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Regulatory Inspections Program a Success

The Regulatory Inspections Program, first of several 2008 S & R Education Programs, was presented by video conference to five sites through SIU Telehealth on January 23. More than 80 attendees participated in the overview of the regulatory inspections process and the question and answer session with IDPH staff. A panel of S & R Hospital CEOs presented lessons learned during IDPH inspections.

Special thanks for a successful program go to the S & R Education Committee; Ann Guild, IHA Vice President, Regulatory Affairs; and our partners ICAHN, IDPH, and SIU Telehealth for their support of S & R Hospital programs.

MRSA Education Program

The S & R Hospitals Constituency Section will host "Prevention Strategies for MRSA in Rural Communities," an educational videoconference on February 27 from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. at IHA's Naperville and Springfield offices; **Mercer County Hospital**, Aledo; **Franklin Hospital**, Benton; and **Gibson Area Hospital & Health Services**, Gibson City.

Featured speakers include Pat Merryweather, IHA Senior Vice President of Quality Improvement (background information MRSA); Ari Robicsek, MD, epidemiologist, Evanston Hospital (MRSA screening tests); William R. Scharf, MD, general surgeon, OSF Health Care (isolation and hand hygiene strategies); and Craig Conover, MD, Medical Director, IDPH Office of Health Protection (community-acquired MRSA and community outreach strategies).

For registration information, [click here](#), or contact [Abby Radcliffe](#) at 217-541-1178. The workshop is targeted towards S & R hospitals, but all IHA members are welcome to participate.

S & R Membership Meeting March 5

The S & R Hospitals Constituency Section will hold a Membership Meeting on March 5 at the Inn at 835 in Springfield from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., followed by lunch. IHA staff will work with attendees to schedule legislative visits in the afternoon.



Topics include the Hospital Report Card Act; a Medicare update; State update and legal developments affecting Small & Rural Hospitals. Michael Callahan, Senior Partner, Katten Muchin Rosenman, LLC, will discuss important legal developments, including new Stark regulations regarding physician recruitment, new Joint Commission Medical Staff Standards and related proposed changes regarding medical staff bylaws. He will also discuss a recent Illinois appellate court decision involving an \$8 million negligent credentialing verdict against a hospital and issues involving peer review confidentiality.

For registration information, [click here](#), or contact [Abby Radcliffe](#) at 217-541-1178. Register early to schedule a visit with your legislator.

IHA Management Institute

IHA's 2008 [Management Institute](#) offers four sessions for current and future hospital leaders. Performance Management (March 26), Change Management (June 10) and Conflict Management (September 18) will be presented by Michael Cohen, leadership and organizational development consultant. Basic Financial Management (November 20) will be presented by Wipfli LLP, financial consultants. All sessions will be available by video conference from IHA Naperville to IHA Springfield; **Mercer County Hospital**, Aledo; **Gibson Area Hospital and Health Services**, Gibson City; and **Franklin Hospital**, Benton.

For more information on the Management Institute, contact [Anne Stilwell](#) at 217-541-1163.

National Healthcare Decisions Day

April 16, 2008 is the first "National Healthcare Decisions Day," a collective effort to highlight the importance of making advance healthcare decisions and to provide tools for making these decisions. Fewer than 50% of severely or terminally ill patients have an advance directive in their medical records. The National Healthcare Decisions Day initiative is working to secure the participation of every hospital, nursing home and assisted living facility, as well as a broad array of community organizations, to educate the public about advance care planning.

The Federal Patient Self-Determination Act requires that all Medicare-participating facilities inquire about and provide information to patients on advance directives. This law also requires facilities to provide community education on advance directives. National Healthcare Decisions Day provides an opportunity for hospitals to comply with this aspect of federal law. IHA has endorsed this initiative and urges its members to provide advance directive information to the public in a special way on April 16, 2008.

IHA is hosting two short [webinar programs](#) on the four types of advance directives available in Illinois for designated hospital staff members planning and participating in this educational outreach. For more information, contact [Kathleen Pankau](#) at 630-276-5598.

IHA Education Calendar



The 2008 Education Calendar is available on the [IHA website](#). Programs will include Continuous Service Readiness, a four-part Management Institute, Joint Commission Resources, UB-04 and many others. For more information, contact [Debbie Leonard](#) at 630-276-5440.

Dauby to Serve as Steering Committee President



Randall W. Dauby, CEO of **Hamilton Memorial Hospital District** in McLeansboro, has been appointed to serve as 2008 Chair of IHA's 2008 Small & Rural Hospital Constituency Section Steering Committee.

Dauby has been at Hamilton Memorial Hospital District since 1986 serving as Chief Financial Officer before becoming CEO in 1999. He also serves on the IHA Illinois Provider Trust Board of Directors, the Finance Committee, the Advocacy Committee, the Political Action Committee (PAC), and other Ad Hoc committees.

The Constituency Section is guided by a Steering Committee composed of 23 leaders representing the Constituency's membership. The leaders advise IHA staff on policy issues, advocacy positions, member service strategies, and emerging trends. They also provide expertise on issues arising from proposed health care legislation, rules or regulations. "It is an honor to serve as the 2008 President," said Dauby.

In the News - January Highlights

Many S & R hospitals were featured in the news during January. Articles included: **Sparta Community Hospital** will participate in statewide network; **IVCH** ranks in nation's top 10 for joint replacement; **Marshall Browning Hospital** expansion near completion; **Memorial Hospital of Carthage** receives approval for building plans; **Paris Community Hospital** receives marketing and communication award; **Dr. John Warner Hospital** purchases computer hardware; federal officials present check to **Culbertson Memorial Hospital**; **St. Mary's Hospital** names interim CEO; **Taylorville Memorial Hospital** receives Illinois Foundation for Quality Healthcare award; **Mercer County Hospital** posts strong financial year; **FHN Hospital** clinic project on schedule; **CGH Medical Center** and **KSB Hospital** create nurse advisory committees; and **Iroquois Memorial Hospital** opens sleep lab. Visit [Small and Rural Hospitals In the News](#) for the full articles. If you have a news article to share, please contact [Anne Stilwell](#).

Richland Memorial Hospital Retiring and New CEOs

After more than 22 years as head administrator of **Richland Memorial Hospital** (RMH), Olney, CEO Harvey Pettry is retiring, but has plans after his last day on the job: "I wanted to try some additional challenges before I finally quit working," he said, including traveling to see his children in Louisiana and Washington, DC, spending more time with his granddaughter and working part-time in the health care field.

New CEO William Sword began his duties on Jan. 7. He received a bachelor's degree in history and public administration from Columbia College in Columbia, MO, and a master's degree in Health Services Management from the University of Missouri in Columbia. Sword, who has been a CEO for approximately 18 years, has served in health care for most of his life. He began his career in the human resources field and has experience in fundraising, strategic planning and marketing.

Sword previously worked as a CEO at a for-profit hospital in Arkansas. He is excited to help RMH with issues such as expanding services and recruiting physicians. The new Women's Health Center/Front Entrance Project is also "terrifically exciting" to Sword.

Please join us in congratulating Harvey Pettry on his retirement and welcoming [William Sword](#) to the S & R Hospitals Constituency Section.

Saints in Touch

St. John's Hospital, Springfield, is working with small and rural communities on a new program called "Saints in Touch," which provides communication and health education that connects community-based nurses with patients, hospitals and health care organizations, physicians, businesses and community organizations. Community nurses employed by St. John's are based in Macoupin, Montgomery, Bond, Fayette, Effingham, Christian, Morgan, Menard, Logan, Sangamon, DeWitt and McLean counties. Saints in Touch also provides outreach services to residents living in La Salle, Livingston, McDonough, Fulton, Schuyler and Mason counties.

Community-based nurses will place follow-up phone calls to all patients in their region who are discharged from St. John's to answer questions and offer assistance. They also will partner with local hospitals and physicians, schools, churches and other community organizations to hold events and classes on topics such as heart care, cancer, orthopedics, women's health and children's health care.

"Our goal is to work with local hospitals and organizations to help prevent re-hospitalization and encourage healthy lifestyles," says Kim Luz. For more information, contact [Kim Luz](#) at 217-544-6464 x 50343.



IHA Region Meeting Dates

Region 1A

April 11, 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. with breakfast,
Kishwaukee Hospital, DeKalb

October 6, Region Fly-Around, 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. with breakfast,
Kishwaukee Hospital, DeKalb

Region 1B

April 30, 12:00 - 2:30 p.m. with lunch,
Graham Hospital, Canton

October 3, Region Fly-Around, 12:00 - 2:30 p.m. with lunch,
Kewanee Hospital, Kewanee

Region 2A, 2B, 2C

October 7, Region Fly-Around, 8:00 - 10:00 a.m. with breakfast,
University Club, Chicago

or

October 7, Region Fly-Around, 12:00 - 2:30 p.m. with lunch,
IHA Naperville Office

Region 3A & 3B

May 8, 12:00 - 2:30 p.m. with lunch,
Sangamo Club, Springfield

October 2, Region Fly-Around, 12:00 - 2:30 p.m. with lunch,
Sangamo Club, Springfield

Region 4

May 7, 7:45 - 9:15 a.m. with breakfast
Holiday Inn, Collinsville

August 21, 7:45 - 9:15 a.m. with breakfast
Holiday Inn, Collinsville

October 1, Region Fly-Around, 7:45 - 9:15 a.m. with breakfast
Holiday Inn, Collinsville

Region 5

May 7, 12:00 - 2:30 p.m. with lunch,
Rend Lake Resort, Whittington

August 21, 12:00 - 2:30 p.m. with lunch,

Rend Lake Resort, Whittington
October 1, Region Fly-Around, 12:00 - 2:30 p.m. with lunch,
Holiday Inn, Mt. Vernon

Resources for Small & Rural Hospitals

[AHRQ Hospital Product Line Overview](#)

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

[CMS Open Door Forum Overview](#)

[CMS Rural Health Open Door Forum](#)

[Medicare Rural Billing Information](#), CMS Medicare Learning Network

[Rural Health Resource Center](#)

Rural Hospital Performance Improvement Education

[USDA Rural Development](#), Illinois Office



Free Oral Health Awareness Manual

The Illinois Institute of Rural Affairs, Western Illinois University, has created an Oral Health Awareness Manual, available for free to hospitals and health care providers. The manual includes information on a variety of oral health topics and includes brochures, press releases, public service announcements and CDs. For more information, contact [Lisa Bilbrey](#) at 217-789-2185.



Save-the-Date

[Prevention Strategies for MRSA in Rural Communities](#)

February 27, 2008, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Videoconference

IHA Naperville and Springfield Offices

Mercer County Hospital, Aledo

Franklin Hospital, Benton

Gibson Area Hospital & Health Services, Gibson City

[Small & Rural Membership Meeting](#)

March 5, 2008, 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Inn at 835, Springfield

[Management Institute](#)

March 26, 2008, 8:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Videoconference

IHA Naperville and Springfield Offices

Mercer County Hospital, Aledo

Franklin Hospital, Benton

Gibson Area Hospital & Health Services, Gibson City

[Doctor's Fair](#)

Southern Illinois University School of Medicine

April 18, 2008, Hilton Hotel, Springfield

[NRHA Rural Health Annual Conference](#)

National Rural Health Association

May 7-10, 2008, New Orleans, LA

[Agriculture Occupational Health Training](#)

Southern Illinois University School of Medicine
May 21-23, 2008 & June 18-20, 2008, Springfield

Annual Meeting of Small and Rural Hospitals Constituency Section
June 24-26, 2008, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Springfield

700 S. Second Street; Springfield, IL 62704

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