

Fall 2023



CAHoots



CAHoots Newsletter is funded by a grant awarded to the Indiana Department of Health/State Office of Rural Health (SORH) Flex funding.

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 that possess in-depth knowledge of critical healthcare issues. They stand ready to provide high-performing service to you and your organization.

ClaimAid

As a trusted partner and compassionate advocate, ClaimAid is a leading provider of comprehensive eligibility and enrollment services and claims resolution for hospitals, patients, individuals, and their families. For hospitals and providers, it's an improved revenue cycle, educational resources, and a better bottom line. For uninsured and underinsured patients, it's caringly navigating them through the complex screening, enrollment, and appeals process for federal, state, and other health coverage options. As the health marketplace continues to evolve and new coverage options emerge, ClaimAid will continue to guide our clients through the process, helping them understand the options available and what the changes mean for them.

ClaimAid also provides fast, effective customized solutions that simplify and streamline the Medicaid billing process, delivering increased revenue and timely reimbursement for the state specific IEP special education services in schools across the country. Partnering with them, ClaimAid works together to generate compensation for the cost of providing crucial health-related services to their special education services.

Please visit claimaid.com for more information.



The mission of Southwest Medical Associates is to be the best resource available for quality emergency department and clinic physician staffing at competitive rates; to promote customer service ensuring long term client retention; and creating jobs for dedicated and talented physicians.

Founded in 1980, Southwest Medical is an established emergency department management group providing services to healthcare facilities throughout the U.S. Southwest Medical is known in the industry for specializing in physician staffing for rural hospitals from low to high patient volume.

At Southwest Medical, no emergency department task is too large or too small. They customize the coverage for their clients based on their individual needs. This ranges from part-time “as needed” coverage to last-minute emergencies, flexible coverage supplementing staff physician schedules to full-time staffing.

The needs of rural hospitals and healthcare facilities are unique, and Southwest Medical understands this. That is why they have been a resource for rural healthcare for more than 30 years.

Please visit <https://www.swmed.com/> for more information.



REGISTER TODAY!

Join us on Thursday, November 16, for the 2023 IRHA Public Policy Forum

**Embassy Suites by Plainfield Airport – FREE Parking
6089 Clarks Creek Road
Plainfield, IN 46168
8 AM - 3:30 PM**

[More information here](#)

Early bird rates apply until November 1.

Bring your legislator(s) and/or their legislative assistants to lunch or for the entire day with a complimentary registration (contact Tina Elliott at telliott@indianarha.org to reserve a spot).



Woodlawn Health Receives Indiana Community Star Award

Rochester, IN - Woodlawn Health's maternity oasis was awarded Indiana's 2023 Community Star by the National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health (NOSORH) on Tuesday October 3, 2023, during a small celebration inside the hospital. The award is given to one rural hospital per state for having the largest impact on changing rural health. Woodlawn Health is keeping their Birthing Center (OB Unit) open despite the closure of many other OB units by surrounding rural hospitals. Alan Fisher, President and CEO, accepted the award on behalf of the hospital.



"As we all know, OB delivery services are going away," said Joyce Fillenwarth, the State Office Rural Health Manager in the Division of Chronic Disease, Primary Care and Rural Health. "It seems like every day you hear of a new one being closed and that's scary to think about how that impacts not only a hospital but the community they serve." Fillenwarth was at Woodlawn Health Tuesday to present the award to Alan Fisher and OB department staff.

"An oasis in a desert provides a life sustaining environment and provides relief to its inhabitants," Fisher said after accepting the award. "Our maternity oases lie in a desert of maternity services in Fulton County and the surrounding community."

Fisher said the closest hospitals providing maternity care were 35 miles southwest and 40 miles northeast.

"I would submit, however, that these maternity oasis around the state could close at any time without financial support from our state and federal government," he said.

Fisher said the Woodlawn Health maternity oasis had seen a 54 percent increase in baby deliveries year over year. He said there would be an estimated 240 births in 2023 compared to just 156 in 2022.

Dr. Chris Ricketts said that Woodlawn was a small rural hospital, and they strive to be the best at what they can do.

"It was not that long ago that we as a hospital was at a crossroad," he said. "It was a crossroad that all too many rural hospitals face. The decision we had was whether to keep our OB department opened or close it."

Ricketts said that for many hospitals OB departments lose money. Woodlawn Health's unit loses approximately two million dollars a year.

"The board, the administration, along with the full support of the medical staff, chose not only to continue providing maternity and newborn care but chose the harder and more uncertain path," he said. "They chose the path of making Woodlawn Health stand out in a desert of OB options."

"We are very honored to be selected for this award," said Fisher. "Our team works daily to ensure we will be an oasis of excellent and compassionate maternity care impacting Fulton and the surrounding counties."



Adams Memorial Hospital Announces Open House to Meet New Surgical Robot, Helps Patients Heal Faster

Decatur, IN - Adams Memorial Hospital (AMH) hosted a community open house to meet their new surgical robot on **Monday, September 25**. AMH has entered a new era in patient care by launching a robotic surgery program using the da Vinci Surgical System. Those attending the open house were able to watch how the robot works, how the robot assists the AMH surgeons, enjoy robot cookies, promotional items, and maybe even operated the robot themselves.

While the term "robotic surgery" may bring to mind the image of a robot operating on a patient, the "robot" is simply a high-tech device that is fully operated by an experienced surgeon. The system enables the surgeon to view structures inside the patient's body in very fine detail and perform delicate operations with a high degree of precision. Incisions can be smaller and the entire process less invasive than traditional surgery. The robot's home is in one of the hospital's three surgical suites, the system is a means of enhancing a surgeon's skills and dexterity. AMH physicians control the movable arms of the device while seated at a computerized console. The console gives the surgeon a high-definition, magnified, 3-D view of the surgical site. Then, using hand and finger movements, the doctor manipulates the highly specialized instruments to perform very specific functions, allowing for even the tiniest movements. This enables the surgeon to reach and precisely alter structures deep within the patient's abdomen through small incisions. The robot is a tool that assists AMH general surgeons, Dr. Jennifer Taylor, and Dr. Benjamin Hart, as well as OB/GYN, Dr. Craig Hanson, by:

- Helping the surgeon to view fine detail inside the body (3-D view of the surgical site)
- Helping the surgeon to perform operations with a high degree of precision
- Smaller and fewer incisions
- Less invasive than traditional surgery



Dr. Craig Hanson
OB/GYN



Dr. Jennifer Taylor
General Surgeon



Dr. Benjamin Hart,
General Surgeon



da Vinci Surgical
System

- Less blood loss during procedures
- Less pain during recovery
- Shorter hospital stays
- Minimal scarring
- Lower risk of infection and complications
- Better recovery times
- Better surgical outcomes

The robot's name was revealed at the open house on September 25. AMH also invited all 3rd and 4th graders in Adams County to help them name their new Surgical Robot. For the robot naming contest, the AMH marketing team dropped off a robot coloring page, asking the Adams County students to color and name their robot. The contest began in late August and completed pictures were picked up in September. Hospital leadership voted on the final name, and each participating school had at least one submission to the final round. The winner of the robot naming contest received a pizza party for their class, and all participating classes received a coupon for a free ice cream treat.

Dr. Scott Smith, CEO and Medical Director of Adams Health Network, is excited to be able to offer our community this new technology, as AMH is one of the few rural critical access hospitals to offer robotic surgery in Indiana. He looks forward to seeing how this new service will improve the recovery process and the overall outcome for AMH patients.

Dr. Jennifer Taylor, Dr. Benjamin Hart, and Dr. Craig Hanson have been extensively trained on the da Vinci system and are already seeing excellent results. The AMH physicians agree that the da Vinci system is an extension of their hands and a tool to help them in the operating room, but they control the procedure at every step. The robot has an excellent camera and allows for superior visualization that both Dr. Taylor, Dr. Hart, and Dr. Hanson are continually amazed with; and they believe the benefits of robotic surgery will definitely be an era that extends well into the future.



Improving Pneumonia Vaccine Rates

As you know, pneumonia is one of the leading causes of hospitalizations and death in the US. Every year, about 1 million US adults seek hospital care due to pneumonia and 1 in 20 of those individuals may never return home. Fortunately, one of the most common types of pneumonia results from the pneumococcal bacteria and is largely preventable through a vaccine.

Qsource and Viven Health have partnered to provide an evidence-based, interactive, behavior change program that specifically targets the pneumonia vaccination. A crucial part of making this educational program a success will be partnering with groups who also have a passion for improving these rates and can directly reach health care providers and the general community. The combination of a proven education/behavior change program with a targeted distribution plan will make this program more likely to improve pneumonia vaccine rates. Key features of the program include:

- Easy to register – scanning of a QR code is all that is needed
- Short – it takes only minutes to complete
- No cost, the program is free to everyone

Qsource and Viven Health have already piloted this program in Nursing Homes and one community, and it has been very well received. We would now like to launch this program statewide and reach 1,000,000 people! Would you partner with us to meet this bold goal? We are happy to answer any questions you may have so please let us know if you would like to schedule a call to learn more.

Here is a link to the video that provides a bit more detail on the project and potential mechanisms your organization might use to promote the modules. The modules were rolled out over the past several weeks. <https://share.synthesia.io/0654b782-7603-490a-a707-941728ba6a74>

For questions or to learn how to launch this program in your community, please contact Tammy Geltmaker at tgeltmaker@qsource.org or one of our team members listed below.

Angeleta Hendrickson – ahendrickson@qsource.org

Cathie Moore – cmoore@qsource.org

Cathy Wray – cwrap@qsource.org

Don Gettinger – dgettinger@qsource.org

Kim Iman – kiman@qsource.org

Tara Hatfield – thatfield@qsource.org



GCGH Earns Double 5-Star Ranking

Linton, IN - Greene County General Hospital (GCGH) is among the top hospitals in the country, according to new rankings from the federal government.



The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) use a one-star to five-star ranking system. GCGH is honored to achieve a 5-Star Overall rating and a 5-Star rating in Patient Experience. The ratings are based on mortality data, hospital re-admissions, safety measures, timely & effective care, and patient experience. Star ratings give people information and help them compare hospitals locally and nationwide.

GCGH Chief of Clinical Quality Jill Raines says, “We are so excited to receive this 5-Star rating as it reflects our unwavering commitment to providing outstanding healthcare services to our patients and community. The 5-Star Overall rating reaffirms GCGH’s position as a cornerstone of excellence in healthcare that remains dedicated to continuously raising the bar and setting new standards for patient care.”

According to Medicare.gov, GCGH is one of only two Indiana hospitals with a 5-Star Overall rating and 5-Star Patient Experience rating.

Jill Raines Awarded Douglas J. Leonard Indiana Caregiver of the Year Award

Congratulations to GCGH Chief of Clinical Quality Jill Raines! Jill was awarded the Douglas J. Leonard Indiana Caregiver of the Year Award by the Indiana Health Association (IHA)!

This honor is for an individual whose performance in the delivery of care is considered exemplary by patients and peers. The award is named after IHA's fourth president, Doug Leonard, who led IHA from 2007 to 2017.

Jill has been a part of the GCGH Team for 20 years and has been the Chief of Clinical Quality since 2019. Congratulations, Jill, and thank you for ALL you do for GCGH, its people, and patients!





Vital4Life Recovery at SCCH

<https://www.mywabashvalley.com/gdl/vital4life-recovery-at-scch/>

Sullivan, IN - Sullivan County Community Hospital now provides medication-assisted treatment (MAT) for opioid use disorder (OUD). MAT is the use of medications in combination with counseling and behavioral therapies to promote and sustain recovery. The goal of MAT is to treat the entire patient, not just drug dependence. Decades of research have revealed a strong link between mental health and substance use disorder.

Some people take drugs to deal with their undiagnosed mental health issues. Others use drugs to numb trauma they may have experienced in their lives. No matter the reason, the underlying cause of the substance use must be treated along with the addiction to make recovery possible.

For more information, call 812-268-2646. Hours are Monday-Friday 8:00 am – 4:00 pm (closed Noon – 1 pm).



Rush Memorial Opens New Clinic in Rushville



On Wednesday, August 16, Rush Memorial Hospital held a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the opening of the new RMH Healthcare Solutions building at 1264 S State Rd 3, Rushville, IN 4617. The building was purchased and remodeled for the purpose of housing primary care and behavioral health services. As of the ribbon cutting, it contains RMH Behavioral and Mental Health Services. Primary care services are expected to be added at a later date.



Rush Memorial Hospital Breaks Ground for New Clinic in Milroy



On September 8, RMH celebrated its first official groundbreaking since 2006. The Milroy Primary Care Clinic will be located at 7695 S. 175 W., Milroy, IN. Construction will be handled by Harmon Construction, with Design Collaborative as architects. The 4,000 sq. foot clinic will bring full-time primary care services and rotating specialists to Milroy.

Rush Memorial Hospital Hosts Annual Community Health Fair

On September 23, RMH hosted the second annual RMH Health Fair at the Boys and Girls Club of Rush County. The health fair provided Rush County residents with an opportunity to obtain free screenings, meet with representatives of RMH departments and local health-related organizations, and speak to multiple RMH specialists and surgeons.

Rush Memorial Hospital Wins “Most Wired” for Eleventh Consecutive Year

For the eleventh consecutive year in a row, RMH 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

RMH was one of 6 Indiana hospitals to win in the Level 8 Acute category and one of 5 Indiana hospitals to win in the Ambulatory category.





Decatur County Memorial Hospital Announces New Facility Opening This Fall



Greensburg, IN - Decatur County Memorial Hospital's construction of the new Rehabilitation & Medical Offices building is more than 92 percent complete, with move-in day just around the corner.

The new building will house a state-of-the-art rehabilitation facility, including physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, a pediatric therapy gym, cardiac rehab, and pulmonary rehab, all on the first floor. Patient comfort and healing remain a top priority; therefore, special care was taken in selecting all unique features of the building, including an interior walking track, private therapy rooms, advanced technology and equipment, and more.

"Our team is looking forward to serving our patients in the new facility. Knowing we will be able to meet the needs of our community with the completion of this building is exciting and will truly be life-changing for patients!" said Lisa Oldham, DCMH Director of Rehabilitation Services.

Once patients graduate from their healing rehabilitation services in the new Rehabilitation & Medical Offices, they can continue into the post-rehabilitation program offered at DCMH HealthConnect located at 1 YMCA Way, Greensburg, IN 47240. The services provided at HealthConnect include a post-cardiac rehab program, a post-pulmonary rehab program, massage therapy, weight management programs, nutrition programs, and diabetes education programs. Many of the programs allow patients to continue to be supervised during their exercises on their healing journey while receiving continued support from the rehabilitation therapy services team.

The new building will not only be home to rehabilitation therapy services, but it will also include an orthopedic clinic with onsite x-ray, a foot and ankle clinic with onsite x-ray, and additional medical offices. This new facility will continue allowing DCMH to expand

the already-growing rehabilitation therapeutic service offerings and increase access to orthopedic services close by.

In 2022, DCMH partnered with the Indiana Rural Health Association and collected responses from residents through a Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA). The responses in the CHNA are used to highlight the strengths and determine the needs to enhance the health of the community further. From the needs expressed, three committees were formed to create action plans that address and meet requests in the CHNA and include DCMH staff, community partners, and key stakeholders. The three committees were formed to focus on Cancer Care, Mental Health & Substance Abuse, and Physical Activity: Weight, Nutrition, and Diabetes. The continued expansion DCMH has with the Rehabilitation & Medical Offices building and services provided at HealthConnect directly address the opportunities expressed in the CHNA responses related to Physical Activity.

“Decatur County Memorial Hospital continues to fulfill the desires expressed in the most recent CHNA by increasing access, awareness, and education. The new Rehabilitation & Medical Offices building, HealthConnect, and action plans our committees continue to enact exemplify our dedication to our community,” said Rex McKinney, DCMH CEO/President.

The Rehabilitation & Medical Offices building is located at 902 N. Lincoln Street, Greensburg, IN 47240. The building is set to open to patients beginning this fall. A grand opening will be held, and the public will be invited; additional details to follow.

To learn more about DCMH providers and services, visit dcmh.net, or to make an appointment, call 812-222-DOCS (3627). Decatur County Memorial Hospital – The Quality Care You Want. Close By.

#

About Decatur County Memorial Hospital (DCMH)

Founded in 1922, Decatur County Memorial Hospital (DCMH) provides a wide range of valuable services to the community. DCMH advances the health and wellness of the community by providing high-value patient-centered quality care, leadership and education. To learn more about DCMH history, management and services, visit www.dcmh.net or call 812-663-4331. Decatur County Memorial Hospital is accredited by [DNV-GL](#).



Tobacco Cessation and Prevention Programming

Indiana Rural Health Association (IRHA) is once again working in tobacco control with a focus on outreach to Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs) and Rural Health Clinics (RHCs). Implementing tobacco treatment systematically has been shown to improve return on investment and reduce readmission rates. We are available to assist with sharing resources from Indiana Department of Health/Tobacco Prevention and Cessation (IDOH/TPC) for educational purposes, as well as promotion of FREE tobacco cessation

resources. Our staff have been trained as Tobacco Treatment Specialists and certified in Freedom from Smoking through the American Lung Association. We are available to educate and assist with the implementation of the Clinical Practice Guidelines for Treating Tobacco Use and Dependence. Please contact Kathy Walker, Program Coordinator, at kwalker@indianarha.org or by phone at 812-870-4056.



Healthy Minds, Healthy Lives Program



Indiana's rural communities are in large part built on agriculture, farming, and natural resource industries. There are many risks associated with these industries, such as weather, farm safety, economic fluctuations, and regulatory burdens that can lead to mental health stressors and crisis. The impact often further affects the communities where farming and agricultural businesses operate. We not only work to reach farmers, farm families, and agribusiness organizations but also rural schools, friends of farmers and their families, local health departments, healthcare institutions, and community-based organizations. Our FREE two-hour workshops provide tools to help the overall community identify mental health stressors and learn about signs of suicidal ideation and related resources. To learn more about our workshops, contact Kathy Walker, Interim Program Director, at kwalker@indianarha.org or by phone at 812-870-4056.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Register today!



Missed a webinar? View past Lunch & Learn webinars by checking out IRHA's YouTube channel.

[CLICK HERE](#)

SAVE THE DATE



Membership

IRHA Membership

Please be sure you stay active with the IRHA. For instructions on renewing your membership, [CLICK HERE](#). Student memberships are free! We welcome new members to join at any time!

[Join Now](#)

If you have any questions, please contact [Carolyn Miller](#).

Main Satellite Office (payable & receivable):
2901 Ohio Boulevard, Suite 240
Terre Haute, IN 47803
Phone: (812) 478-3919
Email: info@indianarha.org

Corporate Office:
201 East Main Street, Suite 415
Washington, IN 47501

Satellite Office:
Located at the Indiana Interchurch Center
1100 West 42nd Street, Suite 305
Indianapolis, IN 46208

