



Summer 2014

## *IL RURAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION*

Margaret Vaughn,  
Executive Director

9211 Waterfall Glen Blvd.  
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### SAVE THE DATE



IRHA

25th Annual  
Educational  
Conference

*"Simply the Best"*

August 14-15th

Keller Convention  
Center

Effingham, IL

## IRHA Hosts Legislative Forum in Macoupin County

IRHA recently hosted legislative forum at the Magnuson Grand Hotel in Carlinville which was very well attended by over 40 area medical providers including doctors, nurses, hospital CEOs, Rural Health Clinic administrators, dentists, public health departments and medical students. The Forum provided an opportunity for state legislators to gain a better understanding of local healthcare needs.

Items at the top of the discussion list were the need for Telehealth, the lack of dental care and Medicaid reimbursement for adult dental, a federal proposal to widen the geographic distance between hospitals to qualify as Critical Access Hospitals, physician recruitment problems in rural areas and how the expansion of Medicaid will impact an already backlogged system.



1st row seated: Sen. Andy Manar (D-Bunker Hill), Rep. Wayne Rosenthal (R-Morrisonville), Sen. Sam McCann (R-Carlinville) and Rep. CD Davidsmeyer (R-Jacksonville) 2nd row standing: IRHA Executive Director Margaret Vaughn, Jersey Community Hospital CEO Jon Wade, Dr. Jerome Eplin and Dr. Phil Johnson both with Litchfield Family Practice Center, Staunton Memorial Hospital CEO Sue Campbell, Medical Student Mallory Kelly, Jennifer Henrichs of Macoupin Family Practice Centers and IRHA Board Member Greg Scott.

**“SIMPLY THE BEST”  
ILLINOIS RURAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION**



**25TH ANNUAL EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE  
AUGUST 14-15, 2014**

Keller Convention Center • 1202 Keller Drive • Effingham, Illinois



*The IRHA Annual Educational Conference is a great opportunity to learn skill sets you can put in practice in your own health care settings while becoming better acquainted with colleagues from the across the state.*

***Highlights include:*** Medicaid Managed Care Expansion

**& Federal Rural Health Updates**

**Peer Round Table Discussions**

**Pre-Conference Welcoming Reception**

**15 Educational Workshops**

**Healthcare Awards Banquet**

*IL RURAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION***Illinois Rural Health Association Hosts  
25th Annual Conference “Simply the Best”**

EFFINGHAM, IL – The Illinois Rural Health Association (IRHA) will host its 25th Annual Educational Conference August 14-15<sup>th</sup> at the Keller Convention Center in Effingham, IL. The conference is an opportunity for rural healthcare professionals to advance their skills through continuing education and professional development. Six Continuing Education Units will be provided for Licensed Professional Counselors, Licensed Clinical Professional Counselors, Licensed Social Workers, Licensed Clinical Social Workers.

Educational workshops will be conducted by rural health experts and will be geared towards mental health providers, public health departments, rural health clinics and hospitals. General Sessions will cover “*Medicaid Managed Care Expansion*”; “and “Federal Update on Rural Health Issues” from Brock Slabach from the National Rural Health Association. Attendees will have plenty of workshops to select from the 15 that will be offered over the two day period on topics ranging from veteran’s mental health to Telehealth.

In conjunction with IRHA’s 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary there is a 1980s themed award banquet on Thursday evening honoring those in the health care field which have made great strides to improve access to rural health care. Sponsorship and networking opportunities are also available for organizations and businesses which would like to have booth space at the conference and gain exposure to the rural health community. All participants are also invited to attend a Pre-Conference Welcoming Reception on Wednesday and Thursday Night Hospitality Suite.

Exhibit space starts at \$400 for non-profit vendors. Conference registration is \$160 for IRHA members and \$210 for non-Members and \$50 for students. Student scholarships are available which will cover hotel accommodations, registration fees, and travel. For more information and a complete detailed brochure go to [www.ilruralhealth.org](http://www.ilruralhealth.org) or call Margaret Vaughn at 217-280-0206

**Lodging at Holiday Inn—Group Rate of \$99 call 217-540-7777**

## *IL RURAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION*

### **Attention Students and Recent Grads...Conference Scholarship Application**



IRHA is pleased to provide “conference scholarships,”\* sponsored by **ILLINI HOSPITAL** and the IRHA Board, to cover the lodging, travel and registration costs for students interested in attending the **August 14-15<sup>th</sup> Educational Conference** at the Keller Convention Center in Effingham. \**Holiday Inn overnight accommodations Aug. 13-14 \$75 gas gift card and conference registration fees, which include all meals.*

**Criteria** – Students currently enrolled in or who have graduated within the past 12 months from a health professions program (e.g., medical school, nursing, physician assistant, allied health or related fields such as rehabilitation, health education or social work) and have an interest in service to rural health and who otherwise would have to pay for the conference out of pocket (without reimbursement).

**Deadline for applications: July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2014.** Please call 217-280-0206 with questions.

Applications can be submitted via mail, fax or email to:  
Margaret Vaughn

9211 Waterfall Glen Blvd.  
Darien, IL 60561  
fax 630-908-7311  
[mvaughn@springnet1.com](mailto:mvaughn@springnet1.com)

**Application Form:**

Student Applicant Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Program of Study: \_\_\_\_\_

Educational Institute: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please explain your interest in rural health and why you would like to attend the Conference (additional page may be attached, no more than 250 words).*

## *IL RURAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION*

### **IL Rural Health Association's 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Educational Conference "Simply the Best" August 14-15<sup>th</sup> Keller Convention Center - Effingham**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Check enclosed:

\_\_\_\_ **Gold Sponsor: \$6,000 - Umbrella/Tote Bag Sponsor** includes choice of logo on umbrella or tote bag for each participant. Booth, announcement at opening and closing sessions, full page program ad, 5 registrations/5 annual memberships, name on welcoming banner, website/newsletter recognition.

\_\_\_\_ **Silver Sponsor: \$3,500 - Lunch/Banquet Sponsor** includes signage and announcement at meal, booth, 4 conference registrations/ annual memberships, full page program ad, website and newsletter recognition.

\_\_\_\_ **Bronze Sponsor \$1,500 - Break Sponsor** includes booth - 3 conference registrations/ annual memberships, signage at breaks, ½ page program ad, website/newsletter recognition.

\_\_\_\_ **Patron Sponsor: \$1,000** - Includes booth, 3 conference registrations/annual memberships, ½ page program ad and website/newsletter recognition.

\_\_\_\_ **For Profit -Vendor Booth: \$700** - Includes booth and 2 registrations, 2 annual memberships, program/website/newsletter recognition (\$600 if only 1 person attending).

\_\_\_\_ **Non-for profit Vendor Booth - \$400** - Includes booth, 1 registration, 1 annual membership and program recognition.

**Ad book:** \_\_\_\_\_ \$500 Full Page Ad \_\_\_\_\_ \$250 Half Page

\_\_\_\_ **Individual Registration-Member: \$160** \_\_\_\_\_ **Non-Member: \$215.00 (includes annual membership)**

Return by Fax 630-908-7311 or mail IRHA 9211 Waterfall Glen Blvd. Darien, IL 60561. Register online at [www.ilruralhealth.org](http://www.ilruralhealth.org).

**HOTEL ACCOMODATIONS:** Conference attendees can receive a special \$99 group rate at the Holiday Inn Effingham. Call 217-540-7777 for reservations.

All sponsors, vendors and attendees are invited to Wednesday evening Pre-Conference Welcoming Reception, Thursday lunch, Healthcare Awards Banquet and evening hospitality suite and Friday breakfast. Contact Margaret Vaughn 217-280-0206 with questions or register online at [www.ilruralhealth.org](http://www.ilruralhealth.org).

## *IL RURAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION*

### **IRHA Hosts Series of Remote Video Conference Workshops**

For the second year in a row, IRHA hosted a series of luncheon Video Conference Workshops held at 10 remote sites throughout the state to make it easier for our members to travel and fit it in their workday while still be able to meet and network with colleagues that would not be possible though a webinar only.

The topic of the March 11th Workshop was **ICD 10** and even though the implementation date has been pushed back another year, participants found it extremely informative. Hospitals, public health departments, physician practices, and Rural Health Clinics all participated. Special thanks to Illinois MGMA for providing lunch.

On July 17th IRHA hosted a morning *Workshop on Insurance Billing and Contracts for Public Health Departments*. The presenter was Patricia Finucane with Upp Technologies who serves as the Insurance/Billing Consultant for the Illinois Department of Public Health Immunization Billable Project. The event was extremely well attended by public health departments from all over the state from both from collar counties as well as extremely rural areas and receive rave reviews. Special thanks for Molina Healthcare for providing lunch.

Our afternoon session on July 17th was on *Maximizing Therapeutic Effectiveness for Telehealth Clinicians*. The presentation was done by Dr. Jonathan Nuefeld, Clinical Director of the Upper Midwest Telehealth Resource Center. Participants felt Dr. Nuefeld was not only thorough on constant evolution of Telehealth as well as best practices for clinicians. Special thanks to SIU School of Medicine & Egyptian Health Department for defraying cost of Workshop.

**SAVE THE DATE!** Our final Video Conference Workshop of the year is **October 29th** from 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Rural Health Clinic Compliance by Charles James, Jr., CEO & President of North American Healthcare Management. Registration will be available later this summer on the IRHA website [www.ilruralhealth.org](http://www.ilruralhealth.org) with reminder notices to follow.



Joseph Malin with the Macoupin County Health Department, Dr. Jonathan Nuefeld, Dianna Heyer and Sally Gossa both with Logan County Public Health Department at Telehealth Workshop.

## *IL RURAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION*

### **Molina Healthcare Launches Dual Options Health Plan**

By Carol Rupert, RN  
Director of Case Management, Molina Healthcare of Illinois

Molina Healthcare launched its Molina Dual Options health plan on March 1 with the outset of voluntary enrollment for the Medicare-Medicaid Alignment Initiative (MMAI) in the Central Illinois region.

MMAI is a program specifically for individuals eligible for both full Medicare and full Medicaid in Illinois. These patients are asked to select a managed care organization, or health plan, to cover and coordinate all of their benefits, including medical, behavioral health, pharmacy and Long Term Services and Supports. Molina Dual Options integrates the benefits of both government programs. That means members get one ID card and have a single point of contact for questions about their benefits.



*Carol Rupert, RN  
Director of Case Management,  
Molina Healthcare of Illinois*

Dual Eligibles are a diverse group of people, many of whom require complex care. Many have multiple chronic illnesses, battle substance abuse or depression. Most will need long-term care at some point in their lives. Dual Eligibles comprise 15 percent of all Medicaid enrollees, but account for nearly 40 percent of all costs. For Medicare, Duals represent 20 percent of all enrollees and more than 30 percent of costs

State Medicaid programs and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) are working together to implement similar programs in states across the nation. Illinois is the second state in the U.S. to offer this integrated approach.

MMAI promotes high-quality health care and aims to improve outcomes, reduce inefficiencies, save costs and help enrollees navigate the system. Advocates, health care industry leaders and health officials agree that personalized attention to each individual's needs improves the quality of life of those with the highest needs.

Illinois Client Enrollment Services (ICES) manages member enrollment for all HFS health plans. ICES mailed letters to eligible individuals notifying them to select a health plan. Mailings will continue in a staggered fashion so that not all enrollments will have the same effective date.

Individuals have 60 days from when they received the letter from ICES to make a health plan selection or opt out of MMAI. Those who do not select a plan or opt out will be passively enrolled. MCO effective dates for members are always the first of the month. The first passive assignments were effective May 1. Patients can call ICES at (877) 912-8880 or visit [www.EnrollHFS.Illinois.gov](http://www.EnrollHFS.Illinois.gov) for more information about their health plan options.

Once enrolled with Molina Dual Options, a Molina Healthcare case manager will develop an individualized care plan for each member. The case manager will help members personally and identify the resources that are available to help them, including primary care, specialty care, transportation, and home and community-based services when recovering after a hospital discharge.

For more information about Molina Dual Options, providers can visit [www.molinahealthcare.com](http://www.molinahealthcare.com) or call (855) 866-5462.

*As the Director of Case Management, Carol Rupert has operational oversight of all clinical and non-clinical case management team activities for Molina Healthcare of Illinois. She is responsible for facilitating comprehensive, multidisciplinary case management, promoting interdepartmental integration to enhance case management services,*

## *IL RURAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION*

### **IRHA Spends a "Night in Hollywood" with Legislators**

IRHA rolled out the red carpet for legislators and agency officials at their annual legislative reception for on April 30th at Saputo's Restaurant in Springfield. This year's theme was "A Night in Hollywood". The reception was well attended and provided a great opportunity for IRHA members to become better acquainted with state officials in a relaxed setting. Thanks to all who made the special trip to Springfield to attend.



**Pictured left to right: 1st row seated: Stephanie Meyers, Margaret Vaughn; 2nd Row Standing: Mark Stevens, Kim Sanders, State Rep. Frank Mautino (D-Spring Valley), Janet Collopy, and Director of Dept. of Ag Bob Flider.**



**Pictured left to right: Marcia Rosenthal, Rep. Wayne Rosenthal (R-Morrisonville) & Doris McFarlin**



**Pictured left to right: Laura Vaught, Sen. Mike Noland (D-Elgin), Rep. Kay Hatcher (D-Yorkville), Rebecca Bunge, Rep. Bob Pritchard (R-Sycamore). Seated: Melissa Macomber, Margaret Vaughn**

*IL RURAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION***IRHA Spends a "Night in Hollywood" in Springfield**

Pictured left to right: Sen. John Sullivan (D-Rushville), Rebecca Bunge, Kim Sanders, Rep. Josh Harms (R-Watseka), Margaret Vaughn, Mark Stevens & Rep. CD Davidsmeyer (R-Jacksonville)



Pictured left to right: IL Department of Labor Director Joe Costigan, Stephanie Meyers, IL Department of Agriculture Director Bob Flider

## *IL RURAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION*

### **It's 10 p.m. Do You Know Where Your Retirement Account Is?**

Just as parents worry about their children, investors worry about their retirement accounts. One way to help reduce your investment worries is by allocating your retirement portfolio in a variety of asset classes.

#### **Understanding the Role of Stock Investment Options in a Retirement Portfolio**

Stock investment options are generally necessary to have the potential to grow capital, which impacts your standard of living now and in retirement. The growth of capital is a source for higher income in retirement and can help make possible a more stable, and potentially rising, standard of living.

Though stock investment options may present greater short-term volatility than bonds, over longer time periods, the additional risk of owning stock investment options can become much lower. Time helps increase the likelihood of investment success.

#### **Finding the Investment Mix That Works for You**

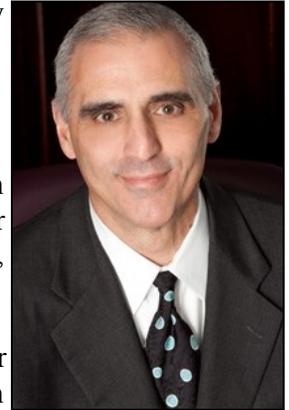
Allocating your assets correctly can be critical to the success of your retirement portfolio. To make this determination, you need to closely consider these things:

- Analyze your retirement income cash flow. Learn which expenses are “needs” and which are “wants.”
- Determine your time horizon. Figure out when you will need the money and how long you anticipate needing the money to last.
- Identify your tolerance for risk. Find the mix of stocks and bonds with which you are comfortable.
- Evaluate your portfolio. Learn if your investments can meet your retirement income needs.

A financial professional can help you with these steps by performing a financial needs analysis. Once the review is complete, the professional can make a recommendation on an asset allocation that meets your needs.

While this communication is intended to provide general information about the subject matter covered and is provided with the understanding that The Principal is not rendering legal, accounting, or tax advice. It is not a marketed opinion and may not be used to avoid penalties under the Internal Revenue Code. You should consult with appropriate counsel or other advisors on all matters pertaining to legal, tax, or accounting obligations and requirements.

*George M. Silfugarian CFP, CLU, ChFC is a Financial Representative of Principal National Life Insurance Company and a Registered Representative of Princor Financial Services Corporation. Securities offered through Princor Financial Services Corporation, member SIPC. Principal National (except in New York) and Principal Life are issuing insurance companies of the Principal Financial Group. Principal National, Principal Life and Princor® are members of the Principal Financial Group®, Des Moines, IA 50392. George can be reached at 630/874-6751*



*By George M.  
Silfugarian, CFP, CLU,  
ChFC,*

*Principal National and  
Principal Life Financial  
Representative, Princor  
Registered Representative*

## IL RURAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION



**A physician-led organization with over 30 years of experience in delivering quality health care to those who need it most.**

Molina Healthcare is dedicated to serving the diverse needs of individuals and their families through our complete continuum of products and services. We provide benefits and services with our member's unique needs in mind, keeping them at the center of care.

**Medicaid • Medicare • Long-Term Care • Home & Community Based Services**



**Your Extended Family.**

[www.MolinaHealthcare.com](http://www.MolinaHealthcare.com)

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### IRHA Board of Directors

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OSF Williamsfield Clinic

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Laura Fullerton, APN  
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SIU School of Medicine

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Social Service

Abigail Radcliffe  
Illinois Hospital Association

Cynthia Wise  
Mid IL Medical Care Associates

*IL RURAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION***Nomination Form 2014 - Rural Physician of Excellence Award**

IRHA is accepting nominations for the 2013 Rural Physician of Excellence Award. The award presentation ceremony will take place in the winner's community with invited media, elected officials, colleagues, family and friends in the late 2013.

Please complete the nomination form below and attach: 1) an overview of the nominee's professional background and community service; 2) a description of the impact of the individual has made on the health and wellbeing of the community by going above and beyond their mission of improving the quality and access to care in rural medically underserved areas of the state; and 3) one additional letter of recommendation from someone familiar with the physician's work, explaining why the physician would make a good choice for the award. The nomination must be submitted by an IRHA member (only one nomination per member) but any physician practicing in Illinois is eligible to be nominated.

**Nomination Deadline: Friday, July 18, 2014 Nominations can be submitted via mail, email or fax to:**

Margaret Vaughn, IRHA Executive Director  
 9211 Waterfall Glen Blvd.  
 Darien, IL 60561  
 Phone: 217-280-0206  
 Fax: 630-908-7311  
 mvaughn@springnet1.com

Physician Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization and title (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email/Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

IRHA Nominator: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization and title (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email/Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

## *IL RURAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION*

### **Rural Health Award Nominations Needed**

IRHA is pleased to announce its annual Rural Health Awards Program, which honors outstanding achievement in rural health care service. The awards will be presented at the Annual Educational Conference at the Keller Convention Center in Effingham, Illinois, the evening of Thursday, August 14th. We encourage you to nominate a colleague or organization that you think is deserving of these awards. Nominations can only be submitted by IRHA members, though membership in IRHA is not criteria for being nominated.



Nominations are being solicited in the following five categories:

**Award of Merit** - This award given to any agency, organization, group of individuals, or individual who has or have made an outstanding contribution of major significance to the rural health movement. The Committee will consider broad benefits to health, innovative programs, unusual contributions or activities that provide outstanding benefit to the public's health and are consistent with the goals and objectives of the Association.

**EMS Professional** - This award is presented to an individual who works within the Emergency Medical Services profession and has made an impact on rural EMS. The nominated individual should be a person who continuously goes above and beyond in order to make a positive difference for rural EMS.

**Rural Health Practitioner of the Year** - This award is made to a direct service provider honored for leadership in bringing health services to citizens of rural Illinois. The nominee must be a dentist, physician assistant, nurse practitioner or certified nurse midwife. The nominations must demonstrate that the nominee provides outstanding care, is involved in the community, and has made a lasting contribution to the rural health care system in Illinois.

**Rural Health Professional of the Year** - This award is presented to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution of major significance to rural health in Illinois and is actively involved in health in Illinois. Consideration shall be given to all areas of rural health, i.e. allied health personnel, administrative, staff, and volunteers. Nominations should indicate that the individual's efforts have gone beyond what is normally expected and are exemplary of dedication to the advancement of the health of the public.

**Student Excellence Award** – This award is designed to recognize outstanding contributions in scholarship (e.g. thesis, dissertations, or other projects) or rural community service of students currently enrolled in or who have graduated within the past twelve months from a health professions program (e.g. medical school, nursing, physician assistant, allied health or related fields such as rehabilitation, health education or social work).

**Deadline for nominations Friday, July 18th 2014. Please call 217-280-0206 with questions.**

***NOMINATION FORM ON NEXT PAGE .....***

*IL RURAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION***IRHA****Rural Health Awards Program 2014  
Nomination Form**

Nomination Deadline Friday, July 18th, 2014. Nominations can be submitted via mail, fax or email to: Margaret Vaughn  
9211 Waterfall Glen Blvd. Darien, IL 60561 fax 630-908-7311 mvaughn@springnet1.com

Nominee:

Award of Merit  EMS Professional  Rural Health Practitioner

Rural Health Professional  Student

Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone/Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominated By: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone/Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please attach a separate document with an overview of the nominee's professional/educational background and include the answers to the following:

- Describe what outstanding contribution of major significance to rural health this individual/group made.
- What has been the impact of this contribution?
- Why should this individual/group be considered for this award at this time?

*IL RURAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION*

health services associates

***EXPERT RURAL HEALTH CONSULTANTS***

Over forty years of individual experience in direct health care delivery and management. We understand the needs of the rural health clinic to its fullest, from initial enrollment to rate setting. Our team of professionals follow the most current CMS changes and regulations. We offer specialized assistance by implementing effective strategies and will increase your financial margin.

**RHC and FQHC Certification****Cost Reporting****RHC Billing Services****EHR Solutions/Software for the RHC****Provider Enrollment****Mock Surveys****CHOWs/Stock Transfers*****Promoting Access to Health Care***

For more information: 231-924-0244 • [hsagroup.net](http://hsagroup.net)  
or contact Chris Christoffersen, President: 231-924-0244 ext 204 • [christoffersen@hsagroup.net](mailto:christoffersen@hsagroup.net)

**Corporate Office**

2 E Main Street

Fremont, Michigan 49412

Phone: 231-924-0244

Fax: 231-924-4882

**Southeast Regional Office**

54 Pheasant Lane

Ringgold, Georgia 30736

Phone: 231-250-0244

Fax: 888-200-4788

## *IL RURAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION*

### **Illinois AHEC Network Program Improves Healthcare for the Underserved**

By Hana Hinkle, MPH  
Illinois AHEC Network Program



The Illinois AHEC Network Program (IL AHEC) has a mission to meet the health workforce needs of Illinois by providing training and education programs in partnership with state and local healthcare organizations, academic institutions and other community-based organizations. IL AHEC was established in 2010 and is a statewide program consisting of a program office located at the National Center for Rural Health Professions, University of Illinois, College of Medicine – Rockford (NCRHP, UICCOM-R), a cooperating satellite program office in the Urban Medicine Program at UIC College of Medicine Chicago (UMED, COM-C) and a current network of four regional centers.

The goal of IL AHEC is to enhance access to quality healthcare, particularly primary and preventive care, by increasing the supply and distribution of healthcare professionals who wish to serve the underserved throughout Illinois. Through funding from the Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration (USDHHS-HRSA) IL AHEC is able to address the growing healthcare needs of both rural and urban communities throughout Illinois. The IL AHEC regional centers are located throughout the state including: Polo, Ina, Fairfield and Chicago Illinois. The rural-based AHEC centers typically cover a service area of 19-22 counties while the Chicago AHEC serves a number of communities and areas throughout the city. The AHEC regional centers provide a number of activities and services focusing on the health career “pipeline” beginning at the K-12 level and expanding to health professions students in training and current health professionals in practice. IL AHEC activities include: health professions recruitment and awareness, community-based training and education including continuing education opportunities for current health professionals, community health initiatives and training, job shadowing/ field placements and public health career exposure opportunities. In addition the IL AHEC network, in partnership with the NCRHP, conducts research on various health related topics impacting rural communities as well research on health workforce recruitment, retention and training initiatives.

This summer the IL AHEC Network and NCRHP is partnering with community-based organizations to offer several experiences for health professions students who are interested in learning more about working in a rural community. These experiences include a 3-5 day opportunity (Rural Health Experience-RHE) where students learn about the social and health characteristics, needs, and resources of a specific rural community, understand



the roles and responsibilities of different healthcare providers in a rural community and learn more about a future career as a healthcare provider in a rural community and potential interest their RHE location for a future practice site. The following communities/organizations will be hosting a Rural Health

## IL RURAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

### Illinois AHEC Network Program (cont.)

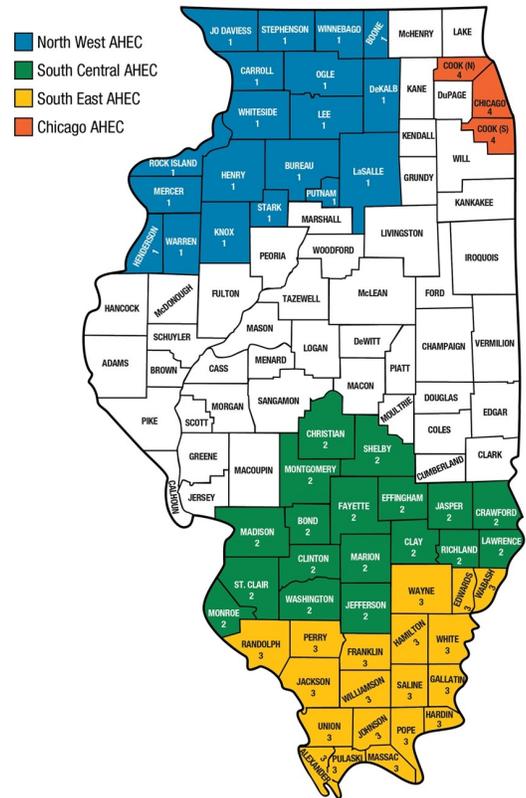
Experiences for the summer 2014: Pana, Pana Community Hospital; Robinson, Crawford Memorial Hospital; Nashville, Washington County Hospital; Centralia, St. Mary's Good Samaritan; Hillsboro, Hillsboro Area Hospital; Gibson City, Gibson Area Hospital; McLeansboro, Hamilton Memorial Hospital; Fairfield, Fairfield Memorial Hospital; and Harrisburg, Harrisburg Medical Center.

Additional AHEC supported summer opportunities include a 6-week summer inter-professional preceptorship program that is being held in collaboration with NCRHP, KSB Hospital in Dixon, St. Mary's Hospital in Centralia and Harrisburg Medical Center in Harrisburg, Illinois.

Through partnerships with various universities and colleges, AHEC/NCRHP offers several Rural Health Careers Camps across the state. These camps provide rural high school students with hands-on learning experiences about the different health careers and exposes students to opportunities available in the various health professions field.

If you are interested in learning more about working with the Illinois AHEC Network to address the health and healthcare workforce needs of your community please contact the Illinois AHEC program office at: 815.395.5784 or via email: Hana Hinkle, MPH, [hhinkle1@uic.edu](mailto:hhinkle1@uic.edu).

#### Illinois AHEC Centers



Participating students for the preceptorship include: Marianne Florido, Kaitlyn Waldsmith, Logan Osborn, Alex Felt and Zeke Hartman



## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/CHARITABLE DONATION FORM

*The Illinois Rural Health Association is a collaborative 501 (c) 3 non- profit charitable organization committed to strengthening health systems for rural residents and communities through advocacy, education, networking and leadership.*

**MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN RURAL HEALTH – JOIN US TODAY!**

**MEMBER BENEFITS:** All memberships include admission to regional workshops, full voting privileges, membership card, state advocacy, discounts on educational conferences and workshops, newsletter, networking opportunities with elected officials and others interested in improving rural health.

*Please select your membership level.*

**Organizational: \$250 - Includes three voting members.** Hospitals, health clinics, county health departments, state agencies, state associations and other organizations and businesses who want to improve rural health and stay current on rural health matters.

**Individual: \$55 – Health care practitioners,** those employed in the healthcare arena or by entities committed to improving rural health and staying current on rural health matters.

**Public Officials/Consumers/Students: \$20 – Individuals** who are not working in the health care arena but want to make an impact to improve rural health.

Please see reverse side for additional organizational member listing and to mail in payment or pay with credit card. You can also join online at [www.ilruralhealth.org](http://www.ilruralhealth.org).

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization/Employer/School (*indicate if RHC*): \_\_\_\_\_

Address (if different from above): \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Additional Organizational Members:**

**#2 Member Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Title:** \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Area (s) of interest in rural health: \_\_\_\_\_

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**#3 Member Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Title:** \_\_\_\_\_

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## Leveraging Comparative Effectiveness Research from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

Momentum is growing for a key component in the national strategy to improve health care quality –comparative effectiveness research. This research offers resources to help clinicians and their patients work together to make the best possible decision among treatment options.

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, is the first Federal agency to have a legislatively mandated center for conducting comparative effectiveness research. AHRQ’s Effective Health Care Program supports research that compares treatments for common health conditions and summarizes the findings in easily accessible formats for clinicians and patients.

“We believe that comparative effectiveness research is the foundation of improving quality of care, including identifying and developing the evidence base for systems interventions,” said AHRQ’s Richard Kronick, Ph.D., director. “Ultimately, this is all about trying to provide the best possible care to patients wherever they show up, and it’s about making sure they’re armed with information and tools to avoid a return trip.”



*Marjorie Shofer, BSN, MBA  
Agency for Healthcare  
Research and Quality*

The [Organization] supports evidence-based research and related tools to help clinicians and their patients work together to make the best possible decision among treatment options. We have partnered with AHRQ to share the latest patient-centered outcomes research findings and offer free research reports and tools to help clinicians educate their patients about common conditions and work with them to make informed decisions about their treatment options.

AHRQ’s Effective Health Care Program supports systematic reviews of available evidence to compare the effectiveness, benefits, and potential risks of different treatment options—drugs, medical devices, tests, surgeries, or delivery methods. These unbiased findings are then synthesized into comprehensive reports. The products generated from these reports—summary guides for both clinicians and patients—are designed to encourage conversations between clinicians and patients to enhance shared decision making.

### How To Use AHRQ’s Comparative Effectiveness Research Products

As Dr. Kronick emphasized, comparative effectiveness research is “descriptive, not prescriptive.” AHRQ’s research and support products do not recommend treatments or tests, nor do they tell clinicians how to treat their patients. Instead, AHRQ’s products are designed to help clinicians and patients understand the evidence about different treatment options, including benefits, harms, and side effects. This information helps clinicians, patients, and their families understand what treatments work best and how their risks compare, while allowing for choices for each individual patient. The AHRQ materials address 14 priority health conditions including cardiovascular disease , hypertension , diabetes , arthritis , and depression .

In particular, AHRQ’s clinician research summaries address clinicians’ needs to access reliable information in a short amount of time. The summaries typically summarize research findings in just two pages. They highlight research findings provided in the summaries’ “Clinical Bottom Line.” And, importantly, the summaries provide context by evaluating the strength of evidence behind each finding. Areas where more evidence is needed to address clinical questions are also highlighted.

## Leveraging Comparative Effectiveness Research from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (cont.)

There are several ways for clinicians to use and share research findings, reports, and summaries:

- Review the clinician summaries to get the clinical bottom line on research findings and learn about the strength of evidence for treating common conditions. Share the summaries with colleagues.
- Make the patient summaries available in waiting rooms or offer them as take-home material.
- Participate in free continuing medical education/continuing education modules (CME/CE) from AHRQ based on comparative effectiveness research studies by visiting [www.ce.effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov](http://www.ce.effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov).
- Sign up for e-mail updates to stay up-to-date on AHRQ's comparative effectiveness research at [www.effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov](http://www.effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov)

In addition to the research summaries and reports, AHRQ offers other free products for clinicians and patients about comparative effectiveness research—podcasts, Web conferences, downloadable faculty slide presentations, and advice columns. To access these products and learn more about AHRQ's work, please visit [www.effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov](http://www.effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov). Free bulk copies of the research summaries can be ordered by calling 800-358-9295 and using code C-02.

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- ♥ Juvenile rheumatoid arthritis
- ♥ Cerebral palsy
- ♥ Spina bifida
- ♥ Sports injuries

