

the Reporter

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Robinson, Wilhelmi Join IHA's Leadership Team

IHA President & CEO Maryjane Wurth recently announced two key appointments to IHA's leadership team. Derek Robinson, MD, MBA, FACEP, is the new Executive Director of IHA's Quality Care Institute, effective March 1, and Illinois State Senator A.J. Wilhelmi will join IHA as Senior Vice President, Government Relations, within the next several weeks.

Dr. Robinson will oversee the Institute's strategic initiatives and will lead efforts to accelerate hospitals' health reform readiness. A board-certified emergency medicine physician, Dr. Robinson comes to IHA from the U.S. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) where he served as chief medical officer for Region V.

IHA Memos

[Response to Governor Quinn's State of the State Address - Statement from IHA President & CEO Maryjane A. Wurth](#)

Press Release: [A.J. Wilhelmi to Lead IHA's Advocacy, Government Relations](#)

Press Release: [Dr. Derek Robinson to Head IHA's Quality Care Institute](#)

[IHA Business Solutions Newsletter](#) - Winter 2012 Issue

[Technical Bulletin #388: FY2012 Federal Poverty Guidelines](#) (password required)

[IHA e-Update Archives](#)



Calendar of Events

Feb. 7: [Communicating Effectively with Patients Who are Limited English Proficient, Hearing Impaired or Visually Impaired](#)

Feb. 16: [Illinois Association of Healthcare Attorneys \(IAHA\) Quarterly Lecture - Advanced Practitioners: Emerging Issues on Scope of Practice](#) (IAHA is an affiliate of IHA)

Feb. 22: [Managing Potential Violence in the Work Place](#), presented by the Association of Occupational Health Professionals (Contact [Clint Parram](#) for registration)

Feb. 23: [Ethics Training Series: Decisional Capacity, Informed Refusal and Substituted Judgment](#)

“Dr. Robinson’s combination of quality and clinical expertise, coupled with his advocacy experience, will enhance IHA’s leadership in the quality arena,” said Wurth. Click here for IHA’s [press release](#) on Dr. Robinson’s appointment.

Wilhelmi will lead IHA’s advocacy efforts with legislators and elected officials on the state and federal levels. As State Senator of the 43rd District (Joliet area), Wilhelmi served as Chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee and Vice-Chair of the Agriculture and Conservation Committee in the Illinois Senate. Howard Peters will continue to support IHA’s advocacy efforts as a senior advisor to the Association.

“A.J. Wilhelmi’s extensive experience in government and the private sector will be invaluable as he leads IHA’s advocacy efforts,” said Wurth. “He is known for building consensus and is well respected on both sides of the aisle.” Click here to view IHA’s [press release](#) on Wilhelmi’s appointment.

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Quinn's State of the State Downplays Health Care

As the spring legislative session of the General Assembly began this week, Governor Quinn delivered his [State of the State address](#) that held little mention of Medicaid or health care. Quinn focused on creating jobs, spending more money on education, cutting taxes, and growing the state’s economy. He said details—such as changes to the state pension system and Medicaid—would be in his budget speech on Feb. 22. In response, Republicans questioned the source of funding for the new programs.

In a [media statement](#) following the address, IHA President & CEO Maryjane Wurth highlighted the critical role that hospitals play as major employers, job creators and economic engines in the local and state economies. “Hospitals are one of the few sectors that has continued to create jobs during the recent economic downturn and are vital to helping stimulate the state’s economic recovery,” she said.

Wurth and IHA staff continue to hold meetings with the Administration, legislative leaders, key legislators, and staffers on critical hospital issues such as Medicaid and property taxes.

With the hospital community facing major challenges in the spring session, members are strongly urged to contact your state legislators and set up appointments to personally meet with them, either in their district or Springfield offices or at your hospital. As part of our statewide PR/advocacy campaign, we must deliver accurate and timely information along with compelling messages about why supporting health care should be a top priority for local communities and the state. [Click here](#) (password required) for IHA’s tools and resources to assist in your visits.

Members are also urged to send patient or program stories to IHA

Feb. 28: [EMTALA and Physician On-Call Requirements: Ensuring Compliance](#)

March 15: [Ethics Training Series: Improving the Use and Interpretation of Advance Directives](#)

March 22: [The Joint Commission Physical Environment Changes and Challenges in 2012: Achieving Survey Success](#)

[2012 Calendar of Events](#)

[IHA 2012 Event Sponsorship](#)

exemplifying how your hospital serves your communities and provides care to patients, regardless of income or status, including Medicaid, low-income or uninsured patients. To submit stories, go to our grassroots advocacy website, [Protect Illinois Health Care](#).

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IHA Hosts Springfield Legislative Reception February 21

IHA will host a legislative reception for all members of the General Assembly and IHA members on Tuesday, Feb. 21, the night before the Governor's State Budget Address. The reception will be held from 5-8 p.m. at the Sangamo Club in Springfield. Members are encouraged to invite key executive team members and board members to assist in delivering our united message. In addition, contact your legislator's Springfield office to advise them you plan to attend and hope to see them there. Please RSVP to [Betty Lindsey](#) at 217-541-1151 by Feb. 13.

As a reminder, IHA's annual region/legislative meetings start later this month, with the first meeting to be held Feb. 27 in Springfield for members in Regions 3A, 3B and 4. This is an excellent opportunity for hospital leaders to meet with IHA President & CEO Maryjane Wurth and local state legislators to discuss critical hospital issues. [Click here](#) for the schedule.

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AHA Federal Advocacy Day is February 15

In a unified effort to urge Congress to oppose any further payment reductions to hospitals, AHA is holding a Federal Advocacy Day on Feb. 15 in Washington, D.C. IHA and the Metropolitan Health Care Council (MCHC), in partnership with AHA, will be coordinating Advocacy Day visits with Illinois members of Congress to ask for their support on finding alternatives to financing the extenders (**H.R. 3630**) which expire at the end of February without Medicare and Medicaid payment cuts.

To prepare members for the Federal Advocacy Day, a joint IHA/MCHC [memo](#) was sent to members today outlining key message points, background information, and alternatives. For more information, contact [Kimberly Parker](#), IHA Vice President, Federal Relations at 202-624-7880; or [Elizabeth Lively](#), MCHC Vice President, Government and External Affairs at 312-906-6087.

To send emails to your members of Congress opposing any further payment cuts to hospitals, [click here](#).

This week, AHA and eight other national hospital groups cosigned a [letter](#) to Congress asking them to oppose Medicare funding cuts for hospital services as part of any agreement to extend past February a tax and unemployment package that includes an extension of the

Medicare physician payment fix. The letter notes that additional Medicare cuts from the House-passed bill could lead to the loss of an additional 83,000 jobs.

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Report: Hospitals Spend 11% on Community Benefits

The [Schedule H Benchmark Report](#), released by Ernst & Young and AHA this week, found that not-for-profit hospitals spend an average of 11.3% of their total expenses on community benefits. Data was collected and analyzed from 571 not-for-profit hospitals and systems, representing nearly 900 hospitals or 30% of those required to file Schedule H. The report found that direct benefits to patients in financial need, including free care, financial assistance and underpayments by Medicaid, average 5.7% of total hospital expenses.

IHA's recently released [community benefits report](#) shows that the 109 reporting hospitals in Illinois contribute more than \$4.6 billion in community benefits and that figure would be more than \$1 billion higher if all 210 hospitals in Illinois were to file community benefits reports. This report is an excellent tool to use when highlighting your hospital's commitment and benefits to the local community. Refer to IHA's [checklist](#) of ways that you can publicize your specific community benefits data.

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Health Care Predicted to Lead Job Growth

A report this week by the U.S. Dept. of Labor shows that the health care and social assistance sectors are projected to lead the nation in job creation for the next 10 years, surpassing manufacturing, which is expected to lose jobs during that period.

The [Employment Projections: 2010-2020 Summary](#) states that "the health care and social assistance sector is projected to gain the most jobs (5.6 million). One-third of the projected fastest growing occupations are related to health care, reflecting expected increases in demand as the population ages and the health care and social assistance industry grows." Health care was the largest contributor to employment growth in the past two years, with a 22% share that was almost twice as large as manufacturing.

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Twelve Illinois Hospitals Receive Resident Slots

This week, CMS posted a list of hospitals that will receive increases to their Medicare Graduate Medical Education residency slot caps as a result of hospital closures. Twelve Illinois teaching hospitals have received the slots made available by the closure of Michael Reese

Hospital, which totaled 199.52 slots for direct graduate medical education and 200.82 slots for indirect medical education. For hospitals whose actual resident counts exceed their Medicare cap limits, these cap additions will increase their Medicare graduate medical education reimbursement. IHA had strongly encouraged our teaching hospitals to apply for the additional slots. For more information, contact [Tom Jendro](#) at 630-276-5516.

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AHRQ Offers Indicators Webinar, TeamSTEPPS Training

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) is offering a free [webinar](#), “How to Improve Performance on the AHRQ Inpatient Quality and Patient Safety Indicators: Introducing a Toolkit for Hospitals,” on Feb. 15 from 1:30-3 p.m. CST. The program complements the recently released [AHRQ Quality Indicators Toolkit for Hospitals](#), a free resource to guide hospitals through the process of using the AHRQ Inpatient Quality Indicators and Patient Safety Indicators to improve care. Click [here](#) for more information on AHRQ Quality Indicators.

In addition, AHRQ is offering free master trainer courses for TeamSTEPPS (Strategies and Tools to Enhance Performance and Patient Safety), a teamwork, evidence-based program implemented nationally through the Health Research & Educational Trust in partnership with AHA. Training sessions are available through Sept. 1 at six training centers. Registration is available [online](#). For information, contact the [HRET National Implementation Team](#) at 312-422-2609.

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Survey of Care Coordination Activities

Thank you to those members who have responded to IHA’s survey requesting information about your participation in innovative care models that coordinate patient care. The response thus far demonstrates the collaborative work at both the state and federal levels in which many members are participating. If you have not already done so, please complete this [brief survey](#) to assist our advocacy efforts and inform policy makers about the hospital community’s commitment to new approaches to accountable, coordinated care that reach beyond the hospital walls.

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2012 Federal Poverty Guidelines Revisions

This week, the Dept. of Health and Human Services published its annual revisions of the federal poverty guidelines in the Jan. 26 [Federal Register](#). The 2012 income limits reflect modest increases

from the 2010/2011 amounts and are effective on the publication date (Jan. 26), unless an office administering a federal program specifies a different effective date for that particular program.

The updated poverty income guidelines range from \$11,170 for a family of one to \$38,890 for a family of eight. For families with more than eight people, add \$3,960 for each additional family member. See [IHA's memo](#) or contact [Tom Jendro](#) at 630-276-5516 for more information.

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IHA's Business Solutions Newsletter Released

The winter edition of IHA's Business Solutions newsletter features **Harrisburg Medical Center** as a new member of the Illinois Compensation Trust. Also included are articles from Informatics, Group Purchasing, and Insurance Solutions, as well as snippets of industry news. Learn more about some of the unique programs, products and services they have to offer. Click [here](#) to view.

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Briefly Noted

- | Region 5 hospital leaders are encouraged to attend a presentation by State Budget Director David Vaught on Feb. 6 in Carterville. Vaught is one of the key officials within the Governor's Administration working on the state budget proposal to be submitted to the General Assembly later this month. For details, see IHA's [memo](#).
- | Governor Quinn has [appointed](#) Andrew Boron as director of the Illinois Dept. of Insurance. Boron, who returns to state government after serving as vice president and counsel at the ACE Group, is charged with enhancing the regulatory and consumer protections provided by the Department along with assisting with implementation of the Affordable Care Act and developing the state's health insurance exchange.
- | A Project BOOST Light webinar on "Financial Incentives and Penalties Related to Readmissions: Strategizing ROI" takes place Feb. 16 from Noon-1 pm CST. The webinar is led by 2010 Master in Hospital Medicine Award recipient Win Whitcomb, M.D., Medical Director of Healthcare Quality at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield, MA. [Reservations](#) are required. For more information, contact [Sonya Terry](#).
- | The CMS [Hospital Compare](#) website now includes data on central line-associated bloodstream infections (CLABSI). Under the inpatient prospective payment system, hospitals must report CLABSI rates for adult, pediatric and neonatal intensive care unit patients to receive a full payment update in fiscal year 2013.
- | Chief Financial Officers are asked to complete IHA's member survey on Medicaid and State of Illinois PPO Aging Accounts Receivable Balances by Feb. 10. If you have any questions,

contact [Jo Ann Spoor](#) at 217-541-1187.

- | The Certification Commission for Health Information Technology (CCHIT) will be offering hospitals and hospital systems representatives the opportunity to meet with the CCHIT certification team to learn more about their [EHR Alternative Certification for Healthcare Providers \(EACH\) program](#) during the Healthcare Information Management Systems Society meeting in Las Vegas Feb. 21-23. Contact [Dana Smicklas](#) for more information.
- | The Illinois Health Information Exchange (ILHIE) consumer/patient newsletter is now available [online](#). English and Spanish versions are accessible as well as links to previous newsletters. Additional audience-specific newsletters will be posted in the upcoming weeks.

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Studies and Surveys in the News

- | Families who have high-deductible health plans - ranging from \$1,000 to \$6,000 per year - are three to four times more likely to forgo or delay medical care than families in traditional health plans, according to a [new study](#) from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

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