

Fall 2021



CAHoots Newsletter is funded through the IN FLEX State Office of Rural Health (SORH).

Fall CAHoots Highlight

Each CAHoots issue will highlight two Business Partner Network members. IRHA's BPN members have chosen to be a major sponsor of IRHA and the Indiana Statewide Rural Health Network (InSRHN). As you explore the member links, you will find uniquely qualified businesses who possess in-depth knowledge of critical healthcare issues. They stand ready to provide high-performing service to you and your organization.



Your single point of contact for telehealth resources through educational/outreach, presentations, individualized technical assistance, facilitation, connection to local or distant providers, and archived resources via our website and staff.

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Critical Access Hospitals and Employees Receive Awards During October CAH Convening Meeting

(awards presented by David Conrad, Flex Coordinator,
Indiana Department of Health/State Office of Rural Health)

Cameron Memorial Hospital – Community Impact Award

Cameron Memorial Hospital came face to face with a decision as the COVID-19 pandemic raged in fall 2020. Hospital personnel had to decide whether to lead their community into the vaccination phase to help end the pandemic or continue to focus on the current patient care and passively allow others to address the needs of vaccinating the community. Deciding to assist in the vaccination plans, they set up a clinic and gave out their first vaccine on December 18, 2020. During its time operating, the clinic administered over 29,000 vaccinations to people in a four-county area, as well as some from outside the area. For their dedication to helping to end the pandemic by focusing on vaccinations to help stem the tide, Cameron Memorial Hospital is the recipient of a Community Impact Award.

Rush Memorial Hospital and SPARC – Critical Access Hospital Community Partner Award

Rush Memorial Hospital received a Community Partner Award for work with a specific community partner to better the health of its community. The hospital wanted to start a discussion about how to assist community members and their friends and families who were struggling with or otherwise having experiences related to suicide in the county. At that time, Rush County was identified as having one of the highest suicide rates in the state. The rural community of approximately 17,000 persons had experienced 13 suicide deaths in 2016 and 2017. This led to the creation of a group, Suicide Prevention Across Rush County (SPARC) in 2018 that continues to grow as a visible and expanding member of the community. The goal was to increase the number of suicidal ideation hospital visits and decrease the number of suicide deaths, hopefully indicating that more people were talking to hospital providers and others about their challenges before an attempt was taken. Thanks to a wide range of programming brought about by this community partner in direct work with the hospital, the Critical Access Hospital Community Partner Award was presented to Rush Memorial Hospital and SPARC.

Woodlawn Hospital - Critical Access Hospital Patient and Family Experience Award

Woodlawn Hospital improved Critical Access Hospital patient and family experiences in ways that helped its patients. Woodlawn implemented a da Vinci Robot program for the OB/GYN and General Surgery procedures. Implementation of these robot surgeries helped to provide innovative healthcare locally so that members of the community did not have to drive long distances to receive high levels of care, directly addressing one of the biggest ongoing issues within rural, that of transportation. This program has proven itself to be so successful that Woodlawn expanded its robotics program to now include a ROSA machine for its orthopedic surgeries. For identifying a unique way to aid its patients during this difficult time, the Critical Access Hospital Patient and Family Experience Award was presented to Woodlawn Hospital.

Annette Murray, IU Health Tipton Hospital – Critical Access Hospital Hero Award

One of the biggest Heroes of this past year is Annette Murray of IU Health Tipton Hospital. She is the only Quality Nurse at her hospital and spends a great deal of her time performing lengthy manual audits and concurrent chart reviews. On top of this work, she volunteered much of her time, sometimes greater than 6 hours a day to the local vaccination clinic in Tipton County. The hospital staff felt the selflessness commitment to improving the health of their community went largely unrecognized, even though it personally inspired those she worked with. The Critical Access Hospital Hero Award was presented to Annette Murray of IU Health Tipton Hospital for her stellar work during this incredibly trying time.

IU Health Jay Hospital – Community Impact Award

A second Community Impact Award went to IU Health Jay Hospital. While we all know that access to labor and delivery services is dwindling in rural communities, both Community Impact Award winners tried to find a solution to still help their communities after they had to make the difficult decision to stop offering the services. Recognizing that Jay County had one of the highest infant mortality rates in the state, the hospital chose a strategy to restructure how obstetrical care is provided in a rural community. The team created *Healthy Beginnings* to provide care to local mothers and infants that focused on access to care, care coordination, and improved emergency care for pregnant women living in rural communities without OB labor/delivery services. For this stellar work to find a solution in difficult circumstances, a Community Impact Award was presented to IU Health Jay Hospital.

Kara Moyer, Deaconess Gibson Hospital – Outstanding CAH Leadership Award

Karen Moyer of Deaconess Gibson Hospital has stood out for their leadership over the past year. She serves in a variety of critical leadership roles at her hospital, most notably through her leadership of the hospital's Quality Services Department. This includes work with Infection Prevention, Nursing Education, Patient Safety, Emergency Preparedness, Accreditation, and Patient Experience. While all of this is commendable in and of itself, Karen's focus on and evaluation of COVID-19 as early as January 2020 was instrumental in the hospital's preparation for the pandemic to come. This put her hospital and community ahead of the game and helped the hospital to not experience a lot of the shortages that were seen throughout the country, as well as work with its community partners to do everything the staff could to help manage the pandemic. The Outstanding Critical Access Hospital Leadership award was presented to Kara Moyer of Deaconess Gibson Hospital.

Dr. Krystle Hahus, Perry County Memorial Hospital – Outstanding Rural Health Provider Award

Dr. Krystle Hahus, Perry County Memorial Hospital, has experienced the front lines of this past year. As a pediatrician, she identified a need for expansion of the children's vaccine program in her community and set out to get Perry County's vaccination site for the pandemic to also be accredited for the Vaccine for Children Program by the State

Department of Health. Dr. Hahus has administered 855 vaccines for the Vaccine for Children (VFC) Program since November of 2020, which does not include private vaccines or flu vaccines. Since implementation of the program in November of 2020, she has exceeded state standards for vaccination rates. Indiana state vaccination rates increased by 5% in 2020. Perry County shows a 5.4% increase in vaccinations, exceeding Indiana's overall growth rate. For tireless work to supporting vaccination work and particularly in the most vulnerable, the Outstanding Rural Health Provider Award was presented to Dr. Krystle Hahus.

Decatur County Memorial Hospital - Innovation in Quality Improvement Award

Indiana's Critical Access Hospitals have found innovative answers to Quality Improvement at their locations. Decatur County Memorial Hospital improved the patient experience in its Emergency Department and set out to find a way to do this by developing a program to improve customer and family experience that used a real-time feedback program to capture patient's experiences of their Emergency Department visits. This allowed the Department Director to follow up on scores that they felt were too low. Using this data, providers received immediate feedback on individual scores and received both positive and negative comments. The Medical Director also utilized this data to look for opportunities for improvement and provide immediate coaching as needed. This collaboration and partnership allows for an aligned focus and demonstrates that improving customer experience is important to the organization. For this tireless effort to improve the quality of patient's experiences in its Emergency Department, Decatur County Memorial Hospital was the recipient of the Innovation in Quality Improvement Award.



Indiana University Health

IU Health Bedford Hospital Oncology Department Receives 3-Year Re-Accreditation

The IU Health Bedford Oncology Department received a 3-year re-accreditation on August 11, 2021, and celebrated with lunches and tokens of appreciation for the team members. Congratulations to this team who consistently strives to listen to the voice of the customer and represent the values of IU Health.





IU Health Bedford Hospital offered 25 FREE Skin Cancer Screenings at the hospital's Oncology/Infusion Department on Friday, October 8.

The IU Health Bedford Medical Office Building also offered flu vaccines as a drive-through courtesy from September 13 through October 20.



Protect yourself and your family.

'A Special Guy:' Family Mourns as Man Who Put Off COVID-19 Vaccination Dies from Virus



Rod Beatty had parents, a wife, three children and grandkids. He was a school bus driver, a backhoe operator, a college graduate, an elder at Switz City Baptist Church, a volunteer at the Lyons Food Pantry. He volunteered at Wheeler Mission in Bloomington. He enjoyed fixing cars and being outdoors with his family.

He was supposed to preach the sermon at church this Sunday,

Beatty was 52 when died at Greene County General Hospital the morning of Aug. 12. He is among the 13,936 Hoosiers — 90 from Greene County — killed by COVID-19 as of Friday. From March 2020 through the end of July, the

small hospital treated 113 COVID-positive patients. This past Wednesday, one-fourth of the hospital's patients had the coronavirus.

Like 56% of eligible Greene County residents, Beatty wasn't vaccinated against COVID-19. He never got around to it, said his wife, who got her first vaccine dose in March and the second in May.

He didn't wear a face mask unless he had to, and joked he must be immune since he hadn't contracted the virus as the pandemic neared 18 months.

He was a big and strong man with no health issues. But he wasn't immune.

Lisa Beatty watched her husband die. The last time they talked, he asked her to please forgive him for not getting vaccinated. And to tell everyone they knew to get the shot.

She wiped away the tears, sat down at the computer and sent out a message on Facebook that's been seen by more than half a million people.

She thanked the medical staff that tried to save her husband's life, even when there was no hope left. She described the worst days of her life.

An excerpt from her message:

"I made a promise to Rod I would pass this on before he died from COVID and you can do with it what you want. I got the shot, and he didn't. Yes I came down with it but it was mild. Rod came down with it the same time, he was in the hospital talking and face timing us on Monday, Tuesday I was able to go in and be with him, still talking and singing. I showed up Wednesday he was gasping for air, apologizing to me for not getting it and to please let people we know to please get it. He passed away the very next morning."



This story is about Rod Beatty's final days, before COVID-19 took his life, told by people who were there.

'The kind of patient you want'



Katie Ludwig worked a 6 a.m.-6:30 p.m. shift on Wednesday, Aug. 11. A respiratory therapist at Greene County General Hospital in Linton for five years. Ludwig is an integral part of the COVID-19 nursing team at the 25-bed hospital 40 miles west of Bloomington.

Rod Beatty was her patient. He cooperated with the nurses and didn't seem critically ill when he was admitted, although he had a stubborn fever and a dangerously low blood oxygen level.

"He was a special guy, a nice man, willing to try anything we asked him to do, the kind of patient you want."

When doctors recommended turning Beatty face-down to assist his breathing, it's called "proning," he didn't balk like some patients do. "He proned well and he wanted to get better. He was working with us. He was really sick, but he was stable."

During the day, Beatty was receiving heated high flow oxygen treatments which deliver warm humidified oxygen to the airways through a nasal cannula. It helps patients breathe more easily.

At night, he wore a BiPAP mask attached to a machine that pushed pressurized air into his lungs.

There are different protocols doctors and nurses employ to treat COVID-19, but no standard course of treatment that works for all patients.

"There's no real answers, nothing that works for everyone, unfortunately, for the patients or for us," Ludwig says. "We ask our patients to fight with us. We never give a patient with COVID false hope because we just don't know what the outcome will be."

'It's hard. It takes a toll.'

Ludwig starts her patient rounds early the next morning, around 7. She learns that overnight, Beatty's condition got worse, his blood oxygen plummeting to 75%, and he was put on a ventilator.

"It was heartbreakin," she said. "Most of them don't make it off the vent."

She gowns up, enters Beatty's ICU room and notices his vital statistics are dropping. His blood oxygen level is in the low 80s and his heart rate has slowed to 35.

"I make sure the vent circuit is OK and the tube placement was fine. I call for help and his nurse is right outside the door and we end up calling a code because we lost his pulse."

Two doctors and two nurses join them at Beatty's bedside. "We have all of our PPE on when we page that we had a code, and then the team comes in."

Ludwig removes the breathing tube and disconnects Beatty from the ventilator that was breathing for him. She squeezes a hand-held resuscitation device called an Ambu bag to push air into his lungs. Someone starts chest compressions. A pharmacist in the hallway draws epinephrine and other drugs into syringes and hands them into the doctors. A nurse writes down everything: medications given, how much and when, fading vitals.

When it's all over, time of death.

Squeezing the Ambu bag, Ludwig looks up and sees Lisa Beatty through the glass, standing in the hallway outside Room 5. "She comes in to visit and this is going on. When you have family there, it's hard. It takes a toll."

'Code Blue'

Lisa Beatty enters the hospital lobby that Thursday morning and hears a "Code Blue" call to the intensive care unit. She prays it's not for her husband. She had talked to a nurse at 4:30 that morning and knew he was now on a ventilator.

She stands outside the glass wall and sees medical doctors and nurses surrounding her husband's bed, trying to save yet another COVID-19 patient. "I was there. I watched. And I prayed."

After 40 minutes, she puts on a face mask, face shield, gloves and a protective gown. A nurse leads her into the room. She stands close as the attempt to save her husband's life continues. She holds his hand.



Entire family infected

Randy Barnett decided to switch careers, from preaching to health care, about a decade ago. He's been a registered nurse at Greene County General Hospital seven years. He's a supervisor, but with the recent surge of COVID-19 cases, spends most of his time now caring for patients.

He and Rod Beatty were friends for 10 years. Lisa Beatty called him Saturday, Aug. 7, saying her husband was pretty sick, that his fever continued to spike.

Barnett knew the Beattys' 11- and 13-year-old kids had come down with COVID-19 during a family trip to Tennessee and West Virginia's New River Gorge National Park, where they rode inner tubes down river rapids and enjoyed being, finally, on a vacation.

They took Tylenol and recovered quickly from fever and coughing. Their parents both got sick after returning home.

Lisa Beatty, who got COVID-19 vaccinations in the spring, had shortness of breath and lost her sense of smell. She ended up in the hospital for an infusion of Regeneron's monoclonal antibody therapy, which strengthens the immune system.

"I never had a fever, and I was fine," she said.

Her husband wasn't. After Barnett couldn't convince him to go to the hospital, Lisa Beatty drove him there on Sunday, Aug. 8.

He's Face Timing and joking with his kids on Monday and singing funny songs on Tuesday. Wednesday, he's receiving the maximum amount of oxygen and gasping for breath.

And apologizing to his wife, asking to be forgiven for not getting vaccinated against the virus that was killing him.



'He wasn't going to die'

Randy Barnett gets a message from the hospital at 7:57 a.m. Thursday as he's leaving Worthington, headed for work. "ICU 5 is coding and the family is asking for you."

He arrives at 8:10, pulls into the doctor's parking area and rushes to the ICU. "I see five or six people around the bed working on Rod. When I walk in, Katie's doing his breathing for him. I stand behind Lisa."

Barnett puts his hand on her shoulder as she sobs. "She's losing her husband, and I'm losing a friend. I can't even compare my grief to hers."

Even though he knows the likely outcome, he holds onto hope. "I'm thinking to myself, 'Rod is only five years older than I am. I just talked to him a few days ago.' He wasn't going to die."

After the medical team has tried for an hour to save her husband's life, Lisa Beatty asks them to stop. A nurse looks to a doctor and asks, "Are we really done?"

"I finally told them to stop because the outcome wasn't going to change and I knew that. He was gone. All those individuals told me they would keep trying, tears flowing down their faces. My heart breaks for them dealing with this for over a year."

Barnett knew his friend hadn't gotten the COVID-19 vaccination. "He wasn't a conspiracy guy, not an anti-vaxxer. He was like, 'I'll take care of it later.' But for Rod, later didn't come."

Vaccines available

COVID-19 vaccination appointments in Indiana can be scheduled by going online to OurShot.IN.gov, or by calling 211. Walk-in appointments are available at most sites. There is no cost and insurance is not required.

Numbers from the Indiana State Department of Health indicate that the fully vaccinated rates for eligible residents in area counties remains low. It's 58% in Monroe

County, 54% in Brown County, 47% in Morgan County, 46% in Lawrence County and 44% in Owen and Greene counties.

Health officials recommend new guidelines for when to quarantine

GCGH extends vaccine clinic hours

Greene County General Hospital (GCGH) has extended their vaccine clinic hours. Beginning Tuesday, Sept. 7, 2021, the drive-up vaccine clinic will be available on Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesdays.

GCGH provides the FDA-approved Pfizer vaccine and appointments are not required but are recommended to reduce wait times.

GCGH advises the community to get vaccinated for COVID-19. The Pfizer vaccine has been approved by the FDA for individuals 16 years or older, and individuals 12-16 are eligible to receive the vaccine.

GCGH notes their physicians and the CDC recommend everyone 12 years and older should get a COVID-19 vaccination to help protect against COVID-19.

Individuals 12 to 17 registering for the vaccine must register for Pfizer, while those 18 years or older may register for the Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines. Those registering who are 12 to 17 years old must have a parent/guardian consent and GCGH asks the parent/guardian accompanies them to the vaccination site.

To register for a COVID-19 vaccine, please visit: <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/24159814f1dd4f69b6c22e7e87bca65b>. Or arrive at the GCGH drive-up vaccine site located in the cafeteria parking area at 1185 N 1000 W in Linton.

Vaccine clinic hours extended in Greene County

“People need passion in this world”: current, future nurses share thoughts on COVID-19 burnout



Greene County General Hospital Announces Bond Refinance

Linton, Indiana—October 6, 2021—Greene County General Hospital is saving significant money through a bond refinance that will provide an overall \$963,000 in net present value savings, or 15.3% of the previously outstanding bond amount. In addition, the bond issue provides \$8 million in new funding for new construction and capital projects

at GCGH. Declining interest rates and an “A+” rating from S&P based on Greene County’s support for GCGH, prompted the GCGH Board of Trustees to refinance the original bond which was issued to finance the 2013 Hospital expansion. Nate Abrams, President of the Greene County Commissioners and Vice Chair of the GGGH Board stated, “The Hospital is a vital part of our County and the new funding from this bond issuance is an investment in our community.”

Planned use of the funding includes the purchase of real estate currently housing the My Linton Clinic and the My WestGate Clinic. The purchase of these facilities will result in ongoing savings in rental expenses for GCGH. The Hospital Board is also working on plans for construction projects, including updating the parking lot and expanding the GCGH Radiology department to include an MRI suite and an additional Ultrasound Suite. Construction on these projects is planned to commence in late 2021. GCGH CFO, April Settles, says the refinancing procedure, “makes sense given the lower interest rates and the refinance also frees up additional funding for projects. Any increases in our annual bond payments because of the new projects will be effectively offset by reductions in our rent expenses for the two clinics.” It is important to note that the additional funds can only be used to finance capital projects, purchase new equipment, or upgrade existing equipment, per the structure of the bond. GCGH Board Chair, Mike Crane, says “the new projects will greatly serve Hospital employees and our community by providing much needed improvements, expansions and equipment to the Hospital.”





Greene County General Hospital to Host Prescription Take Back Day on October 23, 2021

Linton, Indiana—October 7, 2021—The next National Take Back Day will be Saturday, October 23, 2021, at Greene County General Hospital from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. This event is a safe, convenient, and responsible way to dispose of unused or expired medications, prescription drugs and vaping devices. Participants can drive up to the hospital's main lobby and a hospital representative will meet them at their vehicle to take the medications. Participants are asked to not leave their vehicles and to wear a mask.

According to the Drug Enforcement Agency, at its last Take Back Day in April 2021, DEA collected over 400 tons of expired, unwanted, and unused prescription medications. Over the 10-year span of Take Back Day, DEA has brought in more than 6,800 tons of prescription drugs.

The public can drop off potentially dangerous prescription medications at GCGH, to maintain the safety of all participants and local law enforcement. GCGH representatives will collect tablets, capsules, patches, and other solid forms of prescription drugs. GCGH will also accept vaping devices and cartridges, provided lithium batteries are removed.

Liquids (including intravenous solutions), syringes and other sharps, and illegal drugs will not be accepted. To safely dispose of used sharps such as needles or devices used to manage medical conditions that can puncture or cut skin, place them in a strong plastic container such as a laundry detergent bottle, seal and label the container, and discard in the trash. All used sharps must be containerized before discarding in the trash to ensure the safety of those handling trash. For more information visit safeneedledisposal.org

Helping people dispose of potentially harmful prescription drugs is just one-way GCGH is working with the DEA to reduce addiction and stem overdose deaths.

News from



For the ninth year in a row, Rush Memorial Hospital has won the “Most Wired” award. This award is given to hospitals that excel in the area of Information Technology Management as it applies to improving healthcare, including, but not limited to:

- Protecting patient privacy
- Giving patients digital access to their own health information
- Sharing healthcare data among providers in order to improve patient care
- Preparing for disasters and reducing risks to healthcare data
- Providing the digital infrastructure for:
 - Tracking measures that improve the safety and quality of patient outcomes
 - Improving billing accuracy and operational efficiency in order to control healthcare costs

Rush Memorial Hospital was one of 10 Indiana hospitals to win in the Acute category and one of 9 Indiana hospitals to win in the Ambulatory category.

Rush Memorial Hospital has opened a dedicated COVID Testing and Vaccination Clinic on the corner of Hwy 3 and Foster Height's Road in Rushville, IN. The clinic is located in a building that was formerly owned by First Financial Bank. Since opening on the second of August, the clinic has administered 2077 Vaccinations and 4239 COVID tests.

On Wednesday, October 13, Rush Memorial Hospital held a “relax and unwind” Employee Wellness Event. The event was led by employee representatives working with the Human Resource Department. During the event employees were encouraged to take time off to have fun and de-stress. Activities included meditation, play therapy, adult coloring, walking and a game arcade with snacks and popcorn. An employee lunch was included. In the afternoon, Greenfield Nutritional Smoothies offered protein smoothies to all employees.

Register Now! You Won't Want to Miss This!

Indiana Rural Health Association
Presents
A VIRTUAL EVENT
2021 Fall Forum: Harvesting Rural Solutions
Thursday, November 18, 2021
Registration fees: Members \$50, Non-members \$150
Attendee Registration [HERE](#)

Keynote Speaker
Billy Riggs, MRE, MDIV, CSP, OMG!
“A psychologist masquerading as a comedian and magician”

IRHA welcomes national motivational leadership keynote speaker, Billy Riggs, who will speak twice during the one-day virtual event on “The Magic of Serving” and “How to Become a Born Leader.” You won’t want to miss it!



We will also host two fantastic panel discussions featuring many of our hospital member representatives:

Managing Unprecedented Change in the Modern Healthcare Workforce

Phil Ellis, MBA, Facilitator

Panelists: Robert Brown, Human Resources Director, Harrison County Hospital;
Sherry Jorcak, Chief Human Resources Officer, Pulaski Memorial Hospital;
Deanna Malott, Director of Organizational Development, Henry Community Health;
Julie Warren, Director of Human Resources, Schneck Medical Center

Understanding Federal and State Funding of COVID Relief Funds

Phil Ellis, MBA, Facilitator

Panelists: Gregg Malott, Chief Financial Officer, Pulaski Memorial Hospital;
Chris Knight, Chief Financial Officer, Reid Health;
Dane Wheeler, Chief Financial Officer, Adams Memorial Hospital;
Shawn Williams, Senior Manager, Blue & Company

Full agenda [HERE](#)

Attendee Registration [HERE](#)

Check out upcoming IRHA events by [clicking here](#).