

Winter 2024



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.

CPAs / ADVISORS



Blue & Company is highly specialized in healthcare with professionals who devote 100% of their time to the healthcare industry and currently serve many IRHA members. We are organized in teams including audit and accounting, reimbursement, accounts receivable, physician and tax, and medical coding keeping abreast of Indiana and federal healthcare issues well in advance of the ultimate implementation and impact of those issues. We have registered lobbyists who are proactively involved in shaping the healthcare landscape.

Please visit blueandco.com for more information.



Hospitals desire to provide specialized care for their communities, but expertise and resources can be an obstacle. Issues like adult and senior depression and anxiety complicate treatment at every level — extending hospital stays and driving up costs. UltraGroup Healthcare offers medical management support to bring communities like yours the resources it deserves. We partner with over 50 hospitals nationwide, providing a comprehensive solution for adult and geriatric psychiatric care, alleviating hospitals' burdens for resources and expertise. By attending to patient's specialized needs, overall healthcare is greatly improved.

Taking care of the adult and geriatric behavioral health needs of a small community can be challenging for acute care hospitals. Limited resources, staff shortages and growing regulatory requirements are just a few of the hurdles that can be difficult to navigate.

That's where UltraGroup can help. We partner with hospitals, bringing the right resources to the table, to provide cost effective inpatient and outpatient behavioral health support and solutions including:

FINANCIAL & OPERATIONAL SERVICES: Financial Analysis, Medicare Cost Report Impact Analysis, CPT Coding/Billing Assistance, Budgeting, Monthly Management Reporting, Strategic Planning

DEVELOPMENT & IMPLEMENTATION: Certificate of Need Assistance, DPU Enrollment, Staff Recruitment/Orientation, Medical Director Recruitment, Space Design, Policies/Procedures, Equipment and Supply Information

Please visit ultragrouphhealthcare.com for more information.



REGISTER TODAY!

Join us on Tuesday, March 5, from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. for the
VIRTUAL IRHA Spring Rural Summit

We have an action-packed agenda in store for you at the 2024 IRHA Virtual Spring Rural Summit!

Sessions include:

- "Health Department and Hospital Collaboration to Benefit Communities"
- "Office of Inspector General (OIG) Compliance Guidance"
- "Abundant Leadership: How We Leverage Well-Being to Support Highly Functioning Teams"
- "CDC Updates from New Director"
- "Emergency Preparedness for the 2024 Total Solar Eclipse"

AGENDA

ATTENDEE REGISTRATION

IRHA members - \$50

Non-members - \$150

REGISTER



This program is funded in part by a grant awarded to the Indiana Department of Health, State Office of Rural Health (SORH) Flex funding Grant Number HR54RH00042.



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) uses 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 helps 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.





INDIANA HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION RECOGNIZES OUTSTANDING INDIVIDUAL FOR SERVICE IN HEALTH CARE

Michelle Franklin, CEO of Sullivan County Community Hospital, Awarded Distinguished Service Award

Sullivan, IN – Michelle Franklin, CEO of Sullivan County Community Hospital, was awarded the Distinguished Service Award by the Indiana Hospital Association (IHA) at its 2023 Annual Meeting.

The IHA Distinguished Service Award recognizes outstanding personal achievement in support of the humanitarian and management goals of Indiana health care institutions. Franklin was recognized for her many accomplishments in enhancing hospital services in Sullivan, being a community leader in health care, and advancing the profession of hospital administration.

“Michelle’s leadership consistently exceeds expectations and leaves a lasting impact on Indiana hospitals and the community she serves,” said IHA President Brian Tabor. “Health care is one of the toughest yet most rewarding fields, and we are honored to have health care leaders like Michelle making Indiana a wonderful place to live, work, and seek quality care.”

Franklin has been with SCCCH for 27 years and has served as CEO for the last 17. In that time, the organization has grown immensely—giving residents access to healthcare options not available in other rural communities across Indiana—and the rest of the US: women’s health, ortho, foot and ankle, mental health, substance use disorder treatment, pain management, family practice, and more.

Sullivan County Community Hospital is located in Sullivan, Indiana, and has been serving the Wabash Valley for over 100 years.



GREENE COUNTY GENERAL HOSPITAL’S CHIEF OF CLINICAL QUALITY RECEIVES CAREGIVER-OF-THE-YEAR AWARD



Linton, IN— Jill Raines, Chief of Clinical Quality at Greene County General Hospital (GCGH), was awarded the Douglas J. Leonard Indiana Caregiver of the Year Award at the Indiana Hospital Association (IHA) 2023 Annual Meeting.

The Douglas J. Leonard Indiana Caregiver of the Year Award recognizes an individual in the health care industry whose performance in the delivery of care is considered exemplary by patients and peers. Raines was recognized for her leadership in developing and implementing multiple quality initiatives that led to GCGH’s achievement of a Double 5-Star quality rating from Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).

“Jill’s leadership has been incredibly impactful in reducing maternal and infant mortality, which are top public health concerns in Indiana,” said IHA President Brian Tabor. “We know the earlier intervention occurs, the better the outcome for mother and baby. We are very pleased to publicly recognize Jill’s efforts to continuously make Indiana a better place to seek quality care.”

Raines has been employed at GCGH for 20 years. She graduated from Shakamak High School and went on to receive an associate of science in nursing (ASN) from Vincennes University. Raines continued her education at Indiana Wesleyan University earning her BSN, MSN, and MBA. She began working at GCGH in 2003 where she served as an obstetrical and emergency department nurse and

house supervisor. She later became the Director of Quality in 2017 and was named the Chief of Clinical Quality in 2019. Raines is a member of Indiana Organization for Nursing Leadership (IONL) and serves on the IONL's State Program Committee.



Group Photo: Partner at Hall Render John Render, GCGH Chief Medical Officer Dr. Mike Gamble, GCGH LSW Jodi Barton, Jim Raines, GCGH Chief of Clinical Quality Jill Raines, GCGH CEO Brenda Reetz, GCGH General Counsel Levi Baysinger, GCGH CFO Rebecca Wittmer.



LOGANSPORT MEMORIAL HOSPITAL ANNOUNCES ALTERNATE ROUTE DUE TO CLOSURE OF MICHIGAN AVENUE

Logansport, IN - Effective Tuesday, December 5, 2023, sections of Michigan Avenue (State Road 25) will be closed. The first road closure will run along East Miami Avenue from Michigan Avenue to Sixth Street. The second road closure will be along Michigan Avenue / SR-25 from East Miami Avenue, in front of the McClure's gas station, to the south side of Ottawa Street. The road closure is due to a Logansport Utilities sewer project.

Patients and visitors to Logansport Memorial Hospital will need to use an alternate route to the Hospital. The recommended route will be North 6th Street to Hanna Street. Turn right onto Hanna Street and follow Clifton Avenue to Fulton Street. Patients and visitors may access the Hospital and ER from Fulton Street. Patients and visitors with appointments in the Medical Office Building can access offices and the Lab by turning right from Fulton Street onto Michigan Avenue. The closure is scheduled to last until at least February 2024 but could last until late May 2024.

Logansport Memorial Hospital is an 83-bed, ACHC accredited, regional medical center providing healthcare services to residents in Cass County and the surrounding areas of north central Indiana. Logansport Memorial Hospital complies with all Federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex.



SCCH REHABILITATION SERVICES IN THE NEWS!

Click here for the news regarding state-of-the-art facilities and activities:

<https://www.mywabashvalley.com/gdl/sullivan-county-community-hospital-rehabilitation-center/>



GREENE COUNTY GENERAL HOSPITAL SELECTS ITS 2023 OUTSTANDING LEADER OF THE YEAR

Linton, IN— Greene County General Hospital (GCGH) is excited to announce Police Chief Bryan Woodall as its 2023 Outstanding Leader of the Year!

Each year, hospital administration team members accept nominations for this award. Chief Woodall was chosen because of his strong work ethic and dedication to the job. He was instrumental in the creation of the GCGH Police Department in December of 2022. Chief Woodall worked tirelessly to determine what the department would need for equipment, certifications, and funding. He was nominated by two of his police officers who say Chief Woodall leads by example, works an endless amount of night shifts, and never complains.



Chief Woodall marked 10 years working at GCGH earlier this month. He has 32 years of experience working in Law Enforcement and 23 years as a Law Enforcement Instructor. Chief Woodall attended Calvary Christian High School and went on to earn an Associate Degree in Law Enforcement from Vincennes University. He's been a member of the

Switz City Fire Department for nearly three decades and has lived in Switz City for 29 years with his wife, Tammy. They have two daughters, two grandsons, and one granddaughter.



GREENE COUNTY GENERAL HOSPITAL RECOGNIZED FOR EXCELLENCE IN INFANT AND MATERNAL HEALTH

Linton, IN— Greene County General Hospital (GCGH) is once again being recognized by the Indiana Hospital Association (IHA), in partnership with Indiana Governor Eric J. Holcomb and State Health Commissioner Lindsay Weaver, M.D., FACEP, for their commitment to infant and maternal health. GCGH received the *INspire Hospital of Distinction* honor earlier this month for the fourth straight year.

The *INspire* program, funded by the Indiana Department of Health's Safety PIN grant, was developed to implement the delivery of best practice care for Hoosier moms and babies and recognize hospitals for excellence in addressing key drivers of infant and maternal health. "The daily work of our delivering

hospitals makes a monumental impact on the lives of so many Hoosier moms and infants in every corner of our state,” said Governor Holcomb. “These caregivers are much needed and appreciated, and we will continue to partner with them to support our shared goal of a healthy Hoosier tomorrow.”

GCGH earned this recognition based on implementing best practices in seven key areas, including infant safe sleep, breastfeeding, tobacco prevention and cessation, perinatal substance use, obstetric hemorrhage, maternal hypertension, and social determinants of health.



WOODLAWN HEALTH WELCOMES A NEW DOCTOR TO ITS MATERNITY OASIS



Rochester, IN - Woodlawn Health is honored to welcome Dr. Amazonna Amadi as a new medical provider to its Maternity Oasis. Amadi attended Coppin State University, Baltimore, MD. She attended Medical School at SUNY Upstate Medical University, Syracuse, NY. She did her residency and fellowship at St. Joseph's Hospital Family Medicine, Syracuse, NY, along with her fellowship in Obstetrics and Women's Healthcare at St. Joseph's Hospital, Syracuse, NY.

“We are so excited to continue to build our award-winning Maternity Oasis with Dr. Amadi,” Brad Rogers, COO of Woodlawn Health, stated.

Dr. Amadi will be able to provide primary care and obstetrical care to the community. She is also C-section certified.

“I love that Woodlawn offers obstetrics care to women in our community,” she stated about her choice of coming to Woodlawn Health.

New patients are now being accepted and can call (574) 224-2020 to schedule an appointment.

Woodlawn Health is a healthcare system in Rochester, Indiana, working to earn the right to care for the communities it serves. For more information, contact Chief Marketing Officer, Khrista Boster at kboster@woodlawnhospital.com or visit our website at woodlawnhealth.org.

WOODLAWN'S MATERNITY OASIS RECEIVES NATIONAL AWARD

Rochester, IN-- Woodlawn Health's Maternity Oasis was awarded the Community Stars Award by the National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health (NOSORH). This national award is given to one recipient in each state that demonstrates the most significant impact on rural health. Joyce Fillenwarth, the State Office Rural Health Manager, presented the award to the OB medical providers and staff.

Many maternity services in rural communities are closing, causing deserts of care. Woodlawn has committed to the community to continue services. On Tuesday, during the award ceremony, Dr. Chris Ricketts described the challenge that Woodlawn and other rural healthcare organizations face.

“It was not that long ago that we, as a hospital, were at a crossroads. It was a crossroad that all too many rural hospitals face. Our decision was whether to keep our OB department open or close it,” Dr. Ricketts stated.

Woodlawn’s OB services were losing approximately two million dollars a year at the time.

“The board, the administration, and 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. They chose to make Woodlawn Health stand out in a desert of OB options,” he explained.

Alan Fisher, CEO of Woodlawn Health, gratefully accepted the award and praised the team who made it possible, “This award could not be possible without the leadership and directives by our Board and the dedicated staff of our Ob/maternity Department staff members and physicians who deliver excellent care to our community.”

Then, he expressed concern about other maternity services in rural areas in the state of Indiana, “I would submit, however, that these maternity oases around our State can close at any time without financial support from our State and Federal legislators. I would implore our legislators to look at other States such as Michigan, which provides 7.9 million dollars to rural and sole community hospitals based on OB services provided to Medicaid beneficiaries.”

Woodlawn is honored to be chosen for this award that highlights the excellent healthcare services by highly skilled staff delivered daily by a local team of professionals.

WOODLAWN HEALTH RECOGNIZED FOR PERFORMANCE LEADERSHIP BY THE CHARTIS CENTER FOR RURAL HEALTH

Rochester, IN – As part of National Rural Health Day today Woodlawn Health announced it has been recognized with a 2023 Performance Leadership Award for excellence in Outcomes. Compiled by the Chartis Center for Rural Health, the Performance Leadership Awards honor top quartile performance (i.e., 75th percentile or above) among rural hospitals in Quality, Outcomes and/or Patient Perspective.

“Our mission at Woodlawn Health is to provide excellent healthcare services to our community by highly skilled staff. As we continue to earn the right to care for our community, we are honored to be recognized!” Paula McKinney DNP RN, Vice President of Patient Care Service and Chief Nursing Officer for Woodlawn Health, stated.

The Performance Leadership Awards are based on the results of the Chartis Rural Hospital Performance INDEX®, the industry’s most comprehensive and objective assessment of rural hospital performance. INDEX data is relied upon by rural hospitals, health systems with rural footprints, hospital associations, and state offices of rural health nationwide to measure and monitor performance across several areas impacting hospital operations and finance.

“Wherever we go in rural America, we witness first-hand the commitment, determination, and compassion with which rural hospitals serve their communities. Rural healthcare truly is mission-driven,” said Michael Topchik, National Leader, The Chartis Center for Rural Health.

“This National Rural Health Day, let us recognize the efforts of this year’s Performance Leadership Award winners and all those driven to deliver high-quality care throughout rural communities.”

WOODLAWN HEALTH LAUNCHES NEW OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH PROGRAM

Rochester, IN — Woodlawn Health launched its Occupational Health Program this week. This program, housed in the Shafer Building on Woodlawn Health’s campus in Rochester, offers a nurse practitioner to evaluate work-related injuries and do employee physicals. They will also offer same-day appointments, drug screenings, and CDL physical evaluations.

“We are thrilled to offer this to the business community and our wellness services. We know a healthy workforce makes Fulton and surrounding counties thriving areas.” Brad Rogers, COO of Woodlawn Health, stated.



The benefits of the program for employers will have a broad impact, as stated by Jillian Smith, Executive Director at the Fulton County Chamber of Commerce, “We are thrilled that Woodlawn Health’s new Occupational Health Program will offer Fulton County and surrounding area businesses the opportunity to conduct employee drug screenings and physicals locally. Employers can reduce response and travel time by keeping employees in the county for treatment, ultimately decreasing costs and increasing productivity.

The Chamber recognizes that Woodlawn Health continually evaluates the local community’s needs and invests in programs to fulfill those needs, such as this new occupational health facility. The Chamber appreciates Woodlawn’s continued commitment to Fulton County.”

The clinic will be open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Mondays through Fridays. Employers interested in utilizing services should call 574-223-9525.

WOODLAWN WELCOMES A NEW OCCUPATIONAL NURSE PRACTITIONER TO ITS TEAM

Rochester, IN — Woodlawn Health is excited to announce that Kyle Sommers has joined its team to fulfill the role of Occupational Nurse Practitioner. Sommers holds her RN from Ivy Tech, Valpo. She went on to get her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from IU-South Bend, graduating in 2011. In 2023, she completed her Master of Science in nursing from Chamberlain University and became a Family Nurse Practitioner MSN-FNP.



Kyle came to work for Woodlawn in the Emergency Department in 2019-2020. Also, during 2019-2021, she worked as a nurse and then an office manager for 12 occupational health clinics outside the Woodlawn Health family. In 2022, She returned to Woodlawn to complete her clinicals with Gina Moore DNP at the Argos Clinic and returned after graduation in May 2023 to her current position.

“I love that Woodlawn is community-focused,” she said.

Kyle will be part of a new service coming soon to the community.

“We are excited to be able to bring Kyle back to work for Woodlawn. She will greatly benefit our community, especially the local employers,” Brad Rogers, COO of Woodlawn Health, stated.



DCH ACUTE CARE UNIT NOW OPEN

Washington, IN - Daviess Community Hospital is pleased to announce the opening of the DCH Acute Care Unit. Located on the second floor of the hospital, this latest in expansion of services for the organization combines the former Med Surg Unit with the Intensive Care Unit.

The new space offers patients and their loved ones a new level of comfort and care, with sixteen private patient rooms featuring the latest amenities and cutting-edge technology. Careful consideration was taken in the design of the new center, as the DCH staff took an active role in planning for patient accommodations.



Daviess Community Hospital is grateful for the generosity of donors who have already pledged to support the renovations for both the Acute Care Unit as well as, the Emergency Department. They include: Chet & Pat Thompson, Tom and Marsha Boyd, First Federal Bank, Myers LP Gas, Jim and Sue Pearson, Jordan and Ashley Sherman, NASCO Industries, Joe Wagler, Dr. Thomas Waits, Dr. and Mrs. Greg Brown, Nancy Devine, Daviess Community Hospital Auxiliary, Dr. Suresh Lohano, True Scripts Management Services LLC, and to the many additional organizations and individuals who

have given to the fundraising campaign, but wish to remain anonymous.

Grant funds and proceeds from the 2022 and 2023 foundation events, including the golf outing, year-end employee appeal, 5k, and the Kentucky Derby event also provided support for this project thus far.

The Foundation Board at Daviess Community Hospital committed to raising \$1,000,000.00. They are confident that the goal will be reached within the next several months.



“At Daviess Community Hospital, we understand that healthcare is changing,” remarked Tracy Conroy, CEO. “It is our mission to provide patients with the most compassionate and advanced care in our region. With the support of our community, the newly renovated Acute Care Unit and the upcoming renovation of the Emergency Department will help us achieve just that. We are committed to providing the utmost comfort and convenience to our patients during their hospital experience.”

A blessing and two open houses took place on December 14th and December 15th. The first patient will be admitted to the new unit on Tuesday, December 19th.

For more information about the DCH expansion and Foundation fundraising efforts, contact Angie Steiner at 812-254-8858.



DECATUR COUNTY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL MATT WEBER RECEIVES PATIENT & FAMILY EXPERIENCE AWARD

Greensburg, IN - Decatur County Memorial Hospital's Ambulatory Care Pharmacist Matt Weber, PharmD, recently received the Patient & 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.



As an ambulatory care pharmacist, Matt meets with patients who need consultation regarding their prescriptions and managing their chronic conditions, including diabetes, hypertension, and obesity. In his role, Matt collaborates with DCMH providers to create individualized care plans for each patient. In 2022, Matt established a program that provides individualized education and information to patients. Matt received this honor for his visionary efforts to provide diabetes education and support for his patients and their families.

Matt accepted the award during the presentation. He thanked the Indiana Department of Health's State Office of Rural Health for the recognition, adding, "We've had great success, and it is really exciting to see the improvements in people's health and blood sugar and their engagement once they understand what diabetes is and how it impacts them."

Those experiencing chronic conditions and interested in consultation and education should contact Matt Weber, PharmD, at 812-663-1217.

Decatur County Memorial Hospital – The Quality Care You Want. Close By.

DECATUR COUNTY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL CHRONIC CARE MANAGEMENT RECEIVES STATE AWARD

Greensburg, IN - Decatur County Memorial Hospital's Chronic Care Management team recently received the Community Impact Award from the Indiana State Office of Rural Health. Annually, the Indiana Department of Health's State Office of Rural Health awards trailblazers and leaders in rural healthcare for their outstanding efforts and achievements.



Chronic Care Management at Decatur County Memorial Hospital connects patients experiencing chronic conditions, including diabetes, heart disease, arthritis, and more, to a personal care team. In 2021, the Chronic Care Management team began communicating with these patients via text message outside their regularly scheduled appointments. The Chronic Care Management team's initial outreach increased participation by more than fivefold. With the Chronic Care Management team's continued efforts, they can now communicate with over 1,000 enrolled patients. Introducing this innovative service to the community allows

patients to check in with their care team regularly and conveniently.

Darci Myers, Care Coordinator at DCMH, accepted the award during the presentation. Myers thanked the Indiana State Office of Rural Health for the award, stating, "Thank you for this recognition, and

thank you to the Hospital for having the innovation to try something different to reach out to our patients. We have over 1,000 patients who are engaged in chronic care management and improving their chronic conditions just through texting and setting goals. We are working with them to meet those goals.”

Those experiencing chronic conditions who are interested in learning more about Chronic Care Management should contact 812-663-1255.

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](#).



Click here for the news regarding SCCH recognized for work on maternal and child care:
https://www.wthitv.com/lifestyles/health/local-hospital-recognized-for-work-on-maternal-and-child-care/article_c43ad69c-a5c0-11ee-8997-af2b63e4946a.html



FRANCISCAN HEALTH CANCER CENTER RENSSELAER APPROVED AS CLINICAL RESEARCH SITE

RENSSELAER, IN – Franciscan Health Cancer Center Rensselaer was recently approved as a clinical research site for oncology.

Dr. Arshad Husain will be the principal investigator (PI) at the location. He specializes in hematology and medical oncology.

Dr. Husain and his team are currently working to open the study entitled: S2013 Immune Checkpoint Inhibitor Toxicity (I-CHECKIT): A Prospective Observational Study, which is an observational trial in which solid tumor patients undergoing treatment will be monitored.

At the current time, this will be the only study opening at the site, but with Franciscan Health Cancer Center Rensselaer being an approved research site, this will allow for the opportunity to potentially open more studies in the future as the site continues to grow.

“Being approved as a clinical research site shows the strength of Franciscan, infused to its Critical Access Hospital (CAH) in rural Indiana,” said Carlos Vasquez, vice president and chief operating officer for Franciscan Health Rensselaer. “Clinical research is very rare in a CAH. This endeavor demonstrates Franciscan’s commitment to extending its oncology program and mission to benefit underserved communities.”

Franciscan Health Cancer Center Rensselaer offers cancer care close to home for residents of Jasper and surrounding counties, with screenings, tests, including genetics testing, diagnosis, treatments and procedures, along with programs and support for patients and their families.

[Click here](#) for more information on Franciscan Health Cancer Center Rensselaer.

FRANCISCAN HEALTH RENSSELAER RECEIVES AWARDS FROM GREATER RENSSELAER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

RENSSELAER, IN – Franciscan Health Rensselaer was recently named 'Business of the Year' by the Greater Rensselaer Chamber of Commerce. In addition, Carlos Vasquez, VP, COO, Franciscan Health Rensselaer, was awarded the 'Citizen of the Year' honor by the organization.

The Chamber Business of the Year award is given in recognition of a successful business that has demonstrated ethical business practices, and distinguished themselves with dedicated commitment and energetic leadership, while being active in the community.

"We are honored to be named the 'Business of the Year' by the Greater Rensselaer Chamber of Commerce," said Vazquez. "We strive each and every day to make a difference in the community. Receiving an award like this is a true testament to all of the hard work and dedication by the great team we have here in Rensselaer."

Terry Wilson, president and CEO, Franciscan Health Western Indiana, was in attendance to receive the award, along with Sr. Cheryl Dazey, director of Mission Integration, as well as Vasquez and multiple coworkers and medical staff who received a large ovation and applause.



Terry Wilson, president and CEO, Franciscan Health Western Indiana; Sr. Cheryl Dazey, director of Mission Integration; Carlos Vasquez, vice president and chief operating officer, Franciscan Health Rensselaer, and Kerri Morris, president of Greater Rensselaer Chamber of Commerce



Citizen of the Year, Carlos Vasquez, vice president and chief operating officer, Franciscan Health Rensselaer, and Kerri Morris, president of the Greater Rensselaer Chamber of Commerce

Among the accomplishments this year for Franciscan Health Rensselaer was the opening of the Appletree Daycare center in the spring of 2023 on the campus of Franciscan Health Rensselaer. Also, Outpatient Services expanded into multiple specialties allowing the community to receive healthcare close to home. Franciscan Health Rensselaer has provided numerous services to enhance the quality of business life in the Greater Rensselaer area.

Vasquez was awarded the 'Citizen of the Year' by the Greater Rensselaer Chamber of Commerce for his major contributions to Rensselaer in 2023.

Vasquez holds multiple board seats and engages in numerous civic groups, including: Rotary, Chamber of Commerce, the Knights of Columbus, Jasper County Economic Development Organization, the Indiana Chapter of NAHLE and the IHA Council on Rural Health. He is often spotted behind the scenes at fundraisers barbecuing porkburgers, frying fish, serving pork chops and preparing Thanksgiving feasts for the hospital's coworkers.

"I am very humbled to have this honor bestowed on me," said Vasquez. "I am fortunate to get to work with the amazing folks at Franciscan. We live our mission every day and being able to give back to the community in the small ways that I do is a true blessing."

Vazquez was a committed driver and partner to Appleseed Childhood Education and together, they were the recipients of the Critical Access Hospital Partnership Award sponsored by the Indiana State Department of Health and the Indiana Rural Hospital Association, earlier this year.

For more information on Franciscan Health Rensselaer, visit www.franciscanhealth.org/find-a-location.



Frankfort

IU HEALTH FRANKFORT NOW OFFERING CHEMOTHERAPY



Frankfort, IN - Residents of Clinton County and surrounding communities now have a new option, closer to home, for receiving this important care.

With the addition of chemotherapy, patients now have access to a full range of infusion therapy for cancer and non-cancerous conditions in Frankfort at IU Health Frankfort Hospital.

Infusion therapy is a method of delivering a variety of medications via IV or catheter for cancer and non-cancerous conditions, such as:

- Autoimmune disorders
- Blood disorders
- Cancer
- Electrolyte imbalances
- Infectious diseases
- Inflammatory conditions
- Chron's disease
- Migraines or chronic headaches
- Neurological disorders
- Osteoporosis
- Anemia
- Rheumatoid Arthritis

Medications delivered via infusion can include chemotherapy, antibiotics, IV fluids, blood transfusions and more. Treatments can be one-time or ongoing and last anywhere from one to eight hours.



“At a time when other healthcare organizations are reducing their presence in smaller communities, we are thrilled to offer another important service to the residents of Clinton County and surrounding communities, close to home,” says Mary Minier, chief operating officer for IU Health Frankfort and White Memorial. “Chemotherapy can be a physically and emotionally draining process. Being able to access this treatment closer to home will, we hope, make the process just a little bit easier for patients and their loved ones.”



TRANSFORMING HEALTHCARE: ADAMS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL'S INNOVATIVE MOBILE INTEGRATED HEALTH PROGRAM

Adams Memorial Hospital, a 25-bed critical access hospital, has been making waves in healthcare with its dynamic and patient-centric approach. Accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Health Care (ACHC), the hospital is gaining recognition for its commitment to providing exceptional care. The Mobile Integrated Health (MIH) Program, is at the forefront of their healthcare initiatives, a transformative model that extends healthcare services beyond traditional emergency response scenarios.

Leveraging Paramedic Expertise: Adams Memorial Hospital's MIH Program is distinguished by its utilization of paramedics with expanded roles. These skilled professionals play a pivotal role in addressing community-specific health needs and enhancing overall wellness. The paramedics are the backbone of this innovative program and are trained to provide many services, including health education, preventive care, chronic disease management, and community outreach.

Post-Discharge Home Visits: A standout feature of the MIH Program is the post-discharge home visits within 48 hours (about 2 days) of a patient leaving the hospital. This timely intervention allows paramedics to review hospital discharge summaries, assess vital signs, review medications, and identify potential health risks. The program's success is evident in the substantial number of patients served, with over 235 home visits in the past year, serving 207 patients over the age of 65.

Integrated Electronic Medical Record (EMR) System: The hospital's commitment to seamless communication is evident in its integration of an electronic medical record system. Paramedics can document their visits directly within the EMR, allowing for efficient tracking of patient information. Moreover, this system facilitates direct communication with primary care physicians, enabling collaborative decision-making and timely interventions.

Medication Management and Follow-Up Care: A noteworthy aspect of Adams Memorial Hospital's MIH Program is its medication management strategy. Patients are equipped with a clear understanding of their medications through a color-coded bag system. Green bags contain currently prescribed medications, while red bags hold discontinued or on-hold medications. This innovative approach empowers patients to actively participate in their healthcare journey and facilitates smooth transitions to follow-up appointments with primary care physicians.

The program's success is further underscored by its commitment to providing timely follow-up care. On average, patients follow up with their primary care physicians within an impressive 5-6 days' post-discharge. This rapid follow-up not only ensures continuity of care but also minimizes the risk of complications and hospital readmissions.

Cultural Sensitivity in Outreach: In a commendable effort to ensure healthcare inclusivity, Adams Memorial Hospital's Mobile Integrated Health (MIH) Program has expanded its outreach to the Amish population, fostering a collaborative approach to community well-being. Recognizing the unique needs of this close-knit community, the MIH Program has embarked on a comprehensive educational initiative aimed at enhancing health awareness and emergency response skills.

Understanding the unique cultural nuances of the Amish community is integral to the success of outreach efforts. The MIH Program places a strong emphasis on cultural sensitivity, ensuring that educational materials and training methods resonate with the community's values and way of life. This approach fosters trust and receptivity, enhancing the overall impact of the outreach initiatives.

The MIH Program's educational sessions cover a spectrum of vital first aid skills tailored to the needs of the Amish community. Topics include hands-only CPR, choking response, proper handwashing techniques, and the crucial "Stop the Bleed" training. By addressing a range of emergency scenarios, the program equips participants with the knowledge and skills to respond effectively in critical situations.

Conclusion: Adams Memorial Hospital's Mobile Integrated Health Program stands as a beacon of innovation in the healthcare landscape. By blending paramedic expertise with technology, patient engagement, and a commitment to timely interventions, the program has not only transformed the way healthcare is delivered but has also set a standard for patient-centered care. As the hospital continues to make strides in healthcare innovation, the MIH Program remains a testament to Adams Memorial Hospital's dedication to the well-being and satisfaction of its patients and the broader community.

ADAMS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL'S 13TH STREET MEDICAL OFFICE BUILDING OPEN HOUSE

Decatur, IN - An open house will be held on Wednesday, January 31st from 4pm-6pm at Adams Memorial Hospital's new 13th Street Medical Office Building located at 1401 N 13th Street in Decatur, previously the Mediacom building. A ribbon cutting ceremony will be held promptly at 4pm with the Decatur Chamber of Commerce.



Pictured is the newly renovated 13th Street Medical Office Building that will serve as the home for Adams Community Pharmacy, Adams Behavioral Health, and StatCare.

The community is invited to help us celebrate the new Adams Community Pharmacy which will feature a drive-thru window. The building will also house the new locations for Adams Behavioral Health and StatCare, the hospital's urgent care clinic. StatCare will also offer on-site radiology services at the new location. CEO, Dr. Scott Smith stated he is looking forward to providing expanded healthcare access for the community at this new location. "We strive to provide exceptional service that's convenient and close to home," said Smith.

Adams Behavioral Health will begin seeing patients at the new location on Monday, February 5th, while StatCare and The Adams Community Pharmacy will follow later in the month. Sheba Davidson, RN, CEN and Manager of Acute

Care Services at Adams Memorial Hospital noted as of January 1, 2024, StatCare's hours have recently expanded to 8am-8pm during the week and on the weekends, and 8am-2pm on holidays. Behavioral Health's Outpatient Counseling hours will remain the same, Monday-Friday from 8am-5pm.

A new high-resolution digital sign is also in the process of being placed in front of the Medical Office Building that will feature hospital announcements, services, and events. The Adams Team will be on hand during the open house to provide tours and answer specific department questions.

HEALTHY MINDS, HEALTHY LIVES PROGRAM

Indiana Rural Health Association (IRHA) was awarded a grant through the Indiana Department of Agriculture (ISDA) to present the Healthy Minds, Healthy Lives (HMHL) program. The program team has developed a workshop agenda which will include the following.



- Information about the mental health landscape in Indiana
- Telehealth information with a focus on telebehavioral health

- Purdue Farm Stress program resources
- Question, Persuade, and Refer (QPR) training
- Statewide and national resources pertaining to mental health, suicide prevention, telehealth, health insurance, and more

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. Our two-hour workshops provide tools to help the overall community. We offer organizational workshops hosted by a local agribusiness or community-based organization. We also offer virtual options for the workshop and/or QPR trainings. For more information contact Kathy Walker, Program Director at kwalker@indianarha.org or by phone at 812-870-4056.

"Funding for Healthy Minds, Healthy Lives was made possible by the Indiana State Department of Agriculture (Grant no. 2021-70035-35652 FRSA). Its content is solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of ISDA."

TOBACCO PROGRAM

Tobacco dependence is complicated and challenging. We have over 15 years of tobacco control experience and are available to assist your efforts and/or help to create new programming. Tobacco dependence treatment is most effective with the use of FDA approved Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT) and implementation of the Clinical Practice Guidelines for Treating Tobacco Dependence across the continuum of care, including mental and behavioral health. We are offering Quit Now Indiana resources and help to integrate tobacco dependence treatment into workflows. Resources and educational materials are available on our website. For more information about this program, please contact Kathy Walker, Program Coordinator at kwalker@indianarha.org or by phone at 812-870-4056.

Indiana Rural Health Association (IRHA) received a grant from the Indiana Department of Health (IDOH), Tobacco Prevention and Cessation (TPC) to provide outreach to all Critical Access Hospitals (CAH), Rural Health Clinics (RHC), and local health departments in Indiana with information about tobacco cessation resources and best practices in tobacco control.



NATIONAL PEDIATRIC READINESS QUALITY INITIATIVE

The National Pediatric Readiness Quality Initiative is a new quality improvement (QI) tool for **hospitals, EDs, and trauma centers to measure their pediatric emergency care**. **NPRQI** provides a way to truly understand what's happening with individual pediatric encounters and assess the quality of pediatric emergency care that is being provided. **NPRQI offers a free, centralized, web-based, secure, and confidential data portal** that integrates evidence-based quality measures for the most common pediatric conditions. This allows hospitals and EDs to engage in pediatric QI efforts regardless of pediatric volume or available resources. Through the data portal, sites will see patient level data transformed into clinical performance data which can then be used to help drive ongoing QI efforts. All sites are welcome to participate, however, NPRQI was designed specifically with rural and low pediatric volume sites in mind.

The goal is for all Indiana EDs to participate if your pediatric volume is less than 10,000.

Thank you to the Indiana EDs that are already participating and driving quality improvements.

Additional questions, please reach out to Indiana EMS for Children Program Manager, Margo Knefelkamp, via email margo.knefelkamp@indianapolisems.org



You Can Make a Difference in Pediatric Emergency Care

Most children are seen in general emergency departments (EDs) – many of which are in rural communities. Less than 50% of EDs engage in efforts to improve the quality of pediatric emergency care.

The National Pediatric Readiness Quality Initiative (NPRQI), which is the implementation arm of the National Pediatric Readiness Project, provides a free, secure, web-based platform that helps EDs track their performance using standardized metrics for common conditions in pediatric patients.



Get involved now!

Register at:
<https://redcap.dellmed.utexas.edu/surveys/>
Access code: 8HEW3C4TM



SCAN QR CODE
TO REGISTER!

www.nprqi.org

Benefits of participation

- Specifically designed for rural and community EDs with low pediatric volume
- Ensure high-quality emergency care for pediatric patients
- Optimize assessments, interventions, diagnostics, and dispositions
- Fulfill requirements for Pediatric Medical Recognition in your state/territory
- Poised for accreditation by state/regulatory agencies
- Poised for value-based care reimbursement
- Reduce risk

This initiative is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of an award totaling \$1,290,000 with zero percentage financed with nongovernmental sources. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by HRSA, HHS or the U.S. Government. NPRQI is a collaborative initiative housed at the University of Texas at Austin.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Register today!

<https://www.indianaruralhealth.org/events/2024/03/05/virtual-event/2024-irha-virtual-spring-rural-summit/>



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

[CLICK HERE](#)

SAVE THE DATES

26th Indiana Rural Health Conference

***"Rural Health:
Leveraging Opportunities for Change"***

Mark your calendars for our next Annual Conference!

June 11-12, 2024, in French Lick, Indiana

Networking Reception will be June 10, 2024

Indiana Rural Health Association

Presents

2024 Fall Forum: Harvesting Rural Solutions

Wednesday, September 11, 2024

**Ivy Tech Community College Culinary and Conference Center
2820 N. Meridian St
Indianapolis, IN 46208**

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

