchurch
Saline County
SIUE School of
Dental Medicine**

Dental Hygienist



**Krista Kessler
Crawford County
SIUC**

Scholarship Recipient

Health Informatics Scholarship Recipients



**Mikki Robertson
Frontier Community
College**



**Virginia Williams
Frontier Community
College**

Medical Billing & Coding Scholarship Recipients



**Dana Wetzel
Kaskaskia Community
College**



**Rachel Reed
Kaskaskia Community
College**



**Cara Stallard
Lake Land
Community College**

IRHA Awards Scholarships for Spring Semester 2019

Social & Behavioral Science Scholarship Recipients



**Jamie Stevens
Champaign County
Human Development
Counseling at UIS**



**Alex Eggar
Boone County
Master's in Counseling
at NIU**



**Brittany Campbell
Jefferson County
Social Work
at SIUC**



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"We were too small to just hand over all of our accounts for 120 days and wait for the result. HRG worked with us very closely on customizing reports out of our EHR to work accounts most aged first in order for us to gain revenues without the long wait."

Sharon Dilmore, Rev Cycle Manager
Jackson Hospital
Marianna, FL

"While working our accounts, HRG discovered we had contracting and account processing issues, like, payers processing our claims incorrectly. HRG took ownership, reached out to the vendor, and worked directly with them to resolve the issues."

Jennifer Lesley, PFS Director
Hendry Regional Medical Center
Clewiston, FL



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Julie Stankus
HRG Revenue Cycle Expert
Jstankus@hrgpros.com
630.697.2530

IRHA Hosts 30th Annual Educational Conference

August 7-8th

The Illinois Rural Health Association (IRHA) will host its 30th Annual Educational Conference August 7-8th at the Hilton Garden Inn Champaign.

The Conference is an opportunity for rural healthcare administrators and clinicians to advance their professional skills, while networking and learning best practices from their counterparts throughout the state. In addition to the general sessions, attendees will have over 20 concurrent workshops to choose from over the two-day conference.



Sponsorships and exhibit opportunities are also available. For additional information and registration, please go to www.ilruralhealth.org. Detailed agenda and brochures will be available in May on the IRHA website.

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New Era Begins in Springfield

In addition to our new Governor JB Pritzker, over 45 new legislators were sworn in (a handful had been appointed to fill someone else's term and then were elected for the first time in November) in January and a few representatives moved over to the Senate. The Democrats now have supermajority once again in the House, which means they will not need any GOP votes to override the Governor's vetoes.



IRHA Executive Director Margaret Vaughn and her son Frank with new Illinois Governor JB Pritzker

The General Assembly spring session is now in full swing and there have been over 6000 bills introduced. **Governor Pritzker also appointed a brand new Director to the Illinois Department of Public**



New IDPH Director Dr. Nygozi Ezike

Health, Dr. Ngozi Ezike, an internist and pediatrician, who most recently director of Cook County Juvenile Temporary Detention Center.

With all the new faces in Springfield, we hope that IRHA members will be able to join us at our **IRHA Annual Legislative Reception Tuesday, April 30th from 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Boone's Saloon in Springfield** (southwest corner of Capitol complex). The reception this year will be a "Fiesta" Theme (since Cinco de Mayo will be just days away) and will give IRHA members an opportunity to get better acquainted with legislators, agency officials and their staffs in a relaxed setting with complimentary refreshments. Please contact staff@ilruralhealth.org if you are interested in attending.



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IRHA Board Members Advocate on Capitol Hill

Illinois enjoyed a strong presence at the National Rural Health Association's Policy Institute in Washington, DC in February. We met with many of our congressional representatives' and Senator Duckworth's staff. A special thanks to Senator Durbin for taking the time out of his busy schedule to meet with us in person at his Minority Whip Conference location within the Capitol. He hosted over 15 Illinoisans representing various rural hospitals, health clinics, universities and other statewide health care associations to listen to our concerns regarding rural health access and the fragile state of our rural hospitals.



We learned about issues that NRHA is advocating for with the current legislative session and were assured that rural healthcare will continue to be a top priority for the foreseeable future in our Capitol. Additional IRHA Board members in attendance were IRHA President Elect Terri Agin and Immediate Past President Robin Rose.



**Kim Sanders
IRHA Board President**



**Gibson Area Hospital CEO Rob Schmitt,
Congressman Adam Kinzinger and
IRHA Past President Robin Rose**



**Virginia Senator Tim Kaine and
IRHA Past President Robin Rose**



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* This offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other special offers or bonuses. Projects with financial commitments must occur on or after Nov. 6, 2018 and the project completed on or after Jan. 1, 2019. Projects previously pre-approved with a completion date prior to Jan. 1, 2019 are not eligible. Customer and project must meet all eligibility guidelines in order to receive incentives. Only non-residential Ameren Illinois customers are eligible to receive incentives and bonus dollars. Bonus funds are limited and may be suspended at any time. Early completion bonus does not apply to the Online Store, Instant Incentives, Small Business Program, Staffing Grant, Strategic Energy Management (SEM), Metering & Monitoring, or Feasibility Study.

AgrAbility Gives Northern Illinois Sheep Farmer Freedom

Lambing season is Donna Lehrer's favorite time on her family's small farm an hour west of Chicago. But seven years ago a ram collided with Lehrer's leaving her with chronic pain and mobility issues that require a walker. Now, with new gate latches, a golf cart and self-powered cart from AgrAbility Unlimited, Donna is able to get around the farm and she hopes Big Rock Organics will have lambs again soon.

It's estimated that more than one million people engaged in agricultural production are restricted from performing essential tasks due to physical limitation. AgrAbility Unlimited, a program of University of Illinois Extension, seeks to promote independence in agriculture for people with disabilities and their families.

"It's a really hazardous occupation when you look at statistics," Lehrer said. "I don't think that when people eat their food and use their fiber realize what it takes."

Donna and Scott have farmed for more than 20 years at Big Rock Organics. They grow heirloom vegetables organically for farmer's markets and their CSA, community supported agriculture, program. Fiber from their flock of Cheviot sheep is used at the arts studio in town run by her daughter and the meat is sold throughout Chicago.



After the accident, Donna and Scott were able to rely on help from their daughter and interns, but as her husband Scott's early onset Alzheimer's progressed, he was not able to do as many chores.

That's when Lehrer met Chip Petrea with Illinois AgrAbility Unlimited. He visited the farm for a consultation and almost immediately suggested cutting down a barn door threshold so it wasn't a struggle for Lehrer to step through, adding ramps and adjusting the sheep gates.

"You do things out of habit and you don't change. Chip took one look and said 'why don't you cut down the door threshold lower and make it easier?' "

Some changes gave Donna the independence she needed, like a golf cart and self-powered wagon for moving hay that AgrAbility was able to help purchase. "AgrAbility is one of the best programs the USDA can offer," Lehrer said. "It's hope for someone who wants to continue farming."

And Donna wants to pass on that hope to others. Big Rock Organics has hosted several veterans through an Illinois Farm Bureau program that introduces veterans to farming.

"I don't ever want to stop farming, once you get it under your belt and you've been doing it, it's a way of life," Lehrer said. "I'm excited to be called a farmer and I'm proud of the whole occupation big or small."



**Emily Steele
Writer and PR Consultant
Grit HQ**



Reach out.

The Illinois Helpline not only helps people struggling with substance use disorder and their loved ones—we serve providers, too.

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- Home Health Coding

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Family Medicine Career Opportunities

Outpatient Opportunities

Wilmington, Delaware

- Progressive Outpatient Family Practice
- Private Practice with 4 physicians and 2 NP's
- Highly supportive of and dedicated to minimizing administrative burden on clinicians

Beardstown, Illinois

- Hospital-employed, Critical Access
- Culturally diverse, multilingual community
- Competitive guaranteed base salary, sign-on bonus, and paid relocation

Champaign, Illinois

- Large Physician Owned, Multispecialty Group
- Diverse regional population of 400,000
- High earning ability including income guarantee plus productivity and ancillary revenue stream

Metropolis, Illinois

- Hospital-employed
- Guaranteed Salary, full benefits
- Located just outside Paducah, KY
- Option to moonlight: Hospitalist coverage, ER coverage

Oglesby, Illinois

- Hospital-employed
- New clinic opened in February 2019
- Option to moonlight: Nursery/pediatric call, Hospitalist coverage, ER coverage, After-Hours Walk-In Clinic

Pinckneyville, Illinois

- Hospital-employed, Critical Access
- Clinic is in new hospital, providing centrally located outpatient services
- Attractive compensation package, signing bonus, and comprehensive benefits

Watseka, Illinois

- Hospital-employed
- Newly renovated clinic
- 4-day clinic, 1-day administrative
- Large geriatric patient population

Portland, Indiana

- Family Medicine *with OB*
- Hospital-employed, Critical Access
- Recently Renovated Clinic
- ~150 deliveries/year; 27% C-Sections

Traditional Opportunities

Darlington, Wisconsin

- Hospital-employed, Critical Access
- Work autonomously, where patients are like family
- 45 minutes from Madison, WI and Dubuque, IA

Lancaster, Wisconsin

- Family Medicine *with or without OB*
- Hospital-employed, Critical Access
- New clinic attached to the hospital
- ~180 deliveries/year
- Option to moonlight: Hospitalist coverage, ER coverage

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Impediments to Care for People Living with HIV/AIDS in Rural Illinois

According to the [Rural Health Information Hub](#), people living with HIV/AIDS in rural regions are confronted with several challenges and/or barriers to accessing and staying in care. In order for providers to reach those living with HIV/AIDS in rural communities, remaining aware of these challenges and barriers is essential.

Socially, HIV/AIDS are typically not among “coffee table” discussion topics in rural settings. This can often translate into a lack of awareness and education regarding HIV/AIDS which in turn can lead to stigmatizing attitudes and behaviors exhibited by people living in these settings. Furthermore, these communities often have smaller populations and are socially “close knit” which makes privacy and anonymity exceptionally challenging for those seeking HIV/AIDS testing, diagnosis, and care in rural regions.

In addition to the social challenges that may deter and/or limit individuals living with HIV/AIDS in rural settings from seeking and staying in care, there are several barriers that prevent them from accessing care. These include barriers such as lack of services and specialized providers which are competent and qualified to manage the person’s condition. Treatment costs for individuals living with HIV/AIDS can be especially high in these settings because not as many people are utilizing the care in the geographic area which drives per person costs higher. If the individual does not qualify for Medicaid and/or other assistance programs, the person may be left unable to effectively manage their condition due to financial constraints.

With an awareness of these challenges and behaviors, it becomes important for rural health providers such as health clinics, local health departments, social service agencies, pharmacies, and others to take steps to make a difference in the lives of people living with HIV/AIDS. Below are some resources and actions steps to consider utilizing and implementing in these communities:

Reduce stigma and discrimination of people living with HIV/AIDS by starting with [three simple steps](#) developed by the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#). The [three simple steps](#) include getting the facts, learning how to talk about HIV/AIDS, and beginning to take action.

Learn about resources such as the [HIV Care Connect](#) which can be an excellent tool for rural providers, individuals living with HIV/AIDS, and/or community member who want to learn more.

Help decrease the transmission of HIV by promoting preventative measures in your community such as [pre-exposure prophylaxis](#) (PrEP).



Nick Brady
Illinois Public Health
Association

Author Information

Nick Brady works with the Illinois Public Health Association as an HIV Care Connect Associate and as the Trauma-Free Illinois Initiative Coordinator. He can be reach by phone at (217)-522-5687 or email at nbrady@ipha.com.



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Rural Medical Education Program (RMED) Develops White Paper on Recruitment and Retention of Rural Health Professionals for the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)

Recruitment and Retention of Rural Health Professionals: An overview, was collaboratively written by faculty and students in the Rural Medical Education (RMED) program at the National Center for Rural Health Professions, University of Illinois College of Medicine Rockford. The goal of the PAHO white paper was to review the literature, identify successful strategies of physician recruitment and retention, and discuss next steps in addressing physician shortages with the information gathered from rural programs worldwide. The literature review identified 8 themes in health professions and workforce development and issues globally: rural background/upbringing, target rural-interested student/professionals, influence of community development activities, incentives, outcomes related to access and recruitment, medical education experiences in rural areas, retention, and other factors in recruitment and retention. A total of 372 publications were identified that contained information regarding new and old successful approaches to meeting the healthcare needs of rural people and rural communities.



**Alexandra McVickers,
M2 RMED Student**

The results of our global review showed that the most important factor in recruitment and retention of physicians to rural areas is the initial selection process of medical students. Overall, the literature collectively supports that rural medical education programs should initially focus on recruitment of students from rural backgrounds and then provide a curriculum that supports education for rural practice. Specific factors related to successful recruiting of physicians to rural areas include family, community acceptance, and academic advancement. If these recommendations are followed by medical institutions globally, a positive shift in meeting the demands of physician shortage in rural areas could be seen in the future.

The goal of the Rural Medical Education program is to recruit students from rural areas that wish to return to their hometown or other underserved communities in Illinois and provide healthcare. As of August 2018, 66% of practicing RMED graduates are in towns of under 40,000 population. Several strategies have made the program success such as early exposure to medicine through pipeline programs and immersion opportunities for high school students, and partnering with community based organizations and educational institutions from across the state to promote a “grow your own” model. The rural medical curriculum is a separate curriculum from the standard medical school curriculum. The additional curriculum includes structured discussion about rural healthcare delivery in the first and second year, and community research projects in the third and fourth year. Finally, after completing medical school students are highly encouraged to return to their hometowns and practice medicine in their communities.

I would like to acknowledge medical students William Tian and Nicole Blumenstein and faculty members Dr. Michahel Glasser, Dr. Hana Hinkle and Dr. Martin MacDowell for their contributions to this project.

NCRHP is a collaborating center for the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO).

Save Tiny Lives with the Gift of Donor Milk

The Lee County Health Department (LCHD) recently partnered with Mothers' Milk Bank of the Western Great Lakes (WGL) by becoming a milk bank depot. A milk depot is a drop-off location where lactating mothers can bring breast milk they wish to donate. LCHD is pleased to provide a closer option for area donors.

To become a donor, a mother must complete a short phone pre-screening process with a representative from Mothers' Milk Bank of WGL. Next, she will need to complete a blood test, free of charge. After that, she and her infant will need to have a physical exam by their medical provider. Once this is sent back to the Mothers' Milk Bank of WGL home location, then the donor is given an ID number and is able to take donated milk to any milk bank depot. She needs to donate at least 100 ounces with her first donation and subsequently she can donate any amount as often as she would like.

At LCHD, Maternal & Child Health staff accept the donations of breastmilk and store it in a freezer. They record when the milk was pumped and when it needs to be shipped to the Mothers' Milk Bank of WGL. After the Mothers' Milk Bank of WGL receives the milk donations, the milk is tested, pasteurized and then bottled. The majority of the milk is used in the NICU (Neonatal Intensive Care Units) for infants whose mothers aren't able to produce enough milk, are on medications that prevent her from breastfeeding or other situations.

LCHD held a Grand Opening for the new Milk Bank Depot on January 16, 2019 where within the first 20 minutes, 2 mothers donated close to 400 ounces of breastmilk.

The Milk Depot is located at the Lee County Health Department, 309 S. Galena Ave. Suite 100 in Dixon, Illinois. For more information, call Melissa Feit, Director of Maternal & Child Health at 815-284-3371 or email mfeit@lchd.com.

Mothers' Milk Bank of the Western Great Lakes

The Illinois Milk Bank needs your support!

Milk depots help safeguard our donor human milk supply for babies and families in Illinois that need it most. **Milk depots are designated milk drop-off sites where approved donors drop off their frozen breast milk.** These sites make it easier for moms in the community to donate.

Depots promote awareness of the importance of human milk and the programs offered by depot facilities, such as WIC services, immunization programs, and other public health programs.

We are actively expanding our milk depot network and would love to work with hospitals, clinics, WIC agencies, and public health departments in rural Illinois. **For more information, please contact Nicole at 847-262-5134 or nicole@milkbankwgl.org.**

A huge THANK YOU to our current Illinois WIC and Public Health Department depots!

Lee County Health Department, Rock Island County Health Department, Peoria City/County Health Department, McLean County Health Department, McDonough County Health Department, Coordinated Youth & Human Services, & CEDA WIC Diversey

Please join our milk bank family!



Phone: 847-262-5134
Website: www.milkbankwgl.org

IRHA Student Board Member Participates in National Rural Health Association Leadership Conference

Vicki Brown, student board member for the Illinois Rural Health Association, represented Illinois at the annual National Rural Health Association Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C. There was a total of sixty-five in attendance this year. The conference began with an introduction and greeting from Alan Morgan, the Chief Executive Officer for the National Rural Health Association. Rob McVay, the Director of Operations and CFO of the National Rural Health Association, gave a presentation on Non-Profit Financial and Regulatory Update in which he discussed managing the accounts payable cycle in a changing office environment. He talked about the segregation of duties and the challenges to traditional accounts payable routing and approval systems. He discussed the use of virtual credit cards in which a single use credit card is linked to the company credit card. Throughout the first day of conference, many other sessions were held which included a discussion of the HRSA grant approval system, the benefits of policy and legislation updates through state rural health association membership, and a CMS review of health disparities and building organizational responses to address health disparities. The attendees broke into small groups and discussed advocacy in each member's states.



The second day began with a presentation on the federal perspective of rural health issues. The big talk was focused in on the opioid crisis and the federal financing through the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018. There was a presentation centered on marketing the value of state rural health membership in which Brock Slabach and representatives from Indiana, Mississippi, and New England presented their state's logic model for marketing. The final presentation of the conference was presented by Robert Croyle, PhD, from the National Cancer Institute. He discussed the shift from the high incidence rate of prostate cancer in urban areas to now being high in rural areas and presented that monies had been designated for further research into the attributions of this shift.

The National Rural Health Association leadership conference was a great opportunity to network with policy advisors and fellow representatives of state rural health associations. It was a great learning experience. Rural health disparities occur in every state, and it was a great opportunity to explore other avenues of addressing these issues.



Register for these events at: www.icahn.org



2019 Illinois Diabetes Symposium: *Beyond Blood Sugar*

Tuesday-Wednesday, May 14-15, 2019
Crowne Plaza & Conference Center, Springfield

Learn current information on diabetes prevention and control, motivational interviewing, reimbursement, recruitment, and medication management – and earn nursing and pharmacy credits!

New! Special School Nurse Tract

Funding provided by the IDPH Improving the Health of Illinoisans Through Chronic Disease Prevention (CDC DP18 1815).



Behavioral Healthcare Conference *Addressing Social Determinants of Health in Illinois*

Thursday, April 4, 2019
Illinois Education Association, Springfield

This information-packed day will provide you with thought-provoking ideas and needed resources to help you address the behavioral health needs of people in your community! Participants can earn 5.5 Nursing Hours or 5.5 Hours for LCPC, LCSW or LMFT!



This program is supported by the Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), under grant H54RH00019, Rural Hospital Flexibility Program.



2019 Cyber-Security Conference *What Every Healthcare Worker Needs to Know*

Thursday, June 13, 2019
Illinois Education Association, Springfield

More information available soon!

Southern Illinois Preparedness for Seismic Activity

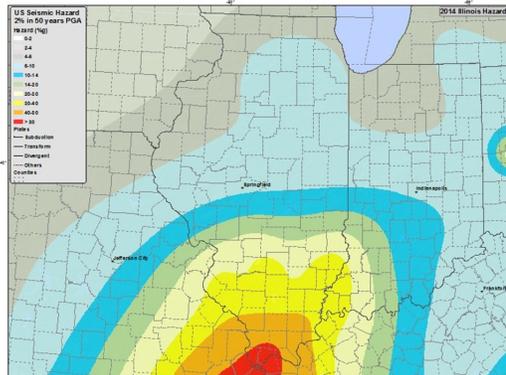
There is considerable agreement among the scientific community that Southern Illinois is particularly at risk for catastrophic earthquakes due to its location on two major fault lines (USGS, 2009). The New Madrid Seismic Zone (NMSZ) is the most active seismic area in the United States east of the Rocky Mountain. It is located in southeastern Missouri, northeastern Arkansas, western Tennessee, western Kentucky and southern Illinois. In addition, the Wabash Valley Seismic Zone (WVSZ) is located in Southeastern Illinois and Southwestern Indiana. The NMSZ appears to be about 30 years overdue for a magnitude 6.3 quake. The United States Geological Society (USGS) estimated in 2009 that there is a 25-40 % chance of having a magnitude 6 or larger earthquake in 50 years (USGS, 2009).



Kevin Atchason, D.O.
MPH Candidate at
University of Illinois
Springfield

Of particular concern is the area known as the “American Bottoms”, which is the area ranging from Alton south to Monroe County. This area has a higher earthquake hazard because it is in a flood plain, and the earth’s crust is harder, colder, and drier, with less fractured rocks in this area (USGS, 2009). Therefore, seismic activity would result in significantly more damage than those we typically think of in California (Missouri Dept. of National Resources, 2009).

There is concern that significant seismic activity in this area will result in the flooding of fields and roads and disruption of agriculture for weeks to months.



Illinois Seismic Hazard Map (USGS)

Consequently, agricultural flooding would cause contamination of surface water such as rivers and streams due to the release of agricultural chemicals. Roadways in the Mississippi Valley could become impassable because of bridge failures and cracking of road surfaces.

Southern Illinois Counties should be prepared for activity on the NMSZ and WVSZ. Rural areas are particularly vulnerable to catastrophes due to lack of health care workers and resources. In addition, rural resident populations tend to be spread over a larger geographic area, making it hard to render emergency care.

Therefore rural communities should be encouraged to have an emergency preparedness kit to survive on their own for a minimum of three days, in the event of a widespread disaster, such as an earthquake.

Personal protective measures during an earthquake include (IEMA, 2010):

- DROP onto your hands and knees to prevent from being knocked down
- COVER your head and neck with one arm and hand or crawl under a table
- HOLD ON until shaking stops

IEMA provides several preparedness tips and information are through the Ready Illinois Facebook Page (www.facebook.com/ReadyIllinois).

Author’s Information: Kevin Atchason, D.O., is an MPH Candidate at University of Illinois-Springfield and candidate for Certification in Climate Change and Health at Yale University. He is an AmeriCorps member and works at Illinois Public Health Association. He can be contacted at kevinatchason@yahoo.com.

Clinics embrace Lean Daily Improvement to advance chronic care management

Purdue Healthcare Advisors (PHA) at Purdue University is helping Critical Access Hospitals, Rural Hospitals, and other small and under-served clinics and practices up their game on chronic care management, resulting in improved care and better reporting metrics.

Among the organizations assisted, Elwood Family Medicine and Community Care Network, Inc. (CCNI) wanted to improve their patient population's Hemoglobin A1c (HbA1c) levels and turned to PHA for Lean Daily Improvement (LDI), an improvement process run at the point-of-service to make small-step changes without major workflow disruption. Once trained, LDI Facilitators choose key performance metrics; collect and display data visually; run team huddles to get to root causes; assign corrective actions; and keep the process moving.

Elwood Family Medicine was challenged with identifying its targeted patients. "By the time the diabetic patients get to us, many are extremely sick," said Practice Manager Nancy Bolds. "Because they come to us from multiple sources such as Veterans Offices, local employer-owned clinics, and other specialists, we have been challenged with collecting their health information, especially with regard to chronic care management."

Over at CCNI, Clinical Quality Analyst Michelle Curran, RN, wanted the group of Community Healthcare System-affiliated providers to schedule timely follow-up visits for patients with HbA1c test results above 9%.

PHA lean coaches helped both groups apply LDI to their workflow to hit target goals. When she reported the number of returning diabetes patients had risen from 26% to 88%, Curran added, "Through LDI, we were able to create a well-organized platform for patient outreach that could be incorporated successfully into the everyday workflow. The principles of LDI gave us a great baseline as to what office protocols and workflows are needed to be successful in outpatient outreach."

Elwood Family Medicine, in the same six weeks, reached its goal of capturing 100% of A1c patients, and the work enabled them to decrease the percentage of patients with scores outside the preferred range from 16% to 12% to reach an important CMS quality benchmark.

It makes you focus on just one thing and then you fix it. You develop your process. It sounds simple, but you have to take the time to fix the problem. Then you get excited. Now when we have a problem, the first solution that comes to mind is LDI.

— Practice Manager Nancy Bolds

Lean Daily Improvement offered online

Now Illinois rural healthcare providers can leverage the power of this emerging lean tool to improve point-of-service processes and boost metrics

- Affordable, convenient training to build lean capacity
- Option to earn a digital badge and/or certification as an LDI Facilitator through the PHA Direct e-learning platform
- Online training modules paired with lean coaching and access to a repository of real-world case studies
- Organizations benefit from student LDI applications



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Purdue Healthcare Advisors
REGENSTRIEF CENTER FOR HEALTHCARE ENGINEERING



IRHA 2018 Physician of Excellence Award Presented Across the State

In a tradition started more than 15 years ago by the National Rural Health Association, the Illinois Rural Health Association has been honoring physicians who exhibit a special commitment to rural healthcare. Award presentation receptions are held every fall in each winner's community.

“One of the biggest healthcare challenges across our nation is the shortage of physicians who practice in rural settings. IRHA feels it is important to recognize those who have accepted this calling and gone out of their way to make an impact,” explained Margaret Vaughn, IRHA Executive Director.



**Dr. Philip Holloway of Horizon Health - Paris, Illinois
2018 Physician of Excellence Winner**



**Dr. Kelsy Hopkins of Greenville
2018 Rural Physician of Excellence Winner**

IRHA 2018 Physician of Excellence Award Presented Across the State



**Dr. David Asbery of Mt. Vernon
2018 Rural Physician of Excellence Winner**



**Dr. Kyaw Naing of Memorial Hospital of Carbondale
2018 Rural Physician of Excellence Winner**

IRHA 2018 Physician of Excellence Award Presented Across the State



**Dr. J. Gregg Fozard of Pinckneyville Memorial Hospital
2018 Physician of Excellence Winner**



**Dr. Roger Wujek of HSHS St. Francis Hospital in Litchfield
2018 Physician of Excellence Winner**

IRHA 2018 Physician of Excellence Award Presented Across the State



**Congrats Dr. Arnold Faber of Perry Memorial Hospital
2018 Physician of Excellence Award Winner**

RIMSAP Helps Future Doctors. RIMSAP Helps Rural Communities.

Whether you are a future medical student or a resident of rural Illinois, RIMSAP can help.

The Program helps qualified applicants, who agree to practice medicine in rural Illinois, hurdle financial needs and academic barriers at the University of Illinois College of Medicine.

So it's a win-win all around.

If you have a vision of becoming a doctor, see how RIMSAP can help you.

Applications are due by Nov. 1.

www.rimsap.com

**Rural Illinois
Medical Student
Assistance Program**



**New in
2019!**



New benefits to take charge of your health!



FREE Gym Membership

Qualifying members age 16 years and up can receive a certificate to cover monthly membership fees at participating locations.



FREE School Uniforms

Parents of qualifying members in 1st – 5th grade can receive a voucher for one shirt, one pair of pants, and one sweater (up to three vouchers annually).



FREE Afterschool Care

Parents of qualifying members age 6 – 18 years can receive a waiver to assist with afterschool care fees at participating locations.

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UWAGA: Jeżeli mówisz po polsku, możesz skorzystać z bezpłatnej pomocy językowej. Zadzwoń pod numer 1-866-329-4701 (TTY: 711).