



Happy Holidays

From all your friends at



Rolling up our sleeves

Happy to get to work providing the new COVID vaccine

Even Santa, aka Mark Ankenbrand, PT, Sparta Community Hospital, understands that receiving the COVID-19 vaccine is a crucial step in ending the pandemic. He was among the first to receive the COVID-19 vaccine after it arrived at the Sparta hospital last week. In an effort to spur on the fun and frivolity of finally getting the new Pfizer vaccine, Jennifer Barbour, SCH Director of Relations, created a [video](#) showing the very first vaccination and yet another [video snippet](#) from Disney's Frozen touting the excitement of vaccination day.

[Click here for more ICAHN member hospital photos](#)



Partnership for a Connected Illinois

JCH lauded for exceptional telehealth services

Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker joins Jersey Community Hospital and Norwegian American Hospital in receiving honors for their leadership to advance telehealth in this most unusual year. Represented by CEO Beth King, Jersey Community Hospital received the 2020 Award for Excellence in Telehealth Leadership via Zoom ceremony, conducted by the Partnership for a Connected Illinois (broadbandillinois.org). "We are so pleased to receive a distance learning and telehealth grant from the U.S. Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue that will allow us to purchase the equipment necessary to continue to provide these telehealth services and expand to meet maternal/fetal needs in our region," she said.

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Post-acute care innovation

Pinckneyville Hospital receives national recognition

Pinckneyville Community Hospital has received national recognition for an innovative approach to post-acute care that supports a patient's continued recovery from illness or



management of a chronic illness or disability. Pinckneyville Community Hospital is committed to keeping pace with healthcare transformation, which is key to sustaining access to health services for the community. The National Rural Health Resource Center and the Illinois Critical Access Hospital Network recently recognized Pinckneyville Community Hospital for its team approach to post-acute care through coordination of case management, transitional care, social services, and chronic care management services.

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Community health cheerleader

Hands in the air for Perry Memorial Hospital's 'MASKot'

Since the beginning of the pandemic, Kathy Blanford, RN, Perry Memorial Hospital's Infection Control Coordinator, has been providing COVID-19 guidance. In May, positive cases were minimal at Perry Memorial in Princeton and also within Bureau County. Face masks became the new normal and Perry turned its attention to becoming the community's health cheerleader.

Face masks featuring the Perry logo were purchased, followed by the next step of putting a face behind the mask or, in other words, creating their own "MASKot" to unveil to both PMH staff and the public. In June, Perry Memorial Hospital handed out 400 masks in four hours. The life-size cardboard cut-out of their "MASKot Kathy" adorned the hospital entrances, encouraging hand-washing. The "real" Kathy continues to make regular appearances on PMH's social media, such as the weekly #facemaskfridays, highlighting a different department each week.



Rural health fellowship

Inaugural class begins leadership journey

The inaugural class of the ICAHN Rural Health Fellowship began its eight-month leadership journey at a live, socially distanced event kick-off in Springfield. The class of 16 masked up to learn more about each other, the goals of the fellowship, and to hear from keynote speakers David Ziebler, SIU School of Medicine, who spoke on "Emotionally Intelligent Leaders," and Andy Kaufman, consultant, who covered "Project Management for Senior Leaders" at the session. The Rural Health Fellowship is a new opportunity for up-and-coming critical access hospital leaders.



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\$15.4M master facility plan unveiled

Culbertson Memorial Hospital to renovate interior

The Sarah D. Culbertson Memorial Hospital Board of Directors recently approved a \$15.4 million dollar Master Facility Plan to renovate the interior of their hospital and authorized administration to move forward with its \$5.5 million Phase I. "The master facility plan represents a strategic investment in our hospital and our community," said Greg Snyder, Board President. "The facility improvements established in this plan allow us to expand services to the community and help ensure the long-term viability of Culbertson Memorial Hospital. The plan will be implemented in stages to provide flexibility of design and to maximize financial utilization. In the vastly changing world of healthcare, this plan is a tremendous positive for the Rushville and the surrounding communities."



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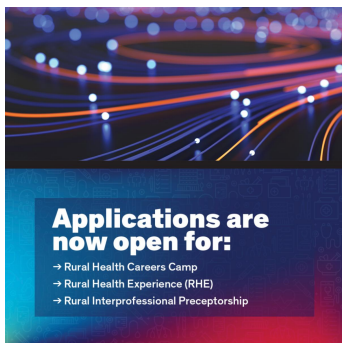


ICAHN employee spotlight

Krista Lehman serves as IRCCO's Regional Manager

As Regional Manager for the Illinois Rural Community Care Organization, ICAHN's Accountable Care Organization, Krista Lehman is responsible for giving 12 southern region hospitals everything they need to be successful. She offers a great deal of education for her peer groups and also offers one-on-one webinars, phone calls, Zoom, and hopefully in the future, in-person meetings, depending on COVID. This includes everything from how the regulations from CMS work on well visits, chronic care management, and transitional care management, to how to put in and monitor workflows and processes for all ACO initiatives and quality metrics, designing and leading projects to meet specified and targeted goals, and being a link between the staff in the hospitals and the IRCCO management team and the Board. She also heads up the Blue Cross Blue Shield ACO work and pushes out information on how to work with the program.

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Internship application now available

NCRHP offers networking, leadership experience

Applications are now available for healthcare internships and immersion experiences through the National Center for Rural Health Professions. The NCRHP offers three exciting summer opportunities for health professions students to gain applicable networking and leadership experience. They include a six-week rural inter-professional preceptorship program, the rural health experience, and camp counselor. The programs cater to many student needs, varying in location, benefits, and duration. Applications are due in March 2021. Please help connect your students with these professional opportunities.

[Learn More](#)



Brian Burnside was recently named CEO at Carlinville Area Hospital. Mr. Burnside is an award-winning leader in healthcare, bringing more than 20 years' of experience in

profit and non-profit sectors. Brian earned his bachelor's degree in business administration and finance at Westminster College in Missouri, as well as his master's degrees in business administration and health services administration from Xavier University.

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Based upon input from previous EMS interest surveys, the Illinois Flex Grant invested in nine active shooter tactical bags

to be given out by ICAHN to rural EMS agencies. The project was kicked off by inviting the CAH emergency departments and EMS agencies to listen to an in-depth dissection of the active shooter incident that took place in late 2018 in a hospital in Illinois.

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Sincere appreciation to our Board of Directors!



Joann Emge, CEO, Sparta Community Hospital, received ICAHN's prestigious President's Award for her dedicated service as leader of the ICAHN Board of Directors in 2020 during the ICAHN Annual Conference, held via Zoom in November. "Leading in the time of COVID is extraordinarily difficult, but that is exactly what Joann has done for us in these unprecedented times," said ICAHN Executive Director Pat Schou. "Joann has never hesitated to accept a challenge in all her years as a CEO, and rural healthcare is better for her service."

For further information on ICAHN's Annual Conference Lifetime Achievement and Service Awards, [click here](#).

For further information on ICAHN's "IMPACT" Award Winners, [click here](#).

For further information on ICAHN's "4 Under 40" Winners, [click here](#).

Click the button below for the roster of new and retiring board members.

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