

Fall 2024



CAHoots

The 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.



The IRHA is pleased to welcome, InROC-MAT as a Premier level business partner!

The Indiana Rural Health Association (IRHA) successfully acquired the Rural Communities Opioid Response Medication Assisted Treatment Access program funding from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).

Over the next three years, IRHA, in collaboration with its partners LifeSpring Health Systems and the Richard M. Fairbanks School of Public Health (FSPH) ECHO Center, will be at the helm of an initiative aimed at expanding the availability of medication-assisted treatment (MAT) for various SUDs. This initiative will be executed by establishing five permanent MAT access points and a mobile unit access point strategically positioned within the targeted service area. The rural counties that will be directly benefited by this program include Orange, Crawford, Perry, Spencer, and Harrison. This endeavor will culminate in amplifying MAT access, obliterating geographic barriers, and bridging the gap between treatment and those in need. **[LEARN MORE HERE](#)**

Partners:

- LifeSpring Health Systems
 - Richard M. Fairbanks School of Public Health (FSPH) ECHO Center
-



Krieg DeVault LLP is a full-service law firm with 4 offices located in Indiana. The firm offers one of the most sophisticated teams devoted to health care in the country. Krieg DeVault lawyers have a deep understanding of your businesses and regulatory needs, often from their own experience as industry association leaders, government advisors, and healthcare practitioners. They have also been instrumental in the development of public policies that benefit the healthcare sector.

Please visit **kriegdevault.com/services/health-care** for more information.

IRHA GOLF CLASSIC RECAP

The IRHA extends a heartfelt thank you to everyone who participated in last month's 2024 IRHA Golf Classic! With over 70 players in attendance, your involvement made a meaningful impact on our grassroots programming. The true highlight of the event was the increased interaction among guests, thanks to the new venue format. Bringing together our IRHA stakeholders in an environment that fosters connection is the heart of this event. The stronger our network, the better we can support rural health in Indiana.

A special thanks to our sponsors, especially our title sponsor, TRS Managed Services. Your generous support made this event possible. MKM architecture + design ensured we had an outstanding "golf outing" lunch—elevating the entire experience. Pain Management Group and Indiana Members Credit Union provided fantastic food and beverage service in the bays.

Krieg DeVault sponsored our registration desk, helping our IRHA volunteers keep the event running smoothly. Blue & Co. sponsored the exciting Hole-in-One Challenge, and we nearly had a winner—just inches away! Meyer Najem sponsored our 50/50 raffle, with Andy Hoying winning once again, making his generous contribution to the event even more memorable.

Thank you all for making this year's Golf Classic a success!



[**VIEW EVENT PHOTOS**](#)



Upcoming Events

Indiana Rural Health Association PUBLIC POLICY FORUM

November 21 | Embassy Suites by Plainfield Airport (Plainfield)



What's in store at the 2024 IRHA Public Policy Forum?

Federal Healthcare Policy Updates

- Brock Slabach, MPH, FACHE | Chief Operations Officer, National Rural Health Association

Rural Graduate Medical Education Panel Discussion

- Clif Knight, MD, CPE, FAAFP | Assistant Dean of GME for the Marian University Tom and Julie Wood College of Osteopathic Medicine
- Lucas Norrington | GME Board & Events Manager at Indiana Commission for Higher Education
- Lori Rodefelf, MS | Director of Rural GME Development & Support at Wisconsin Collaborative for Rural Graduate Medical Education

Rapid Fire Sessions

- Grant Achenbach, JD | Senior Associate, Krieg DeVault
- Duke Bennett | Executive Director, Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs
- Annie Cheek, FACHE, MBA, MS | Executive Director, Indiana University Health and Indiana University School of Medicine's Cardiovascular Institute

Behavioral Health Commission Recommendations

- Michael Crider | Indiana State Senator - District 28
- Zoe Frantz, MBA | President and CEO, Indiana Council of Community Mental Health Centers

Discussion with Indiana Legislators

- Tyler Johnson, MD | Indiana State Senator - District 14
- Ethan Manning | Indiana State Representative - District 23

2025 IRHA Policy Priorities

- Dan Hardesty, MPA | Indiana Rural Health Association



We're excited to invite you to the upcoming 2024 IRHA Public Policy Forum on November 21 in Plainfield! This forum is a premier event for healthcare professionals, policymakers, and advocates, offering in-depth discussions on rural health legislation and policies at both state and national levels.

REGISTER

Upcoming Events

IRHA Virtual Spring Rural Summit

March 5, 2025 | Zoom

27th Annual IRHA Rural Health Conference

June 10-11, 2025

IRHA Virtual Fall Forum

August 27, 2025

Office Closures

Election Day - November 5
Veterans Day - November 11
Thanksgiving - November 28-29
Christmas - December 24-25
New Years - January 1



Healthy Start Communities that C.A.R.E. (HSCC)

Healthy Start Communities that C.A.R.E. (HSCC) is actively recruiting and enrolling participants! A shout out to Greene County General Hospital (GCGH) and Decatur County Memorial Hospital (DCMH) for their recent collaboration in perinatal navigation efforts and case management services to over 50 participants within their first month of enrollment.

Newly enrolled participants receive a welcome bag, which can also be used as a diaper bag. Each bag contains essentials for moms and a folder containing education tailored to their specific needs.

Educational information may include:

- Insurance navigation specific to IRHA's **Connecting Kids to Coverage-IN** (CKC-IN)
- National Maternal Mental Health Hotline information with a corresponding magnet (more info here: <https://mchb.hrsa.gov/programs-impact/national-maternal-mental-health-hotline>)
- Count the Kicks information and instructions on how to download the app (more info here: <https://countthekicks.org>)
- IRHA Help information for self-referral for free or reduced-cost direct social services

Education topics on:

- Safe Sleep
- Tobacco and Pregnancy
- Urgent Maternal Warning Signs
- Pregnancy stages and what to expect
- Post-Partum Depression
- Intimate Partner Violence
- Sexual Assault
- Common Concerns During Pregnancy
- Survival Skills for Gestational Diabetes
- Signs and Symptoms of Labor
- Breastfeeding Basics



LEFT: Tori Colestock, RN/HSCC Perinatal Navigator for DCMH and serving eligible participants residing in Decatur County
RIGHT: Nikki Page, BSN, RN, IBCLC, PMH-C/HSCC Perinatal Navigator for GCGH and serving eligible participants residing in Greene County



Pictured: Tori Colestock, RN/HSCC Perinatal Navigator for DCMH and serving eligible participants residing in Decatur County

HSCC programming aims to improve health outcomes before, during, and after pregnancy by enhancing the mother's health, preventing infant deaths, and eliminating health disparities. HSCC programming is available to residents of Bartholomew, Decatur, Greene, Jennings, and Switzerland counties who are planning a pregnancy, currently pregnant, postpartum, or interconception (the time between pregnancies). It also supports the infant up to 18 months of age and fathers/partners.

To provide these comprehensive services, IRHA is partnering with:

- Columbus Regional Health
- Greene County General Hospital
- Decatur County Memorial Hospital
- Norton King's Daughters' Health, Inc.

November is Lung Cancer Awareness Month

November is Lung Cancer Awareness Month, a time dedicated to raising awareness about the leading cause of cancer-related deaths. Lung cancer takes more rural Hoosiers lives than colorectal, breast, and prostate cancers combined. Smoking remains the leading cause of preventable death, but early detection can significantly improve outcomes.



Here are some key points to consider:

Higher Risk and Lower Screening Rates

Rural areas often have higher smoking rates, which increases the risk of lung cancer. To combat this, programs like **Quit Now Indiana** are crucial. They provide resources and support for quitting tobacco. Despite this, lung cancer screening rates in these areas are typically lower due to limited access to healthcare facilities and screening programs.

To address these challenges, a **new mobile lung cancer screening program** is being developed collaboratively by **End Lung Cancer Now**, IU Health and the **Indiana University Melvin and Bren Simon Comprehensive Cancer Center**. This program, funded by a generous \$4.5 million gift from the Tom and Julie Wood Family Foundation, will bring life-saving screenings to high-risk Hoosiers across the state. The mobile unit is expected to screen its first patient in 2025, making it easier for rural residents to access early detection services.

Importance of Early Detection

Early detection through low-dose CT scans (lung cancer screenings) can drastically reduce lung cancer mortality.

“A simple, noninvasive lung cancer screening exam can catch the disease, even before symptoms begin. At least half of the cancers found upon screening are Stage I, which is early-stage cancer and 90% curable,” says **Nasser Hanna, MD**, and founder of **End Lung Cancer Now**.

However, only a small percentage of high-risk individuals in Indiana currently get screened. Increasing awareness and accessibility of screenings, especially in rural areas, is crucial for improving outcomes.

Community Partnerships

This November, as part of several initiatives related to Lung Cancer Awareness Month, local organizations, including **End Lung Cancer Now**, **IU Simon Comprehensive Cancer Center Community Outreach and Engagement Team**, and the **Indiana Cancer Consortium**, have partnered to invite screening locations to open their doors on Saturday, November 9, for **National Lung Cancer Screening Day**.

Nasser Hanna, MD, founder of End Lung Cancer Now, states, “By increasing access to screenings and raising awareness about the importance of early detection, we can make significant strides in saving the lives of rural Hoosiers.”

Indiana Rural Health Association’s (IRHA) Tobacco program is funded by the Indiana Department of Health (IDOH), Tobacco Prevention and Cessation (TPC) as a **Health Systems Change (HSC) partner**. We work to help build the capacity of Indiana health systems to impact tobacco use, specifically supporting the integration of tobacco dependence treatment. Contact Program Coordinator Kathy Walker at **kwalker@indianarha.org**.



INDIANA UNIVERSITY

**MELVIN AND BREN SIMON
COMPREHENSIVE CANCER CENTER**



**END
LUNG
CANCER
NOW**

PREVENTION | SCREENING | RESEARCH



Daviess Community Hospital Welcomes Elizabeth Truelove as Executive Director of Physician and Clinic Operations



Washington, IN – Daviess Community Hospital is pleased to announce the appointment of Elizabeth Truelove as the Executive Director of Physician and Clinic Operations, effective July 22.

Truelove received her Associate of Science in Nursing from Vincennes University in 2011 and her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Western Governors University in 2012. Most recently, she completed her MBA from Capella University, further enhancing her leadership and management skills.

“Liz brings a wealth of experience and expertise to her new role,” said Tracy Conroy, Daviess Community Hospital Chief Executive Officer.

With a strong background in practice management and value-based care, Truelove's previous roles include Operations Manager at Good Samaritan Hospital and Senior Clinical Program Consultant at UnitedHealthcare.

“Liz has proven success in strategic planning, management of 75+ employees, and excellent working relationships with both internal and external customers,” Conroy said. “Liz’s experience and knowledge will be an asset to Daviess Community Hospital.”

Residing in Montgomery, Ind., Truelove enjoys baking, home improvement projects, watching her husband, Michael, play golf, and traveling with their 1-year-old daughter, Quincy.

“I am originally from Washington, Indiana, and I am incredibly grateful to find such an amazing career opportunity so close to home that allows me to contribute to the community that has always been close to my heart,” said Truelove. “I look forward to contributing to the continued success of Daviess Community Hospital and making a positive impact on the health and well-being of our community.”

In her new role, Truelove will serve as a key leader for the Medical Practice Division of Daviess Community Hospital. She will work collaboratively with Conroy to provide leadership and accountability in clinical quality and performance, patient satisfaction, strategic planning, administrative and fiscal operations, facility leadership, and community relations.

“Her effective leadership skills, strong interpersonal and communication abilities, and capacity to work as part of the hospital and medical practice teams will be invaluable,” Conroy said.

Daviess Community Hospital

Daviess Community Hospital's Calcium Heart Scan Proves Life-Saving for Local Patient

Washington, IN – Daviess Community Hospital (DCH) is proud to highlight the life-saving impact of its Calcium Heart Scan through the testimony of Mike Williams, a local patient who benefited from the test.

On March 7, Williams, the father of DCH's Chief Financial Officer April Settles, underwent a Calcium Heart Scan at the hospital. The results revealed a score of 1,557, indicating severe calcification. To put this into perspective, a score of 400 or more is considered a severe risk for heart disease.

"If he didn't have this test, we wouldn't have known of his risks and that he needed to make immediate changes in his diet and exercise routines," said Settles. "Thankfully, we caught this soon enough so that we do have the time and ability to make changes before he had a heart attack or anything worse."

Settles elaborated on her father's experience, stating, "For my dad, just this past March he was the third test patient here at DCH for our new \$49 heart scan. This test helps to determine if you are at risk of a heart attack or heart disease. Everything with the test went smoothly until we received his test results. A test score of 400 is considered high. My dad's score was 1,557. After a significant amount of testing, a stress test finally showed an abnormality, and the Ascension cardiologists told us that it was time for him to go to the cath lab at the Heart Center in Indy. With that procedure, we learned that even though he has two 50% blockages, this simple \$49 heart test likely saved his life. He can now be proactive and make the necessary changes to his diet and exercise to prevent a heart attack."



Williams, reflecting on his unexpected diagnosis, shared, "I really didn't expect them to find anything. It was a surprise at what they found. With six grandkids, I'd like to see them all through their sports and through college, and that's why I really recommend people to have this test."

DCH offers the Calcium Heart Scan to promote and encourage cardiac health and preventative care. The scan, priced at just \$49, is quick, easy, and painless, requiring no injections or fasting. Conducted in the Radiology Department, Calcium Heart Scan results are mailed to patients promptly.

Daviess Community Hospital

Daviess Community Hospital Welcomes Three New Police Officers

Washington, IN – Daviess Community Hospital (DCH) is pleased to announce the swearing in of three new police officers: Matthew Stanley, Norris "Dan" Davis, and Cameron Meade, all of Daviess County. The ceremony took place on Monday, August 5, marking a significant step in enhancing the hospital's security and ensuring the safety of patients, staff, and visitors.



"We are thrilled to welcome Officers Stanley, Davis, and Meade to our team," said April Settles, Chief Financial Officer at DCH. "Their dedication to protecting our community aligns perfectly with our commitment to provide a safe and secure environment for everyone who walks through our doors."

The officers join the Daviess Community Police Department, which includes:

- Chief of Police Caleb Lankford
- Captain Jacob Sims
- Officer Johnny Lagle
- Officer Timothy "TJ" Henning
- Officer Kane Waggoner
- Officer Tyler Holcomb
- Officer Levi Sims



For more information on Daviess Community Hospital and their efforts in our rural communities, check out www.dchosp.org/news.

AHA CPR class scheduled for November 18 at DCH

Washington, IN – Daviess Community Hospital will host the American Heart Association's Heartsaver CPR class. The class is designed for community rescuers such as teachers, daycare workers, firefighters, police, etc. The cost is \$50 per person, however, the class is free for all DCH employees. To register, visit cpr.heart.org or call DCH Occupational Health Nurse Jennifer Shaw, RN, at (812) 254-2760, ext. 1147.

What: American Heart Association's Heartsaver CPR class

When: November 18 from 4-6 p.m.

Where: Daviess Community Hospital, Education Room 1, 1314 E. Walnut, Washington, IN

Contact: DCH Occupational Health Nurse Jennifer Shaw, RN, at (812) 254-2760, ext. 1147

Decatur County Memorial Hospital



Decatur County
Memorial Hospital

The Quality Care You Want. Close By.

DCMH 5-STAR NATIONAL RANKING



September 9, 2024 – Decatur County Memorial Hospital (DCMH) is proud to announce its national recognition for its exceptional cleanliness with a 5-star rating by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). This prestigious recognition is based on patient feedback collected through the Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (HCAHPS) survey, which evaluates patient experiences during recent inpatient hospital stays.

This national ranking was announced one week before the annual National Healthcare Environmental Services Week, the second week of September, in which the team members in the DCMH Environmental Services (EVS) Department are honored for ensuring the hospital is safe, comfortable, and clean all year long.

Becker's Hospital Review compiled a list of hospitals with the highest cleanliness ratings nationwide, and DCMH is honored to be among the top hospitals included. Achieving this rating is a testament to the dedicated EVS department's hard work, excellent organization, and outstanding teamwork. These jobs are difficult, but their unwavering commitment to maintaining a clean and safe environment has made this recognition possible.

"We are thrilled to be recognized as a 5-star hospital for cleanliness," said Rex McKinney, CEO/President of DCMH. "Our staff's dedication to providing a safe, clean, and welcoming environment is crucial to providing safe patient care, and this national recognition validates their tireless efforts."

The HCAHPS survey is a national, standardized assessment tool that gathers direct feedback from patients about their hospital experiences, ensuring transparency and accountability across the healthcare industry.

Decatur County Memorial Hospital

SUCCESSFUL SPORTS PHYSICALS EVENTS HELD FOR DECATUR COUNTY STUDENT ATHLETES



GREENSBURG, IN – September 13, 2024 – Decatur County Memorial Hospital (DCMH) proudly announced the success of the sports physical events and presented the earnings to each participating school. DCMH hosted the sports physical events consisting of five participating schools: Good Shepherd, Greensburg, North Decatur, South Decatur, and St. Mary's. There were two nights available: July 18th for Good Shepherd, Greensburg, and St. Mary's, along with July 24th for North Decatur and South Decatur. Providers who conducted the physicals included Dr. McCullough, Dr. Mungcal, Dr. Roberts, Dr. Steffen, and nurse practitioners Erin Diem, Lauren Karbowski, Monica Livers, Kelly Miller, and Shelly Walsman.



The cost for the physicals was twenty dollars per student-athlete, ten dollars less than the typical cost of a sports physical. DCMH partnered with each school to ensure that all proceeds earned from the events went back into each school's athletic programs. The success was evident, as 139 students attended across the schools, raising \$2,780 that was distributed.

Sports physicals are a crucial step for any student-athlete. They provide the necessary clearance to participate in sports, ensure the athlete is physically prepared, and address potential weaknesses that could lead to injury. They also provide baseline data that can be valuable in monitoring changes in the student athlete's health. Additionally, they offer an opportunity for students to receive guidance and advice on nutrition, training, and injury prevention. Sports physicals are a vital tool to ensure the safety and well-being of any athlete.

DCMH Marketing & Communications Manager, Liz McCoy, said, "Serving our community remains our priority. By offering sports physicals at these after-hours events, we ensured students had access to the care needed. We are happy to make a part of the back-to-school process a little easier for students and parents alike."

Decatur County Memorial Hospital

DECATUR COUNTY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL CELEBRATES ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL INTERNSHIP PROGRAM



GREENSBURG, IN – September 3, 2024 – Decatur County Memorial Hospital (DCMH) is thrilled to share that another group of students has completed their summer internship programs. These programs were designed to educate students interested in pursuing healthcare careers, enhance their employability skills, and encourage them to consider rural health systems.



DCMH departments create training guides in partnership with Human Resources and the Staff Development department to ensure students have a successful experience.

The departments are to give their interns a well-rounded understanding by allowing them to attend various meetings, different departments, and community events. Ellie Cassidy, the Staff Development Intern, participated at the 2024 DCMH Healthy Fair in June, saying, “[attending Healthy Fair] allowed me to see the hospital’s impact beyond its walls and understand the importance of strong community relationships.”

During the summer of 2024, DCMH hosted 11 interns covering multiple departments. Whether students served in clinical or operations-related roles, DCMH gives all interns the experience to successfully continue their education and career paths. The marketing intern, Claire Nobbe, explained, “The introduction to principles and practices at DCMH allows me to step onto campus as a better-prepared student.” The meetings interns attended alongside DCMH staff can be used as pre-class learning tools, conditioning them for future classes by allowing them to develop background knowledge on subjects before experiencing it in classroom settings.

Interning at DCMH also allows students to apply all they have learned in the classroom to real-life situations and gives insight into how rural hospitals work behind the scenes. “From this experience, I have developed a further appreciation for operational-support roles that play into working at a Critical Access Hospital,” said Emily Mangels, a Physical Therapy intern.

Departments request an intern for the summer if they so choose. While the departments play a massive role, the other aspects of the hospital can impact the students significantly. DCMH focuses on providing the necessary education and encouraging students to go after healthcare careers, possibly returning to the area after completing their education. The staff generally allows students to sit in on some of their work to have a well-rounded education in all aspects of serving the community in a hospital. The best way to learn is by watching in real-life situations. Holly Carver, a Hospital Medicine Education Project Student, said, “I learned from physicians, EMS, CRNAs, nurses, and others.” She also shadowed in different areas and experienced new and exciting things. “This was a summer of firsts, and I am very grateful and enjoyed every bit of it.” These students made a difference at DCMH and in their community.

Decatur County Memorial Hospital

RIBBON CUTTING HELD FOR NEW REHABILITATION & MEDICAL OFFICES BUILDING



GREENSBURG, IN – August 9, 2024 – Decatur County Memorial Hospital held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the recently-opened Rehabilitation and Medical Offices building—the new building, located at 902. N Lincoln St. houses 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, direct access, and more.



The new building is home to rehabilitation services. It includes orthopedics and sports medicine, with an on-site x-ray on the first floor, a Decatur County Family Medicine (DCFM) practice, and a primary care clinic on the second floor. DCFM includes foot and ankle/podiatry physicians with an on-site x-ray, women's care OB/GYN physicians, and several family medicine providers.

DCMH Director of Rehabilitation Services, Lisa Oldham, said, "Our team is thrilled to serve our patients in the new facility. Many patients made the transition from the Hospital to the new building with us. They shared how convenient accessing the new building is and how helpful this has been to their healing journey."

DCMH CEO/President Rex McKinney highlighted the collaborative effort that brought the new facility to life. He acknowledged the contributions of the construction teams, DCMH employees, supportive community partners, and donors, all of whom played a crucial role in turning the vision of the new facility into a reality.

The ribbon cutting was well attended and symbolizes the successful beginning of the Rehabilitation & Medical Offices building.

Decatur County Memorial Hospital

DECATUR COUNTY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL HOLDS TIME CAPSULE CELEBRATION



Since opening their doors on February 4, 1922, Decatur County Memorial Hospital has grown from its original 16,000-square-foot building to a comprehensive healthcare facility. Despite being in a small town, the DCMH team's care and spirit rival those of major city organizations. All these years later, DCMH remains committed to this same principle, expanding the campus and services, bringing specialties, advanced technology, and top-of-the-line care right to Decatur County, minimizing the need to drive elsewhere for care.

On Monday, August 19, 2024, DCMH's President/CEO, Rex McKinney, and longtime primary care provider, Mary McCullough, MD, spoke to mark the occasion of lowering a time capsule on the campus — which encapsulated a wide variety of items, from both the past and present, photos, medical equipment, and more.

This celebration was not only to honor the outstanding contributions of DCMH's healthcare professionals but also to create a lasting legacy for future generations. Additionally, this time capsule serves to commemorate the tremendous effort of our team during the COVID-19 pandemic. Their dedication to caring for our community amidst the pandemic will be evident to future generations who will open this capsule in many years.

Greene County General Hospital



Greene County General Hospital Installs New Medication Disposal Drop Box

Linton, IN— Greene County General Hospital (GCGH) is now home to a drug disposal drop box for anyone who has unused and expired medications. The box is located inside the emergency room entrance near the GCGH Police Department and is accessible 24/7 for drop-off. All personal information must be removed from packaging. Pill bottles, plastic bags, and packaging must be firmly sealed to avoid spilling.

The following are accepted:

- Prescriptions
- Vitamins
- Prescription Ointments
- Pet Medications
- Prescription Patches
- Over-the-Counter Medications

The following are **NOT** accepted:

- Needles
- Inhalers
- Aerosol Cans
- Thermometers
- Lotions or Liquids
- Hydrogen Peroxide

Previously, GCGH has hosted Drug Take-Back events that have proven successful with the number of unwanted and expired medications collected. GCGH Chief of Police Bryan Woodall says, "This new drug drop box fulfills a need in our community for people who want to safely and securely discard medications. We're happy to be able to provide this convenient and much-needed service here at Greene County General Hospital."

Expired and unwanted medications collected at the hospital drop box will be securely transported to Indianapolis where all medications will be incinerated.

A graphic illustration of the medication disposal drop box. It includes a green banner that says "Now at GCGH!". The box is blue and black with a green cross logo. Text on the box includes "MEDICATION DISPOSAL DROP BOX", "DISCARD YOUR UNUSED & EXPIRED MEDICATIONS HERE", and "Greene County General Hospital". To the right of the box, there is a list of "Not Accepted:" items: Needles, Inhalers, Aerosol Cans, Thermometers, Lotions/Liquids, and Hydrogen Peroxide. At the bottom, it says "GreeneCountyHospital.com | 812.847.2281".

Now at GCGH!

MEDICATION DISPOSAL DROP BOX

DISCARD YOUR UNUSED & EXPIRED MEDICATIONS HERE

Greene County General Hospital

Not Accepted:

- Needles
- Inhalers
- Aerosol Cans
- Thermometers
- Lotions/Liquids
- Hydrogen Peroxide

• Located at GCGH Emergency Room Entrance

• 24-Hour Access

• Remove Personal Labels

• Seal Lids/ Packaging

GreeneCountyHospital.com | 812.847.2281

Rush Memorial Hospital



Beloved Local Pharmacist Passes the Baton to RMH

In 1975 Gene Kinman and Dan Billman hired Butler pharmacy student Kip Burkett to work part time at the Rushville Pharmacy. In 1980, Gene retired and Kip joined Dan as a full partner. Twenty-five years later Dan retired, and Kip became sole owner of the pharmacy. Now, after 48 years of service to his community, Kip himself is also ready to retire.

"My wife has been retired for 4 years," Kip commented, "and she's very excited to see me retire. In a lot of ways the pharmacy has been my life, and I've missed a lot of things of family life to being a pharmacist. We have three sons and eight granddaughters. I want to spend more time traveling with my wife, spending time with my dad and going to recitals and ball games. Retirement is really about family."

While Kip is looking forward to his retirement, he admits having mixed feelings. "Retirement is going to be bittersweet of course. We see our patients every day and we care about them. It's the people I'm going to miss. Running an independent pharmacy is all about customer service and relationships. Our customers are our friends and neighbors."

Spending time with family has not been Kip's only retirement concern. He says, "My retirement goal is to keep an independent pharmacy in Rush County. Independent pharmacies are more connected to the community and give better customer service." He explained why this is so important,

"People need help. Things are so complicated now. People have questions and in a retail setting pharmacists are more accessible than doctors. You don't have to make an appointment to talk to your pharmacist. You can just pick up the phone and call. Unfortunately, now some pharmacies don't even answer the phone."

While Kip has been ready to retire for a while, he has not been, and is still not, ready to "drop the ball" for his friends and neighbors. This is one of the reasons that it has taken him so long to figure out his retirement. Fortunately, a decision he made eight years ago helped him find the answer he needed for both his family and his customers.

Eight years ago, Kip decided to join the Board of Directors of Rush Memorial Hospital. He says, "The hospital is part of the community and being on the board was one way of making sure the community has good health care. And gosh I learned a lot."

During his eight years of service on the board he got a very personal look at the quality of care the hospital provides. He says, "We have a very excellent hospital for our community size. Our hospital is the envy of other hospitals. We have some services that a lot of small communities don't have."

Kip's experience on the hospital board helped him build a relationship of trust with the hospital in general and Brad Smith, the CEO of RMH, in particular.

This relationship of trust eventually led to Kip's ability to feel comfortable with retirement, knowing that RMH can pick up wherever he left off. He says, "I think it's kind of a win-win situation. We will have the same pharmacy staff, the staff will have the same jobs and we will have the same customers. I get to retire knowing that the community still has a community-based retail pharmacy."

Rush Memorial Hospital

Kip plans to retire at the end of 2024, but he doesn't yet know the exact date. He does know, however, that there will not be any "pause" in customer service. Rushville Pharmacy will close on a Friday and RMH Hometown Pharmacy will open at 157 Foster Heights Rd (the former site of the RMH Covid Clinic and First Financial Bank Branch) on a Monday. The hospital is extremely grateful for this opportunity. CEO Brad Smith said, "We know Kip is passing the baton and we intend to continue his legacy. He is trusting us to continue the system of care he has established for his customers. We feel very privileged to be able to do this."

Brad added, "We're also very thankful that Kip's staff has agreed to stay on. Our customers will get to keep the same great service they are used to and nobody will lose a job over this."

Kip is happy for his customers. He notes, "The hospital will be able to provide some things for our customers that we haven't been able to provide."

Carrie Tressler, Chief Nursing Officer of RMH, is particularly proud of the drive-through service. "People who need to pick up a prescription often don't feel well to begin with," she said, "not to mention elderly patients who don't want to get out and walk in bad weather."

Greg Pratt, Chief Pharmacist for RMH, completely agrees with Kip about the negative impact of increasing complexities on pharmacy customers. Like Kip, he wants to do everything he can to keep things clear and simple for patients. Greg said, "We will continue to offer "compliance packaging", or blister packs of pre-packaged pills that are organized by date and time of day. We will still offer vaccines at the pharmacy. We will always be happy to answer any questions we can, and we will automatically cross check for medication interactions for every prescription that we fill."

Greg is also very excited about the new services the hospital will be able to provide. His favorite is the "Meds to Beds" program. This program will allow RMH Hometown Pharmacy to deliver take-home prescriptions to hospital inpatients right when they're being discharged. "People who are sick enough to be in the hospital don't feel that great when it's time to go home. Now they won't have to stop and pick up meds before going home to rest."

Greg is also happy that some patients will benefit from lower prices on some medications. He explains, "There are some circumstances in which a hospital-owned retail pharmacy can offer discounts that are not available through other retail pharmacies."

Hometown Pharmacy will be open from 8 am to 6 pm Monday through Friday and from 9 am to 1 pm on Saturday. During open hours, the phones will be answered by pharmacy staff, not corporate phone trees. Patients who prefer to communicate via text will be able to do so. The pharmacy will also have an app for patients who want to place refill orders online.

The last question on many people's minds, of course, may have nothing at all to do with the pharmacy. Unfortunately, the future of Rushville Pharmacy's wonderful gift shop is not yet clear. Hopefully Kip will find someone to carry on this tradition as well.

Rush Memorial Hospital

Milroy Primary Care Ribbon Cutting: RMH Celebrates Opening with Community

Wednesday, July 24 – Rush Memorial Hospital held a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the opening of the new RMH Milroy Primary Care. The ribbon was cut by Rush Memorial Hospital CEO Brad Smith and Board President John Byrne. Pictured (L-R) is Dr. Robert Perry, RMH Board Vice President Gerald Mohr, RMH Board Member Mark “Butch” Spurlin, Board President John Byrne, RMH CEO Brad Smith, Nurse Practitioner Melinda Miller, VP of Provider Services Joyce Geis,



Jackie Makofka, Krystal Peters, Director of Specialists Dakota Wainwright, Director of RMH Milroy Primary Care Denise Shepherdson. Also present were Milroy business owners, community members, RMH staff, the RMH Administrative Council, staff of the RMH Milroy Primary Care, Hospital Board Members, Design Collaborative, Harmon Construction, Citizens State Bank, Green Sign Company, and MEDC.

Following the ceremony, tours of the new facility were provided to the community, allowing attendees to explore the facility and meet the dedicated staff.

RMH Milroy Primary Care is located at 7695 S. 175 W, Milroy, IN.

Simulation-based Training

On October 2, 2024, Rush Memorial Hospital proudly hosted an exceptional training session on Codes and Arrhythmias, presented by Rural Health Innovation Collaborative with funding from the Indiana Small Hospital Improvement Program. This session aimed to enhance the care of cardiopulmonary arrest patients through high-fidelity, simulation-based training. Participants had the opportunity to engage in hands-on skills review using cutting-edge simulation technology, guided by renowned expert educators. It was an invaluable experience for everyone involved.





Cancer Prevention in Dental Clinics

Nov
13

6:00 PM - 7:30 PM ET



Join Our Webinar

To register, visit
<https://bit.ly/4eg8JJT>
or scan the QR code below



*CE Credits available for attending live event.

What You Will Learn:

- Dental teams' role in preventing Tobacco and HPV related cancers
- How to implement best practices in your clinic
- Reimbursement and billing codes
- Resources to help Address Tobacco Use and HPV in Dental Settings

The Indiana Cancer Consortium is hosting a webinar for dental providers focused on HPV and tobacco education. The webinar is FREE and will be eligible for 1.5 CE hours. Sign up even if you can't attend to receive the recording.

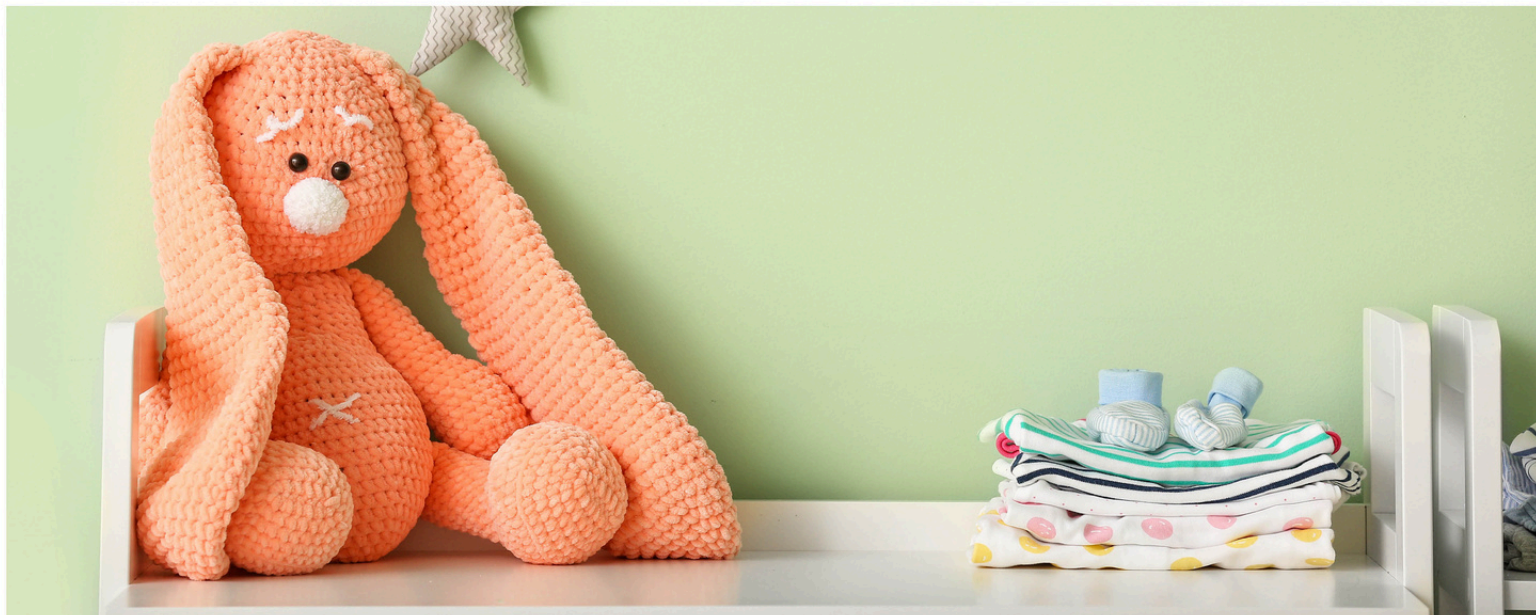
Featured speakers include:

HPV Presentation: **Alessandro Villa DDS, PhD, MPH**, Chief of Oral Medicine, Oral Oncology and Dentistry, Professor, Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine, Miami Cancer Institute.

Tobacco Cessation: **Deb Buckles, CPAHA NCNTT**, Tobacco Control Program Leader, Indiana University Melvin, and Bren Simon Comprehensive Cancer Center

Indiana Quit Line: **Natalie Rivich, MA**, Director, Health Systems Change and Cessation Services

REGISTER NOW



Orange County Community Baby Shower

Are you pregnant or have a baby up to age two? Join the Orange County Community Baby Shower.

This walk-through event will include several vendors highlighting community services related to maternal and child safety.

Walk-in classes covering breastfeeding, labor and delivery, safe sleep and postpartum emotions are open to participants as space allows. Pre-registration, available via the QR code to the right, is required for the car seat clinic and Hands Only CPR offerings.

Thank you to our event partners: Orange County Community Foundation, Orange County WIC, LIFE Family Resource Center of Orange County, Hoosier Uplands, HOPE Resource Center, IU Health Paoli Hospital and Southern Indiana Community Health Care.

Date: Saturday, Nov. 16

Time: 10 am – 2 pm

Place: Orange County Community Center
1075 Sandy Hook Road
Paoli, IN 47454

Cost: Free and open to the public

Register online using the QR code below.



[Click here to register!](#)



Sullivan Co. Community Hospital

SCCH holds annual employee field day

SULLIVAN, Ind. (WTWO/WAWV) — Sullivan County Community Hospital held its annual employee field day. This event began just a few years ago, but has now grown into a favorite at the hospital.



Early Thursday afternoon, 64 members of the hospital staff competed in the individual event. This was a timed obstacle race that competitors could go against the clock or each other.

After that, nine teams of eight came together for a team competition. They were tasked with working together through challenges such as passing water over each other's heads and getting a hula hoop from one end to the other, by using just their linked arms.

"The leaders of the event say this program hopes to inspire fitness in the community. The reason we do this program is to encourage people to be healthy. It makes them comes out, be active, so we just encourage it all year. We do little things all year and this is just our big event."

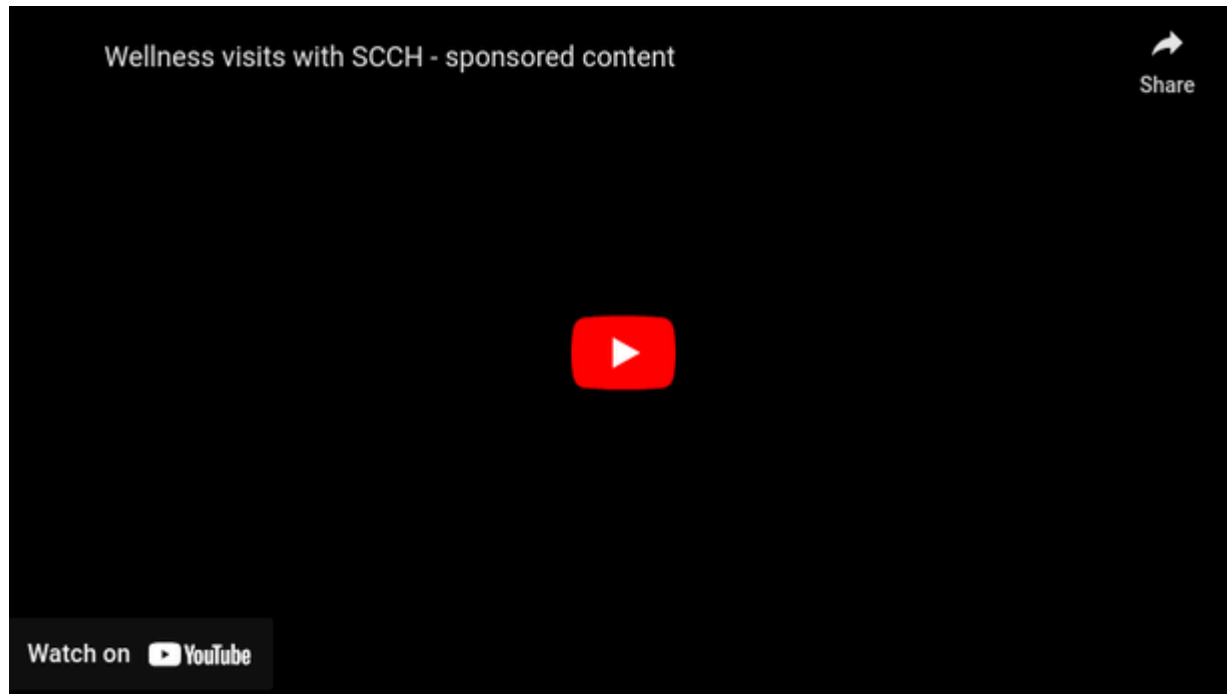
Traci Ray – SCCH Employee

The winners of the events and the team with the best outfits won prizes. The hospital says they hope to have more events like this throughout the year.

Sullivan Co. Community Hospital

Wellness visits with SCCH

WTWO's Good Day Live host, Julie Henricks, took a trip to Sullivan County Community Hospital to chat with a nurse practitioner about Medicare wellness visits and their important role for patients and physicians.



Sullivan County Community Hospital and Turning Leaf Behavioral Health

Sullivan County Community Hospital and Turning Leaf Behavioral Health were honored to host their first "Light a Candle" ceremony in observance of Suicide Awareness and Prevention Day on September 10th. This day was dedicated to supporting suicide prevention, remembering lost loved ones, and honoring survivors of suicide. Throughout September, candles lit in memory of those lost remained burning in the hospital's windows as a tribute.

A special thanks to their speaker, Mike Frey, for sharing his personal story to shift from a culture of silence and stigma that surrounds suicide to one of openness, understanding, and support. Special thanks to the community members who came out to support those who have lost loved ones and to those who came to remember loved ones lost. The team had a great show of support from SCCH/TL staff members in the form of attendance and in billboards that were created by Lakeside Family Medical.



Woodlawn Health Welcomes Back Dr. Selio

Rochester, IN, October 7: Woodlawn Health is excited to announce the return of Dr. Bridgett Selio to Woodlawn Health. Dr. Selio took a year-long educational leave to learn how to perform C-sections. "We are thrilled to welcome Dr. Selio back to Woodlawn and the community. We know that patients have missed her while she was away. Her return and new skills will help us care for more women in our community," Alan Fisher, CEO of Woodlawn, stated. Dr. Selio is a primary and OB provider who is accepting new patients. To schedule an appointment, please call (574) 223-2020.

Woodlawn Health Names Emergency Department Director

Rochester, IN, August 27: Woodlawn Health is excited to announce that Dr. Timothy Hamberg, DO, has assumed the role of Emergency Department Director for the Health System in partnership with Concord Medical Group.

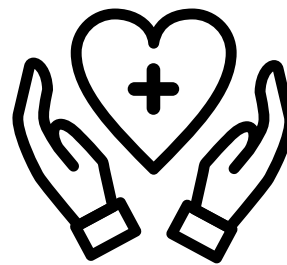
"We are very pleased with our partnership with Concord Medical Group and the promotion of Dr. Hamberg to Medical Director for our Emergency Department. This is just one of the many things we are doing to earn the right to care for our patients and community," Paula McKinney, Chief Nursing Officer, stated.

Dr. Hamberg earned his medical degree from Lincoln Memorial University, DeBusk College of Osteopathic Medicine in Harrogate, TN. He completed his residency training in Emergency Medicine at Midwestern University, Kingman Regional Medical Center in Kingman, AZ. Dr. Hamberg is board-certified. He and his family reside in Valparaiso, Indiana.

"I am so grateful to be working with an outstanding group of professionals and caring for the Fulton and surrounding communities. I look forward to joining the Woodlawn team for many more years to come," Dr. Hamberg stated.

Concord Medical Group is a physician-owned and operated practice management organization. Since its inception in 2001, Concord continues to be a leader in quality emergency department provider management for rural hospitals throughout the US. Customer Service Driven Medical Care is at the heart of Concord's foundation as a practice group. Dr. Hamberg is an exceptional fit for Concord and Woodlawn Health's goal of bringing the feel of hospitality to healthcare without sacrificing efficiency.

"Dr. Hamberg has proven to be an outstanding leader. His focus on clinical excellence and customer service is building a culture of patient-centered quality care and service that will prove beneficial for all patients, the hospital, and the community." - John Jones, MD, Chief Medical Officer.



Woodlawn Health Welcomes an OB/GYN

Rochester, IN, August 6: Woodlawn is delighted to introduce Dr. Laurel A. Walton, OB/GYN, who has joined their team and is a valuable addition to their Maternity Oasis vision.

Dr. Walton has an extensive educational background, including an undergraduate degree in biology and chemistry from Nebraska Wesleyan University and a certification in education for grades 7th through 12th. She went to the University of Nebraska in Omaha, Nebraska, to graduate with her Bachelor of Science in Allied Health and became a certified Physician Assistant. Next, she went on to the University of Osteopathic Medicine and Health Science (now called DMU) in Des Moines, Idaho. She completed her internship at Warren General Hospital in Warren, Ohio. Her OB/GYN residency was at Texas Tech and Thomas General Hospital.

"I am passionate about my job as an obstetrician/gynecologist. I never get tired of delivering children and witnessing the miracle of life. Daily, I get to help women resolve issues around urine, abnormal bleeding, pelvic pain, deal with a miscarriage, and sexual trauma. As an obstetrician/gynecologist, I am involved in everything from genetic counseling to end-of-life care for women. The field is extremely diverse and stimulating. I have the honor of helping women throughout the different stages of their reproductive lives, and this is why I love being an obstetrician/gynecologist. I have an exciting day every day," She stated.

She joins a team of four Obstetrical providers and five when Dr. Selio returns in the fall.

"We continue to earn the right to care for women in our community through enhancing our care options. We are thrilled to be able to offer GYN services after a brief hiatus. As many maternity care options around us close, we are committed to continuing to serve our community and have built an amazing team with Dr. Walton," Brad Rogers, COO, stated.

Woodlawn Health Awarded a Grant to become a Rural Residency Site

Rochester, IN, August 6: Rochester, IN, July 5: Fulton and surrounding counties are underserved regarding medical providers, especially doctors. Health Systems such as Woodlawn know the challenge of recruiting and retaining medical professionals in a rural area.

"We are constantly working on finding doctors to serve our community," Brad Rogers, COO of Woodlawn Health, stated.

The health system has added four doctors, four nurse practitioners, and one physician assistant in the last year. Still, they need more providers to meet the community's needs.

"We currently need two more primary care doctors to meet the demands of our community," Rogers confirmed.

The dilemma of needing providers led the leadership to apply for a grant to become a residency site for medical students. Woodlawn was thrilled to learn they were selected to receive a \$750,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to establish a rural health residency program.

To become doctors, students first need to complete their bachelor's degree. They then need to finish medical school before becoming residents, a three-year rotation program. One of those sites could be Woodlawn Health.

For the next three years, the team will work to set up the program and add a position to manage it. After that process they will apply to become an accredited resident site. The goal is to train the next generation of healthcare professionals in rural medicine and attract new doctors to the team. Woodlawn should have their first cohort of residents in 2028. "This is an exciting time to be a part of Woodlawn Health. We have turned the corner, and we are growing. This program will allow us to educate and hopefully recruit the next generation of doctors for the community as we earn the right to care for our area," Rogers said. The Health System was the only recipient in Indiana to be awarded the grant.

"We are so honored to be given this opportunity knowing it will benefit not only our organization but community and industry as well," Rogers stated.

inHealth



inHealth Deployed Ambulance to Assist With Hurricane Relief Efforts

InHealth Ambulance was deployed to assist with disaster relief efforts during Hurricane Helene as part of AMR's FEMA-requested response. InHealth is now inviting local EMTs and paramedics who are interested in future disaster response deployments to explore opportunities with their team.

