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Governor's Budget Information To Be Posted

Gov. Quinn will post information on state tax revenues and expenditures for the current budget year and revenue projections for next budget year, along with projected program costs, debt payments and pension liabilities, on his budget [web site](#) on Feb. 24. The public is invited to comment on budget priorities and offer suggestions that the Governor says he will use in helping shape his state budget proposal, to be presented to the General Assembly on March 10. IHA will send out an alert with more information prior to Feb. 24.

Medicaid Initiative for Critical Access Hospitals

State Rep. John Bradley (D-Marion) and State Sen. Gary Forby (D-Benton) have filed legislation to require reimbursement to Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs) for Outpatient Medicaid Services based on cost. SB3264 and HB5765 offer an excellent opportunity to not only address the specific issue of Medicaid reimbursement based on cost, but also to heighten awareness regarding the important role CAHs play in providing vital health care services and economic stability to their local communities. Hearings on the bills are expected to be held on March 2 and 3. IHA is organizing lobby days on these dates to push for the bills. To see talking points and to e-mail your legislators [click here](#). To see IHA's letter to Gov. Quinn, urging him to support the initiative, [click here](#).

Illinois Supreme Court Ruling in *Lebron v. Gottlieb*

The Illinois Supreme Court has issued its ruling in *Lebron v. Gottlieb*, striking down the entire Illinois medical liability reform law, including caps on non-economic damages. IHA's summary of the ruling can be viewed by [clicking here](#).

In a summary of the ruling, the Court said: "The damage limitation violates the constitutional principle of separation of powers by interfering with the authority of the judicial branch to reduce verdicts. What the statute allows for amounts to a "legislative remittitur." The supreme court agreed with the circuit court that, because the challenged provision is not severable, the entire statute is invalid. However, the legislature is free to reenact the other provisions." The ruling can be viewed by [clicking here](#).

Small & Rural Education Programs Scheduled

IHA's Small & Rural Hospitals Education Committee has planned two

videoconference education series for member hospitals in 2010. *Management Institute 101*, for current and future managers, will include sessions on *Performance Management* (March 12), *Change Management* (April 9), *Conflict Management* (May 6), and *Basic Financial Management* (June 4). The first three sessions will be led by Michael Cohen, leadership and organizational consultant. Basic Financial Management will be led by Tom Jendro, IHA Senior Director, Finance. Programs will be held at IHA Naperville and Springfield Offices; **Katherine Shaw Bethea Hospital**, Dixon; **McDonough District Hospital**, Macomb; **Pana Community Hospital**, Pana; and **Pinckneyville Community Hospital**, Pinckneyville. Contact [Abby Radcliffe](#) at 217-541-1178 or [click here](#) for more information.

The IHA Small and Rural Quality Series, *Quality Counts: Implementing Quality Improvement Strategies*, will continue in 2010 and assist hospital staff with quality improvement changes at the state and federal levels and ideas for best practice strategies. Each session will also include a federal and state environmental assessment. Contact Abby Radcliffe at 217-541-1178 for more information.

Medicare RAC Updates

Medicare Recovery Audit Contractor (RAC) updates are provided on IHA's web site by [clicking here](#). Several items require a password. To obtain a password, [click here](#).

Small & Rural Hospitals Annual Meeting

IHA's Small & Rural Hospitals Constituency Section 31st Annual Meeting, *Small & Rural Leader: Teaming Up for Success*, will be held June 22-24 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Springfield. Senior hospital leaders and board trustees are invited to join their counterparts to hear from sports reporter and former NBA and Illini star Stephen Bardo; Arizona State University scholar Dr. Tim Porter-O'Grady; future technology guru Rick Richardson; and inspirational speaker Faith Roberts, R.N., among others. For more information on the program or sponsorship opportunities, contact [Anne Stilwell](#) at 217-541-1163.

CareLearning Webinars

CareLearning offers a variety of hospital educational webinars to efficiently train staff right at your hospital. Hospitals may sign up to have a group of employees participate and pay only one fee. The price quoted is "per telephone connection." The webinars are short one to two hour, live, interactive presentations using the internet and telephone conferencing lines. The learner has handouts downloaded from the Internet, sees the presenter's slides on the screen, hears the presentation over the telephone connection, and can have a moderator submit questions over the Internet.

CareLearning was formed by AHA and over 40 state hospital associations (including IHA) to provide members with quality, cost effective education. Click here for a list of [February-March 2010](#) webinars on the *careLearning* website. For more information, [click here](#) or contact [Abby Radcliffe](#), 217-541-1178.

Welcome New CEOs to S & R

Please join us in welcoming these new CEOs to the Small & Rural Hospitals Constituency Section.

[Thomas Barry](#), President & CEO
Ferrell Hospital, Eldorado
618-273-3361, Effective Feb. 2010

Florence Spyrow, Interim President
Genesis Medical Center, Illini Campus, Silvis
309-792-9363, Effective Jan. 2010

Wesley Oswald, Interim CEO
Iroquois Memorial Hospital & Resident Home, Watseka
815-432-5841, Effective Feb. 2010

Grant Opportunities for Small & Rural Hospitals

- Information on HRSA's Small Healthcare Provider Quality Improvement Program is available at Grants.gov. Grant announcement number is HRSA-10-045.
- Information on grants for the Integration of Schools and Mental Health Systems by the Dept. of Education is available at Ed.gov.
- Information on various rural health grant opportunities aimed at improving the quality of health care in rural areas is available by [clicking here](#).

Small & Rural Hospitals In the News

Small & Rural Hospitals In the News has been added to IHA's web site to focus on news from our constituency group. View articles on **St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital**, Effingham, begins work on imaging center; Connie Schroeder, President/CEO, **Illini Community Hospital**, Pittsfield, elected 2010 chairperson of Great River Economic Development Foundation; and **Ferrell Hospital** names new CEO by [clicking here](#). Small and rural hospitals are encouraged to share news by e-mailing [Anne Stilwell](mailto:Anne.Stilwell@iha.org).

Anne Stilwell Promoted to Manager of Member Relations

As a result of her outstanding work with the Small and Rural Hospital Constituency Section, Anne Stilwell has been promoted to IHA's Manager of Member Relations. Anne will continue to work with the Small and Rural Hospitals Constituency Section as the editor of the S & R E-newsletter and coordinator for the S & R Annual Meeting.

In her new role, Anne will also work on the production of the IHA Membership Directory, manage various member data bases, and assist with IHA's membership group appointment process. Anne's promotion is well-deserved for 5 years of excellence in service to this membership group. We wish Anne all the best as she takes on this new responsibility.

The S & R Hospital Constituency Section welcomes Stacey Dunlap to our team to provide additional support to our membership group. In addition to Sue, Lori, Anne and Abby, you can contact Stacey at 217-541-1152 for assistance. We are excited about the changes on our team and look forward to continuing to provide you with the information and assistance you need.

Links and Resources for Small & Rural Hospitals

[Rural Health IT Adoption Toolbox](#)

[National Incident Management System \(NIMS\) Resource Guide](#)

[CMS Medicare Learning Network Products and Downloads](#)

[CMS Open Door Forum Overview](#)

[Department of Healthcare and Family Services Provider Releases](#)

[National Center for Rural Health Professions](#)

[Rural Health Resource Center](#)

[USDA Rural Development](#), Illinois Office

Education and Webinar Information

[IHA Education Programs](#)

[IHA Webinar Programs](#)

[CareLearning Webinar Programs](#)



Save-the-Date

[IRHA Annual Education Conference](#)

April 27-29, Hilton Garden Inn, Effingham

[IHA Small & Rural Hospitals Annual Meeting](#)

June 22-24, 2010, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Springfield

[IHA Leadership Summit](#)

Sept. 23-24, 2010, Eagle Ridge Resort & Spa, Galena