



May/June 2008

Critical Access Hospital Program Newsletter

In This Issue

- IRHA receives Network Development Grant for the Indiana Statewide Rural Health Network (InSRHN)
- IRHA hires Associate Project Coordinator for FCC Pilot Program
- Lt. Governor Becky Skillman
- Community Hospital of Bremen Awarded Network Development Grant
- Decatur County Memorial Hospital Goes Green
- Important Save the Dates for RPM Project Participants, CEOs and InSRHN Members

QUICK CLICK INFORMATION

[CMS Manual Update—CAH Observation Beds](#)

[CAH Quality Improvement Activities & Reporting on Quality Measures: Results of 2007 National CAH Survey](#)

[Differences in Measurement of Operating Margin](#)

[At home study eight week Grant Writing Course](#)

[Changes in the Rural Registered Nurse Workforce](#)



Indiana Rural Health Association Awarded Grant from Department of Health and Human Services Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)

Grant Will Expand the Indiana Statewide Rural Health Network (InSRHN),
a Formal Network Comprised of Rural Health Organizations and Providers in
Indiana

From its satellite office in Terre Haute, the Indiana Rural Health Association (IRHA) announced today that it received a \$180,000 grant with a recommendation for the same award over the second and third years of the project from the Department of Health and Human Services Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). The goals and objectives of the program have been designed and adopted by the network members in an attempt to meet the needs of rural health care providers and ultimately meet the health care needs of rural residents in Indiana.

The Indiana State Rural Health Network (InSRHN) is a formative rural health network that is designed to improve the financial viability and sustainability of rural health care providers in Indiana. The successful development of the InSRHN will enable Indiana's rural health providers to meet the health care needs of rural residents. All of the strategies of this program are aimed toward this end. This project is centered on the ideology that, by forming the InSRHN, the network members will have the opportunity to: increase communication and connectivity; achieve greater operational efficiency; obtain and utilize appropriate Health Information Technology; develop self-sustaining programs; develop shared services that provide cost savings; provide a forum for education programs that meets the needs of rural health care providers; as well as others as determined through ongoing needs assessment and strategic planning processes.

Indiana Rural Health Association Executive Director Don Kelso said, "The IRHA staff and InSRHN Board of Directors have worked very

2008 National Conference on Medication Access, Use & Safety in Rural America

Medicare Convention 2008 – Mission POSSIBLE

HRSA Office of Rural Health Policy

Prevalence of Evidence-Based Safe Medication Practices in Small Rural Hospitals

Indiana Dashboard on Health Care Quality Compared to all States Overall Health Care Quality from AHRQ

Rural Health Resource Center CAH News

FCC: Broadband Opportunities for Rural America

Grants.gov Spring Newsletter

The NPI will be Required on all HIPAA Standard Transactions by May 23

CMS Web site



Enhancing the health and well-being of rural populations in Indiana through leadership, education, advocacy, and collaboration

hard during the planning phase of this project with great anticipation of receiving this grant award. Along with IRHA accepting the opportunity to implement the \$16.1 million dollar FCC Pilot Project Program for the State of Indiana, we see an unprecedented opportunity for Indiana and particularly the rural areas of our great state to truly move into the 21st century in regard to information technology and connectivity, which should help improve the overall health and well-being of our residents.” This federal grant will fund 90% of the network’s expected operating costs over the three-year project period.

To find out more InSRHN or to become a member, contact Cindy Large, Interim Network Director, at clarge@indianarha.org or 812-478-3919 ext. 229.

SAVE THE DATE

InSRHN Member/Board Meeting
Tuesday, June 17, 2008

5:00 pm – Dinner

French Lick Resort/Casino

SAVE THE DATE!

Wednesday,
August 13, 2008

The Marten House
Lilly Conference Center
1801 West 86th St.
Indianapolis, Indiana

“Journey to Excellence”

Educational Program for Critical
Access Hospitals



Jointly sponsored by the Indiana Rural Health Association and Health Care
Excel, the Indiana Medicare Quality Improvement Organization



We'll See You in French Lick!!

June 16 & 17, 2008

2008 IRHA Annual Meeting & 11th Annual Rural Health Conference

**Please Join Us As We Share
“Rural Health—The Tradition Lives On”
June 16 & 17, 2008
French Lick Resort/Casino**

[Registration Form](#)
[Conference Brochure](#)

Book your hotel reservations now the French Lick's website at www.frenchlick.com. Use group code INRural.

Visit the IRHA website at www.indianaruralhealth.org for a listing of the 2008 Conference Exhibitors.



Becky Sanders 812-478-3919 ext. 232 bsanders@indianrha.org

**Becky Sanders
FCC Pilot Program
Associate Project Coordinator
Indiana Rural Health Association**

Becky Sanders, an Indiana native, is very excited to be back in the Indianapolis area. Becky is an Indiana State University graduate and finds it ironic that she is now working for the IRHA back in Terre Haute after spending the last 14 years living in North Carolina, New Jersey, and the northwest suburbs of Chicago, Illinois.

Becky has worked in telecommunications for the past 11 years, most recently in the Chicago regional offices of the National Exchange Carrier Association. There are many similarities in her new role – IRHA works with rural hospitals and clinics; with her previous employer, she worked with rural telephone companies.

Last November, the state of Indiana was granted \$16 million to bring broadband access to the 35 Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs) throughout the state. Becky will be working closely with OCRA and different telecommunications providers and Critical Access Hospitals around the state on the FCC Pilot Program, which addresses needs for improved access to health care services, providers, patient information, and health care education and training for rural residents.

A meeting of CAH representatives is being planned on the last day of the IRHA Annual Conference (June 17) to discuss the needs of the hospitals and to obtain Letters of Agency so that IRHA can submit information to the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) on behalf of the CAHs. Stay tuned for more details.



Lt. Governor Skillman with Susie Bruce

New RISE 2020 Ombudsman Guides Rural Community Development Projects

Governor Daniels and Lt. Governor Skillman are committed to ensuring that all areas of our state thrive and build on their existing assets. In order to assist rural communities in achieving their visions for the future, Susie Bruce has taken on the role of RISE 2020 Ombudsman at the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs.

As you may know, the Rural Indiana Strategy for Excellence, or RISE 2020, is a strategic framework, developed with the help of citizens, to enhance the quality of life and economic vitality in rural Indiana. As the RISE 2020 Ombudsman, Susie's duties include providing communities with troubleshooting advice about rural development needs, contributing a neutral perspective regarding communities' specific issues,

and identifying potential state and federal resources for communities to utilize. The RISE 2020 Ombudsman specializes in assisting communities that are having difficulty getting a project started or those that have taken initial steps on a project but are now unsure of how to proceed.

As a native Hoosier who was transplanted to a rural Texas community near Houston for 25 years, Susie Bruce has experienced firsthand how the changing dynamics of a community affect its members' lives. Susie developed an extensive background in successful community building while employed by the YMCA of Greater Houston. She is driven by her passion for bringing volunteers, staff, and community leaders together to achieve a common goal. Our state is fortunate that Susie has chosen to return home to assist Hoosiers in their quest for a high quality of life.

As the RISE 2020 Ombudsman for the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs, Susie combines her work experience with her notable ability for building better communities. If you think the RISE 2020 Ombudsman could assist your community, please contact Susie at sbruce@ocra.in.gov or 317-232-8908.

Community Hospital of Bremen Awarded HRSA Development Grant

Community Hospital of Bremen has received \$535,016 in grant funding from a HRSA Rural Health Network Development Grant. The funding will be used over the next three years to develop an electronic medical record for the hospital and the local family practice physicians. The project, Connecting Health Information for Rural Providers (CHIRP), is a collaborative effort between the hospital and three local family practice physician groups. The first phase of the project will be to complete the electronic medical record at the hospital. Phase two will create a portal for physicians to access patient data, followed by phase three, which will provide an EMR to the physician offices. The entire project will be guided by a network board composed of hospital and physician office representatives. The network will have specific, measurable outcomes to ensure that the health data that is captured electronically is achieving the desired clinical outcomes, namely to improve the overall health of the patients in the community.

Be Green....\$ave some Green

Decatur County Memorial Hospital is introducing a new program that will help us save our environment, and help our staff save money.

Here's how it works.....

For a limited time, you can purchase a 22 oz. plastic, dishwasher-safe, cup with a lid and straw for \$25.00. Use the same cup every time you get a pop in our cafeteria. With this cup, each large pop you buy will cost just \$.25, instead of \$.75.

You can choose a red, black, or GREEN cup.

Your savings.... If you buy one pop everyday for one year at \$.75, you will spend \$195.00

If you buy a new cup and one pop everyday for one year at \$.25, you will spend just \$90.00. This saves you \$130 per year.

Hospital Savings... In 2007, we spent nearly \$3,000 on Styrofoam cups. We estimate that 90% of these cups were used by employees. How many cups do you use in one day? Also, we cannot recycle Styrofoam, so we are paying for dumpster space for all cups that get thrown away.

If you drink one of our complimentary beverages such as water, Crystal Light, Iced Tea, or Lemonade, you can help our cause by purchasing a Blue cup for just \$5.00. This will show your commitment to our efforts in reducing the cost, and waste, of Styrofoam cups.

For those of you who enjoy hot drinks, we are selling 16 oz., insulated hot travel cups with a lid for our cost of just \$5.00. You can choose from orange, blue, or purple. Please consider this as a worthwhile alternative to using a different cup each day, and throwing it away.

SAVE THE DATE

IRHA Program Participants
Stroudwater Benchmarking Project

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

2:00 pm to 4:00 pm

French Lick Resort/Casino



Indiana State
Department of Health

Funding for CAHoots is provided by the Indiana State Department of
Health/State Office of Rural Health.

Critical Access Hospital Program Newsletter

Please send us news about your organization that you would like to have included in *CAHoots*. The information you submit will be included in the next issue, space permitting. You may also email or fax copies of news releases to Susan Gofourth at sgofourth@indianarha.org

Disclaimer: CAHoots articles are prepared as a service to the public and are not intended to grant rights or impose obligations. CAHoots articles may contain references or links to statutes, regulations, or other policy materials. The information provided is only intended to be a general summary. It is not intended to take the place of either the written law or regulations. We encourage readers to review the specific statutes, regulations, and other interpretive materials for a full and accurate statement of their contents.

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