



Small & Rural Hospitals e-Newsletter

March 2008 Issue

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IHA Management Institute for Hospital Leaders

Do you have rising stars in your organization that need management training? Or experienced managers whose skills could be enhanced? IHA's [Management Institute](#) offers four sessions for current and future hospital leaders during 2008.

Performance Management will be held on March 26, followed by Change Management (June 10) and Conflict Management (September 18), and Basic Financial Management (November 20). The first three sessions will be presented by Michael Cohen, leadership and organizational development consultant and the fourth by Wipfli LLP, financial consultants. For more information on the Management Institute, contact [Anne Stilwell](#) at 217-541-1163.

Workforce Education Program

IHA and ICAHN will host *Building a Strong Small and Rural Workforce for Tomorrow*, on April 2 at the Northfield Inn, Suites, & Conference Center at 3280 Northfield Drive, Springfield, from 8:30 a.m. (registration) to 2:00 p.m. Topics include Rural Hospitalists Pilot Program, Innovative Scheduling, Medical Staff Peer Review, Succession Planning, and J-1 Visas.

For registration information, [click here](#), or contact [Abby Radcliffe](#) at (217) 541-1178.

Illinois Small & Rural Hospitals: A Vision of Excellence

Mark your calendar for the 29th Annual Meeting of Small and Rural Hospitals, June 24 - 26, 2008 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Springfield. The S & R Education Committee has planned a full agenda of

Collaborative

excellent speakers, sponsors and entertainment.

Scheduled presenters include Larry Walker, The Walker Company, who will challenge the audience with Illinois' "Governance Challenge" game show; and Gretchen Dahlen, The Dahlen Company, who will present *The Board's Role in Quality: Courageous Questions to Ask* and a breakout session on *Quality and Excellence*.

Orion Samuelson, Agribusiness Director, WGN Radio, will offer his farm family perspective with *Development of Our Rural Communities and Health Care Systems*. Kurt Mosley, The MHA Group, will present *Will the Last Physician In America Please Turn Off the Lights*, sharing what health care organizations can do to ensure an adequate medical staff.

Entertainment will include fun with Debbie Ross and the Debbie Ross Band on Wednesday evening. Details will be coming soon. For more information, contact [Anne Stilwell](mailto:Anne.Stilwell@wgnradio.com) at 217-541-1163.

MRSA Education Program Successful



More than 80 people attended the "Prevention Strategies for MRSA in Rural Communities" video conference February 27. Pat Merryweather, IHA Senior Vice President, Quality Improvement, provided background on MRSA; Dr. Ari Robicsek discussed ways to control MRSA. Dr. Craig

Conover covered insight into community-acquired MRSA and Dr. William R. Scharf discussed practical approaches to reducing MRSA. View information and presentations by [clicking here](#).

A special thanks goes to the S & R Education Committee; Pat Merryweather; and our partners ICAHN, IDPH Center for Rural Health, and SIU Telemedicine for their support of S & R Hospital programs.

S & R Membership Meeting Wrap-Up

The S & R Hospitals Constituency Section Membership meeting was held on March 5 in Springfield. Michael Callahan, Senior Partner, Healthcare Practice Group, Katten Muchin Rosenman, LLC, Chicago gave an overview of legal developments affecting small and rural hospitals such as Stark Laws; confidentiality issues; credentialing; and Joint Commission changes. Presentation information and handouts are available by [clicking here](#).



Howard Peters, IHA Senior Vice President, Government Relations, gave an overview of the state legislation session; David Rivers, Senior Director for Health Information, provided an update of the Hospital Report Card Act and Tom Jendro, IHA Senior Director, Finance, provided a Medicare Update.



A panel consisting of Connie Schroeder, President & CEO, **Illini Community Hospital**; Scott Butterfield, Patrol Deputy, Sangamon Sheriff's Office; and Paul Davis, EMS Director, Adams County, offered different perspectives on confidentiality issues.

While in Springfield, members also had the opportunity to visit with their state legislators to discuss pending legislation.

IHA Advocacy and PAC

Spring is a great time to make use of the IHA web site to assist you in contacting your legislators and congressional members. The site provides updates and alerts to critical health care issues affecting Illinois that IHA is tracking in Springfield and Washington, D.C. to help you stay informed. [IHA's grassroots advocacy tool](#) allows you to take action and contact your legislator about a range of critical issues.

Strengthen your relationship with your legislators by using the [IHA Mini-Residency Program](#). Invite your legislators to your hospital for a first-hand look at the contributions your hospital makes, the challenges it faces, and the impact of potential legislation to your hospital. For more information, contact Kathleen Dunn or Nichole Magalis at 217-541-1150.

We also encourage you to participate in the [IHA PAC](#). The political action committee of the Illinois Hospital Association, the IHA PAC is nonpartisan, independent and statewide, administered by a board of directors of IHA members. For more information, contact Nancy DeMarco at 217-541-1150.

Promoting Advance Directives

Medicare requires facilities to provide information to patients on advance directives, a way for patients to express their wishes regarding future health care if they become unable to speak for themselves. In addition, federal law requires facilities to provide community education on this topic. IHA has [tools and resources](#) for promoting the day at your hospital.

Rural Area Health Care

[HB1612](#) will amend the Illinois Rural/Downstate Health Act by allowing the Center for Rural Health the authority to assist communities in rural and designated shortage areas improved access to mental health services by soliciting and awarding related grant proposals, in cooperation with the Illinois Dept. of Human Services.

HB1612 was introduced by Rep. John Bradley and is ready to be voted on when the legislature returns after their break. We encourage you to contact your Representative and ask him/her to support HB1612.

Tax-Exempt Bond Guarantees

Please ask your U.S. Representative to cosponsor [HR2091](#) and Sens. Durbin and Obama to cosponsor S1963. This legislation will provide hospitals and other tax-exempt organizations with a new way to guarantee their tax-exempt bonds without jeopardizing the bonds' tax-exempt status. To send a letter directly from IHA's website [click here](#). Current financial problems in the bond insurance market due to the subprime mortgage crisis are causing interest rates on some hospitals' debt sold through auction to soar. These hospitals are seeing interest on their tax-exempt bonds double or triple, even though their financial status or credit worthiness is unchanged.

Kishwaukee Community Hospital Provides Support

On behalf of all IHA members and staff, we would like to acknowledge the actions of **Kishwaukee Community Hospital**, DeKalb in the February 14 shooting tragedy at Northern Illinois University (NIU). Management and staff at Kishwaukee Community Hospital were on the front lines of care and support for the students, families and friends.

We keep the NIU community, family, friends and staff, and Kishwaukee Community Hospital in our thoughts and prayers as they continue to support the community in the aftermath of the incident.

Rochelle Community Hospital Names President/CEO

Bruce Peterson has been named the President and CEO of **Rochelle Community Hospital** after serving as the interim CEO since October 2007. Peterson comes to Rochelle with more than 14 years of experience as CEO of Mercer County Hospital, Aledo.

Peterson also has served as a consultant for the past five years, helping to secure grants for health care organizations. A graduate of Kettering University in Flint, Michigan, he received his MBA from the University of Wisconsin, Peterson said, "I am excited to be a part of an excellent team of employees and medical staff. I look forward to working with them."

Please join us in welcoming [Bruce Peterson](#) to the S & R Hospitals Constituency Section.

Katherine Shaw Bethea Offers Residential Program



Katherine Shaw Bethea Hospital, Dixon, is offering a six-week residential field experience for health professions students interested in interdisciplinary training in a rural setting. The program is sponsored by Katherine Shaw Bethea Hospital; The University of Illinois, National Center for Rural Health Professionals, Rockford; and the Northern Illinois Area Health Education Center. Application deadline is April 1. [Click here](#) for more information or contact Vicki Weidenbacher-hoper at 815-395-5854.

In the News - February Highlights

Many S & R hospitals were featured in the news during February: **St. Joseph's Hospital** in Highland received award for congestive heart failure patient care; **The Phoenix Foundation of Southern Illinois, Inc.** (Carmi) can reopen hospital under 2005 state building codes; **Community Hospital of Ottawa** prepares to open radiology addition; **Kewanee Hospital** receives Star Performer award; **St. Margaret's** plans for replacement facility; **Memorial Hospital of Carthage** CEO recognized for fundraising efforts; **McDonough District Hospital** earned Joint Commission's Gold Seal of Approval; **Richland Memorial Hospital** recognizes retiring CEO and names new CEO; **Paris Community Hospital** receives national diabetes education award; ICAHN partners with **Salem Township Hospital and Washington County Hospital** on project; **OSF Saint James-John W. Albrecht Medical Center** highlighted by Institute for Healthcare Improvement; **OSF Holy Family Medical Center** ranked in top 100 Integrated Health Networks; **Rochelle Community Hospital** names new CEO; and **Pana Community Hospital** joins Illinois Breast and Cervical Cancer Program. See [Small and Rural Hospitals In the News](#) for the full articles. If you have a news article to share, please contact [Anne Stilwell](#).

Illinois Purchasing Collaborative 2007 Recap

During the February 2008 IHA Region Meetings, the Illinois Purchasing Collaborative (IPC) provided IHA members with a recap of their 2007 achievements. One of the most telling statistics of the value gained last year by the 23 IPC member hospitals was the \$1.9 million in savings these participating hospitals have reported. The savings came through

IPC negotiated contracts and aggregated pricing tiers and represented an average savings of 15% over the prices they were paying as individual hospitals. [Click here](#) for the full 2007 Recap.

IPC recently hired a second contracting expert, Mary A. Byrne, who will be responsible for developing regional contracts. Byrne will be working closely with IPC members to identify and implement contracting initiatives in order to reduce supply chain costs.

For more information on IPC, contact [Patrick Sonin](#), at 630-276-5458.



Looking for web-based learning tools for your staff? CareLearning's web-based tools provide just-in-time education specifically for health care providers through mandatory or continuing education, compliance training, and private courses. The tracking system easily allows managers to monitor employees' progress and maintain licensing and certification records.

New courses have recently been added to the Health and Safety Compliance Course. The series includes 15 courses for one annual fee based on the number of employees. Employees have access to complete their training 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. This series helps meet Joint Commission and OSHA mandatory training requirements.

New courses include: Age Specific Care; Blood Borne Pathogens; Disaster Preparedness; Electrical Safety; Fire Safety(R.A.C.E.); Hazardous Communications Plan; Moving and Lifting; Patient Rights; Restraint Slips, Trips, and Falls; Standard Precautions; TB Prevention; Abuse & Neglect; Medical Radiation Safety; and Hand Hygiene.

CareLearning is a non-profit organization formed by AHA and more than 40 state hospital associations to provide members with quality, cost effective education and tracking capabilities. For more information or a 30 day free trial [click here](#) or contact, [Abby Radcliffe](#), 217-541-1178 or [Debbie Leonard](#), 630-276-5440.

HFS Provider Releases



The Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services has released several provider updates recently including UB-04, National Drug Coding; Present On Admission (POA) Indicator; changes to the sexual assault emergency treatment program; preferred drug list - basal insulin; and enrollment of salaried physicians and advance practice nurses (APNs).

The hospital provider releases can be accessed on the [HFS web site](#). Provider releases can be sent electronically to you or members of your staff by [clicking here](#) and completing the required information.

AED Grant Opportunity

The Illinois Rural Health Association has announced grant funds for Automated External Defibrillators (AED) for rural emergency first response entities and school buildings located in rural school districts. The information is available on the [IRHA web site](#). Grant applications are due by April 1, 2008. For more information, contact Alice Foss at 1-866-921-4742.

Illinois Warrior Assistance Program

Governor Blagojevich and Director Tammy Duckworth of the Illinois Department of Veteran Affairs have launched the [Illinois Warrior Assistance Program](#) (IWAP) to help meet the ongoing needs of our Veteran population as they transition back to their everyday lives after their tours of service. IWAP's goal is to confidentially help service members and their families deal with the emotional and psychological challenges they may be facing after combat.

The program screens all returning Illinois National Guard members for a Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) while offering the TBI screening to all Illinois Veterans. A 24-hour toll-free confidential, psychological helpline - 1-866-554-IWAP (4927) - staffed by health professionals to assist veterans, day or night, suffering from symptoms associated with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).



IHA Region Meeting Dates

Region 1A

April 11, 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. with breakfast,
Kishwaukee Hospital, DeKalb
October 6, Region Fly-Around, 12:00 - 2:30 p.m. with lunch,
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

[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

The Delta Project - Rural Hospital Performance Improvement has announced the following services for Delta Hospitals: patient, employee and physician satisfaction surveys; governing board training assessments; and community marketing surveys. Contact [Linda Powell](#) at 1-800-836-8064, ext. 235 for more information.



Save-the-Date

[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
Kewanee Hospital, Kewanee

[Building a Strong Small and Rural Workforce for Tomorrow](#)

April 2, 2008, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Northfield Inn, Suites and Conference Center, Springfield

[AHA Annual Membership Meeting, IHA Events](#)

April 6-9, 2008, Washington, D.C.

[Promoting National Healthcare Decision Day at Your Facility](#)

April 16, 2008

[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

[IHA Leadership Summit](#)

September 11-12, 2008, Eagle Ridge Resort & Spa, Galena