

Winter 2025



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

Winter 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. **[Click here to view all IRHA BPNs.](#)**



The IRHA is pleased to welcome, **Elevatus Architecture** as a business partner network member at the Select level!

At Elevatus, their team specializes in unique and innovative designs that always reflect their clients' vision. That's because they're big on relationships, and doing the right thing to bolster those bonds. Elevatus believes great architecture happens when you're designing for a friend.

Learn more about Elevatus Architecture at **www.elevatus.com**.



The Upper Midwest Telehealth Resource Center (UMTRC) is a federally funded program of the IRHA that provides a comprehensive set of telehealth clinical and technical assistance services leveraged into products of lasting value to rural providers. The UMTRC focuses on telehealth programs and technical assistance needs within Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, and Ohio.

The UMTRC provides a single point of contact for telehealth resources across Indiana and the Upper Midwest region through educational and outreach presentations, individualized technical assistance, facilitation, connection to local or distant providers and resources via the UMTRC website and project staff.

Please visit **umtrc.org** for more information.

Upcoming Events

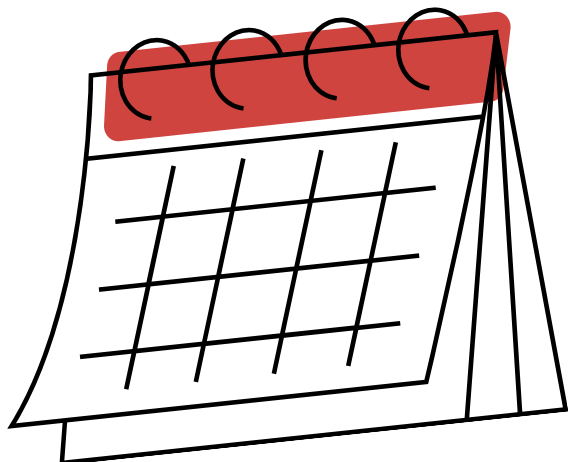


We're excited to invite you to the 2025 IRHA Virtual Spring Rural Summit on Wednesday, March 5! This year's event features an action-packed agenda, offering valuable insights and opportunities to connect with rural health leaders and innovators from the comfort of your home or office.

Session topics include:

- Novel approaches to cancer detection
- Advancing health and well-being for women, children, and families
- Introduction to the Office of Behavioral Health
- Transforming Rural Health: Three-Year Outcomes with Cardiometabolic Care
 - Appropriate opioid prescribing
 - Site-neutral payments

REGISTER



Upcoming Events

27th Annual IRHA Rural Health Conference

June 10-11 (Welcome Reception on June 9)

REGISTER HERE

2025 IRHA Virtual Fall Forum

August 27 | Zoom

2025 IRHA Public Policy Forum

November 18 | Embassy Suites by Hilton Plainfield

2025 IRHA Annual Conference



We are thrilled to announce an incredible lineup of speakers for this June in French Lick! Taking the stage are the dynamic duo Dr. Will and Kristin Flanary, famously known as Dr. Glaucomflecken and Lady Glaucomflecken. Joining them are Former SEC Football Official Greg Thomas and Indiana Chief Justice Loretta Rush.

Don't miss this extraordinary event—registration for attendees and exhibitors is now open! Secure your spot today for IRHA's biggest event of the year!

[REGISTER HERE](#)

IRHA Grants & Programs

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

Healthy Start Communities that C.A.R.E. (HSCC) serves women of childbearing age that are planning a pregnancy, currently pregnant, postpartum and within the interconception phase, which is the time between pregnancies. This program also supports infants up to 18 months of age as well as supporting fathers/partners. Eligible participants also must reside in Bartholomew, Decatur, Greene, Jennings, or Switzerland County.

Perinatal Navigators (PNs) and the Community Health Worker (CHW) are actively recruiting and enrolling participants. Clinical Service Providers are also available to assist enrolled women if they are identified as high-risk to provide a more tailored approach to their care.



At the time of enrollment, all moms receive a welcome bag as well as an enrollment folder with information specific to:

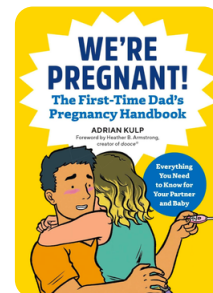
- Insurance information highlighting IRHA's **Connecting Kids to Coverage-IN** (CKC-IN) program
- **IRHA Help** with QR code to easily find free or reduced-cost direct social services
- Information and a magnet on the National Maternal Mental Health Hotline



As appropriate, information is also shared on Count the Kicks and how to download the free app to monitor the baby's movement in the third trimester. Also included for breastfeeding moms is a durable magnet to provide guidelines on human milk storage. Tailored information is also added to the folders specific to the county in which the mother resides, and the stage of reproduction.



Men are encouraged to enroll and will receive a welcome package that includes a lunch cooler with ice packs, a pen, and a book designed to promote positive parent engagement. Starting in 2025, a specialized parenting curriculum for fathers will also be introduced to enhance their involvement and support.



HSCC also welcomes Bridgett Edwards, a new CHW to the Greene County General Hospital (GCGH) team. Bridgett is pictured with the rest of the team serving Greene County.

HSCC's Program Director Joana Wischmeier visited GCGH in December to welcome Bridgett and thank the team for their continued dedication to HSCC!

Pictured left to right: Nicole Page, PN, CCC; Peyton Goodwin, LCSW, Clinical Service Provider; Bridgett Edwards, CHW; Joana Wischmeier, IRHA HSCC Program Director

IRHA Grants & Programs

PROVIDERS PLAY A KEY ROLE IN FIGHTING TOBACCO USE AND DEPENDENCE



The number one cause of preventable death and disease in the United States is tobacco use and dependence. No matter what your specialty is, you know the drastic effects that tobacco use can have on patients. Many persons who use commercial tobacco products want to quit.

Getting started often takes support and motivation from a trusted source. If a physician advises a patient to quit just one time, it helps to double the patient's chance for success. Patients trust their health provider and they need guidance. It is vital to help the patients who are ready to quit tobacco. Primary care providers can make a difference in influencing tobacco use behavior. A short intervention (three minutes or less) can increase a person's motivation to quit.

Talk and listen to the patient about their tobacco use. Asking about 1.800.Quit.Now can be a conversation starter. **Quit Now Indiana** (QNI) is a free counseling service that uses different ways to help Hoosiers who use tobacco quit. QNI Tobacco Treatment Services include non-judgmental, member-focused coaching services via phone, text, and online chat. Coaches complete over 150 hours of rigorous training and evaluation accredited by the Council for Tobacco Treatment Training Programs and provide counseling with empathy, matching conversational style, and employing motivational interviewing skills. Learn more about the importance of talking with patients about tobacco use, and what services are included when a patient enrolls in QNI at: **www.quitnowindiana.com/providers**.

Daviess Community Hospital

Daviess Community Hospital honored with 11 HealthCare Service Excellence Awards



Washington, IN – Daviess Community Hospital (DCH) has been recognized as a leader in healthcare service excellence, receiving 11 prestigious awards at the HealthCare Service Excellence Conference in November hosted by Custom Learning Systems. These accolades highlight DCH's commitment to enhancing patient care, staff engagement, and overall service excellence.

DCH's award-winning achievements included:

Legacy Award:

- Dr. Suresh Lohano – Recognized for his profound influence on DCH and dedication to the healthcare community.

Summit Award Recipients:

- Outstanding Staffing Fix Transformation – DCH Peak Performers

Pinnacle Achievers:

- Implementation Coordinator – 1st Year: Angie Steiner
- Motivating Administrator: Jenna Bedwell
- Outstanding 1st Year Service Excellence Initiative: Daviess Community Hospital
- Service Excellence Advisor Team: Reading Rainbow
- Service Excellence Ambassador: Beth Grant

Breakthrough Awards:

- Ruby Achievement: HCAHPS Response of Hospital Staff (26.62% improvement)
- Ruby Achievement: HCAHPS Hospital Environment – Quiet (26.62% improvement)
- Emerald Achievement: HCAHPS Communication with Nurses (26.62% improvement)
- Bronze Improvement: HCAHPS Recommend the Hospital (26.62% improvement)

Daviess Community Hospital

“This year’s conference was truly inspiring and motivating for everyone who attended,” said Angie Steiner, DCH Director of Service Excellence. “The attendees are excited to implement the ideas and strategies we learned from experts in the field of service excellence. We’re eager to see how these changes will elevate our patient care even further.”

In 2024, the Summit Awards committee reviewed 311 nominations from 30 healthcare organizations across 14 states, selecting 115 Pinnacle Achievers as outstanding performers. The prestigious Summit Award, presented to only 31 recipients, is the highest honor in healthcare service excellence, celebrating notable improvements in patient experience and staff engagement. Additionally, DCH received four Breakthrough Awards, which were presented during the Breakthrough Awards & National Rural Honor Roll Luncheon on November 6, 2024. These awards underscore DCH’s commitment to driving excellence and setting benchmarks in patient care and satisfaction.

“These awards highlight a fantastic year for Daviess Community Hospital as we continue to lead the way in healthcare,” Steiner added. “We look forward to more success in the year ahead and to further advancing our standards in service excellence.”

Daviess Community Hospital Welcomes Two New Police Officers

WASHINGTON, Ind. (December 10, 2024) – Daviess Community Hospital (DCH) is pleased to announce the addition of two new police officers, Jacob Gambill and Robert Smith, to its police department. The officers were officially sworn in during a ceremony held December 9 in the hospital boardroom, with Chief Financial Officer April Settles administering the oaths.

Jacob Gambill, who joins the department as a part-time officer, previously served with the Worthington Police Department in Greene County. Robert Smith, the department’s newest full-time officer, comes with a strong background in law enforcement from the Sullivan County area.

“We are excited to welcome Officers Gambill and Smith to the DCH Police Department,” said April Settles, CFO. “Their law enforcement experience and dedication to public safety will enhance our ability to provide a safe and secure environment for everyone at DCH.”

The ceremony was attended by Chief of Police Caleb Lankford, Officer Johnny Lagle, Executive Director of Growth and Development of Rehabilitation/Orthopedic Service Lines Dave Graber, and other hospital leaders.



From left: April Settles, CFO of Daviess Community Hospital, swears in new police officers Robert Smith and Jacob Gambill during a ceremony on December 9.



Pictured from left: Chief of Police Caleb Lankford, Officer Robert Smith, Officer Jacob Gambill, Executive Director of Growth and Development of Rehabilitation/Orthopedic Service Lines Dave Graber, and Officer Johnny Lagle after the swearing-in ceremony.

Daviess Community Hospital

Daviess Community Hospital Completes Emergency Department Renovation

Washington, IN – Daviess Community Hospital is excited to announce the completion of the second and final phase of its Emergency Department renovation project. The newly renovated Emergency Department officially opened and was used for the first time on Tuesday, December 10, 2024.



The \$4 million project, which expanded the Emergency Department by 40%, underscores the hospital's commitment to providing enhanced care for the thousands of patients who trust DCH for their healthcare needs each year. The final phase of the renovation introduces several new features and upgrades designed to improve both patient care and staff efficiency.

"We are thrilled to unveil the fully renovated Emergency Department and provide our community with the state-of-the-art facilities they deserve," said Christina Winger, RN, BSN, Director of the Daviess Community Hospital Emergency Department. "Our staff has been resilient and patient throughout this process, and we are eager to see the positive impact these improvements will have on the care we deliver."

READ MORE

Daviess Community Hospital Names Bedwell as Interim Chief Nursing Officer



Washington, IN – Daviess Community Hospital (DCH) recently announced the appointment of Jenna Bedwell, MSN, RN as interim Chief Nursing Officer (CNO). Bedwell, who most recently served as DCH's Assistant Director of Nursing, steps into the role following the eight-year tenure of Nancy Devine.

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

Decatur County Memorial Hospital



Decatur County
Memorial Hospital

The Quality Care You Want. Close By.

DCMH LAUNCHES ADVANCED NEUROSURGERY CLINIC SERVICES IN PARTNERSHIP WITH GOODMAN CAMPBELL BRAIN AND SPINE



Greensburg, IN – January 20, 2025, Decatur County Memorial Hospital (DCMH) is excited to announce the addition of a Neurosurgery Clinic to the DCMH campus, a new service, bringing advanced, world-class care for complex brain, spine, and nervous system conditions to the community. Through DCMH's partnership with Goodman Campbell Brain and Spine, DCMH is now the only healthcare network within a 40-mile radius to offer these services. This expansion provides patients exceptional care closer to home through evaluation, treatment planning, and post-operative follow-up for patients with brain and spine conditions.

Goodman Campbell Brain and Spine's neurosurgeons specialize in diagnosing and treating a wide range of conditions, from brain tumors and traumatic injuries to chronic back pain and degenerative spinal disease. Their expertise spans routine cases to the most complex neurological issues, prioritizing the best outcomes for patients.

"Our partnership with Goodman Campbell Brain and Spine enables us to offer access to leading neurosurgical care here in our community," said Rex McKinney, President/CEO of DCMH. "Patients no longer need to travel far for the care they need— they can find exceptional care locally."

Conditions Treated by Goodman Campbell Brain and Spine Specialists Include:

- **Back and neck pain** – especially if severe or worsening
- **Degenerative spinal disease** – caused by the natural aging process
- **Complex spine disorders** – including scoliosis and multi-level disc degeneration
- **Spinal tumors** – leading to pain, numbness, or neurological deficits
- **Traumatic brain and spine injuries** – requiring urgent, expert attention
- **Brain tumors** – persistent headaches, seizures, or vision changes
- **Brain aneurysms** – severe headaches or ruptures requiring immediate care

Decatur County Memorial Hospital

Goodman Campbell Brain and Spine's multidisciplinary approach ensures patients receive comprehensive care. While neurologists often address conditions like migraines or multiple sclerosis through non-surgical treatments, neurosurgeons step in when surgical intervention may be needed. The Goodman Campbell Brain and Spine specialists work closely with other providers on the DCMH campus to explore all treatment options, reserving surgery for when it's the most effective choice.

"Goodman Campbell Brain and Spine continues to grow into communities throughout Indiana. We are thrilled to expand our services to Decatur County," said Derek Cantrell, Goodman Campbell Brain and Spine CEO. "We have partnered with our referral community for 52 years to provide expert spine and cranial care. Our subspecialized clinical teams thrive on the daily interaction with patients to care for the most common neck, back, and brain conditions. Our comprehensive approach includes internal cross referral to the appropriate provider, clinical conferences for the more complex cases, committed resources to collect patient-reported outcome data, and publication of data in peer-reviewed media."

If surgery is required, Goodman Campbell Brain and Spine's team coordinates procedures at partner hospitals, such as Franciscan Health, or surgery centers, ensuring seamless care. With more top-rated doctors than any other neurosurgical practice in Indiana*, Goodman Campbell Brain and Spine brings nationally recognized expertise to the community.

To learn more about these new services or to discuss a referral, contact Goodman Campbell Brain and Spine at 317-396-1406 or visit dcmh.net/neurosurgery.

**According to current Castle Connolly Top Doctors data.*

DECATUR COUNTY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL RECEIVES PATIENT AND FAMILY EXPERIENCE AWARD

GREENSBURG, IN – October 31, 2024 – Decatur County Memorial Hospital's team received the Patient and Family Experience Award from the Indiana State Office of Rural Health. Annually, the Indiana Department of Health's State Office of Rural Health awards those making a difference in rural healthcare for their outstanding achievements. This award recognizes staff members who significantly impacted the human experience in healthcare by implementing innovative solutions.

[READ MORE](#)



Decatur County Memorial Hospital

HOSPITAL FOUNDATION OF DECATUR COUNTY SHARES SUCCESSFUL PINK OUT CAMPAIGN

GREENSBURG, IN – November 20, 2024 – The Hospital Foundation of Decatur County (Hospital Foundation) proudly announces the successful completion of this year's Pink Ribbon Fund fundraising activities, which raised over \$34,000 in support of Decatur County Memorial Hospital (DCMH) providing essential mammogram services for those in need.

This year, DCMH and the Hospital Foundation partnered with several local organizations to powerfully show support for breast cancer awareness. DCMH partnered with the Greensburg Fire Department and other local businesses to wrap a Fire Truck in an all-over pink design. The Hospital Foundation sold screen-printed PINK OUT shirts with proceeds donated to the Pink Ribbon Fund. Additionally, the Hospital Foundation partnered with local schools and their sports teams to host 12 "PINK OUT Games" where students and attendees were encouraged to wear pink gear and contribute to the fund.



[READ MORE](#)

DCMH Announces Expanded Offerings in Westport



GREENSBURG, IN – Decatur County Memorial Hospital (DCMH) is pleased to announce that the DCMH Westport Clinic will now be open an additional day a week. Listening to the community, DCMH has tailored its offerings to meet the growing need for accessible, quality care.

Starting Tuesday, October 15, 2024, Nurse Practitioner Cary Troutman will see patients at the DCMH Westport Clinic on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. As part of DCMH's ongoing commitment to serve the health and wellness needs of the community, the increased availability makes it more convenient for patients to get the services they need close to home.

[READ MORE](#)



For more stories and updates from DCMH, visit www.dcmh.net/news.

Greene County General Hospital



Greene County General Hospital Earns 2024 Performance Leadership Award



CONGRATULATIONS!

Linton, IN— Greene County General Hospital (GCGH) has earned a 2024 Performance Leadership Award for excellence in Patient Perspective. Compiled by The Chartis Center for Rural Health, the Performance Leadership Awards recognize top quartile performance (i.e., 75th percentile or above) among rural hospitals in Quality, Outcomes and/or Patient Perspective. GCGH is one of just 5 Indiana hospitals to receive this recognition in the category of Patient Perspective.

GCGH CEO Brenda Reetz says, “We are very grateful to receive this award and acknowledge that this recognition is because of our amazing staff. Greene County General Hospital is blessed with the best employees who are committed to providing wonderful care for our patients.”

The Performance Leadership Awards are based on the results of the Chartis Rural Hospital Performance INDEX®, a comprehensive and objective framework for assessing how rural hospitals are performing. INDEX benchmarks are relied upon by rural hospitals, health systems with rural footprints, hospital associations, and state offices of rural health to measure performance across multiple areas impacting hospital operations and finance.

“The Performance Leadership Awards capture the commitment, diligence, and innovation with which America’s rural hospitals approach the delivery of care within their communities,” said Troy Brown, Network Consultant, The Chartis Center for Rural Health. “It’s a tremendous honor to be able to recognize the efforts of this year’s award winners and celebrate their achievement.”

Greene County General Hospital Selects its 2024 Outstanding Leader of the Year

Linton, IN— Greene County General Hospital (GCGH) is excited to announce Director of Surgical Services Jessi King, MSN, RN as its 2024 Outstanding Leader of the Year!

Greene County General Hospital

Each year, hospital administration team members accept nominations for this award. King was chosen for always going above and beyond for her team. Employees say King doesn't treat people as above her or below her, but with her. They say there is no job King will delegate that she won't do herself. Staff describe King as selfless and say she is always looking for ways to improve processes for the operating room, for the hospital, and most importantly, for our patients and the community. They say King genuinely cares for people, and it shows every day.

King received her Associate of Science in Nursing from Vincennes University in 2012. She then received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Indiana University in 2013 and went on to earn a Master of Science in Nursing Administration from Ball State University in 2020. In addition to GCGH, King's nursing career has taken her to Sullivan County Community Hospital, The Pain Clinic, and Terre Haute Surgical Center. She previously worked at GCGH's Covid Vaccine Clinic before being named GCGH Director of Surgical Services in 2021. King says she had planned on becoming a Nurse Practitioner until the leadership opening at GCGH presented itself. King says she is so glad she took the opportunity. "I love working at Greene County General Hospital. There is something special about working in your hometown. Our surgery team is awesome! They make coming to work enjoyable and take such great care of our patients. I have learned so much from coworkers and some of the best mentors while I have been at GCGH.", says King.

King lives in Linton and is married with two daughters. She says when she's not at one of her daughters' sporting events, she and her family enjoy going to IU Basketball games and spending time at the lake. King also likes to read and garden.



Rush Memorial Hospital



Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony for RMH Hometown Pharmacy

December 23, 2024, RMH held a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the opening of the new RMH Hometown Pharmacy. This event marked a significant milestone for the Rushville community, introducing a new standard of personalized pharmacy care to the community.



The ribbon was cut by (left to right), RMH VP of Nursing Carrie Tressler, RMH Pharmacy Director Greg Pratt, RMH CEO Brad Smith, RMH Board Member Kip Burkett, and RMH Board Chair John Byrne. Also present were pharmacy staff, RMH Administrative Council and members of the RMH Board of Trustees.

RMH Hometown Pharmacy officially opened its doors to patients on December 17, 2024. The pharmacy offers a comprehensive range of services designed to meet the healthcare needs of the community with the utmost care and attention. Additionally, the pharmacy has a convenient drive-thru option for patients. RMH Hometown Pharmacy is located at 157 Foster Heights Road, Rushville, IN.

Sullivan Co. Community Hospital

Update on the new office building at Sullivan County Community Hospital

SULLIVAN, Ind. (WTWO/WAWV) — The Sullivan County Community Hospital is nearing the finish line on its new 30,000-square-foot building.



Its CFO Jim Bishop said the new building is going to be the new home for several programs that are bringing in more people every day.

"The biggest impact is going to be more floor space because our programs continue to grow here," said Bishop. "The existing service lines are growing, pain management, podiatry, and orthopedics are going to get a lot more room to expand and see more patients."

The more patients these programs are able to provide for, the more people are going to be able to stay in town for their health care.

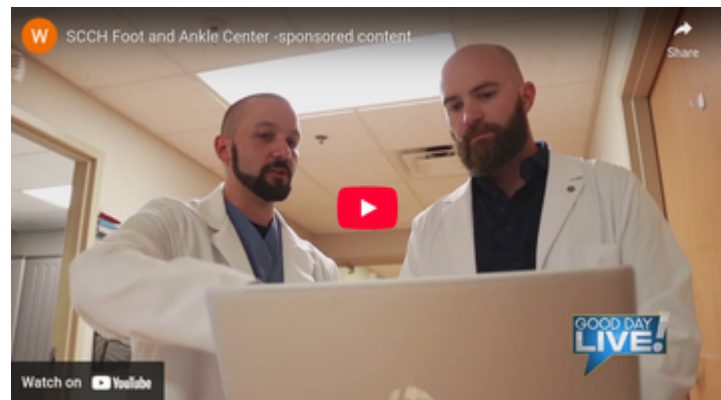
"Transportation is a really big issue for people in the community and they don't want to have to drive and go get care in other cities," said Bishop. "I think it is really important to continue to expand our footprint here and offer more services."

Bishop said they expect the building to be open by April of 2025 and to move in by May of 2025.

In the summer of 2025, the hospital is planning to begin work on another new building so it can expand its surgery, radiology, and pharmacy departments. It's expected to be a 40-million-dollar project.

SCCH Foot and Ankle Center -sponsored content

Julie took a trip to **Sullivan County Community Hospital's Foot and Ankle Center** to learn about the different treatment options they offer. Foot and ankle issues require specialized treatment including Arthroscopy, Bunionectomy, Flatfoot Repair, Fracture Repair, Hammertoe Repair, Ligament or Tendon Repair, Joint Replacement, and more.



Watch the Good Day Live clip to learn more!