



Illinois Critical Access Hospital Network



Strength Through Collaboration



New partnership with Centene/CHS

Rural Community Health Services (RCHS) will soon be marketed in IRCCO hospital areas of service

The Illinois Rural Community Care Organization (IRCCO) took a giant step forward this past January and entered into a partnership with national and publicly traded Centene and its management arm, Collaborative Health Systems (CHS) to offer a new Medicare Advantage product for rural residents. This new rural provider and payer partnership is touted as a pioneer model for rural providers to advance safely value-based care participation.

[For More Information](#)

Rural Health Fellowship graduates 17

Mentors bring 'real world' experience and leadership development to new and emerging healthcare staff

Katie Meusel, Clinical Manager at Midwest Medical Center, was not going to lose her opportunity this year. "By the time I decided to apply for the ICAHN Rural Health Fellowship in 2020, I was too late." Instead, her colleague Arica Schmidt participated in year one for the Fellowship. "Arica loved the experience, so I made sure this year that I would not miss out," Katie says of grabbing her spot. Katie is



one of 17 emerging healthcare leaders participating in this year's Fellowship.

The six-month program gives participants an in-depth look at rural health and challenges them to be a strong voice for rural healthcare by developing leadership and advocacy skills. Each Fellow is paired with an experienced mentor who provides support and guidance regarding leadership roles and the development of the Fellowship project. The 2021-2022 Fellowship wraps up on April 27 in Springfield.

[For More Information](#)



Please invite your local coalitions

ICAHN encourages community coalitions, healthcare provider participation in 'Opioid Crisis Next Door' event

The next "Opioid Crisis Next Door" conference will be held on Wednesday, June 8 at the I-Hotel & Conference Center, 1900 S. First Street, Champaign. Dr. William Cooke, MD, will serve as the keynote speaker. He is a family physician from rural Indiana who practices in a town that would become the center of a devastating outbreak of HIV fueled by injectable drug use. Cost to attend will be \$60 per individual or \$25 for eligible students. Registration and a full agenda will be available soon at www.icahn.org. Please save the date and invite all your local coalitions to attend.

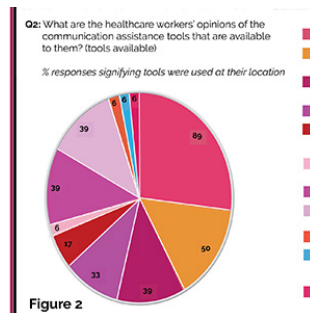
Accessibility study for deaf and HOH

U of I College of Medicine-Rockford student offers insight into accessibility issues unique to rural healthcare

Amanda Reinhart, former EMT, BS, M2, University of Illinois College of Medicine-Rockford student, recently explored communication obstacles for deaf and hard of hearing patients seeking medical care in urban or generalized settings. However, upon a deeper dive, she found little research into the kinds of accessibility that exist within rural regions.

She determined part of this research disparity may be due to how small and spread out deaf populations are within rural communities, making research into their accessibility more difficult and appear less relevant. Given the increasing numbers of elderly patients in these rural populations, many of whom have increased hearing needs, she determined communication accessibility within rural healthcare is more relevant than ever. Click more to read more about her conclusions.

[For the Full Study](#)



Raising the bar in treating diabetes

Join nationally recognized speakers for this two-part webinar series on April 26 and 28



Registration is open for ICAHN Professional Education Services' "Raising the Bar in Treating Diabetes" conference, slated for 8:30 a.m. to noon on Tuesday and Thursday, April 26 and 28 via webinar format. Sacha Uelmen, RDN, CDCES, will kick off the event on April 26 by discussing how to engage and retain participation in effective and sustainable diabetes education and prevention programs.

William Polonsky, PhD, CDCES, will then offer information on addressing problematic medication adherence in diabetes, followed by the American Heart Association offering diabetic tools and resources. On April 28, Karen Kemmis, PT, RN, DPT, MS, CDE, will offer insight into creating a successful exercise program for individuals with diabetes and/or limited physical abilities, followed by Diana Isaacs, PharmD, BCPS, BC-ADM, CECES, FADCES, FCCP, who will talk about "The Explosion of Diabetes Technology." This session then concludes with Susan Cornell, PharmD., CDCES, FAPhA, FADCES, who will offer "The 2022 Diabetes Update: What's New."

[To Register or For More Information](#)

Illinois Tobacco Quitline offers free counseling Tobacco cessation services, promo materials available for all forms of tobacco, e-cigarettes, and vapes

Since 2001, the Illinois Tobacco Quitline (ITQL) has been providing free telephonic cessation services. The ITQL is funded by the Illinois Department of Public Health and co-managed with the American Lung Association. The Quitline service is now available for teens and adults, ages 13 and up. The Quitline is staffed by a team of certified tobacco treatment specialists, ready to assist in anyone's tobacco-free journey. The Quitline also has an interpretation service, if needed, along with bilingual staff. A key enhancement that is available to those who qualify is free nicotine replacement therapy, including patches, gum, and lozenges.



[For More Information or to Receive Materials](#)



Vendor Education: Intalere is now Vizient Acquisition builds on both business' combined strengths

The acquisition of Intalere advances Vizient's ability to meet the growing needs of the increasingly diverse range of members served. In addition, it delivers great scale and market presence for all members by leveraging investments across a larger member base, increasing efficiency, enriching its competitive capabilities and expanding access to leading practices, networking and knowledge-sharing. To serve members across the entire continuum of care, Vizient has a significant presence in the non-acute space. Provista, a wholly-owned subsidiary, is solely focused and dedicated to serving the distinct needs of non-acute providers. Members such as surgery centers, urgent care clinics, physician offices, home healthcare providers and many more benefit

from Provista's unique service model.

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Over 150 attend annual RHC workshop Lawrence County Memorial PCC wins Lilypad Award

Over 150 people attended ICAHN's annual Rural Health Clinic workshop in March. With over 240 rural health clinics in the state of Illinois, it is important to provide updates to promote the efficient management and operation of these vital sources of healthcare in our rural communities.



Jonathan Pantenburg, Stroudwater Associates, did a deep dive into the impact the recent legislative changes will have for all RHCs but especially, the provider-based clinics. Kate Hill of The Compliance Team gave an overview of the most common survey deficiencies and Jayla Rinsch, BSN, RN, at Lawrence County Memorial Hospital Primary Care Clinic, discussed the importance of the Medicare Wellness Visit. She also showed how their clinic's innovative workflow has made a dramatic impact on the number of beneficiaries who have benefited from this important wellness visit.

Gregory Wolf, President of LilyPad, reviewed concepts such as quality measures, determining the best mix of providers to employ in your RHC, as well as reviewing current trends in physician compensation. Mr. Wolf also announced the two Illinois RHCs that were named as 2022 Lilypad Award winners. These clinics are ranked as being in the top 50 of all rural health clinics in the country using criteria such as cost per visit, productivity metrics, and utilization numbers. Lawrence County Memorial Hospital Primary Care Clinic and Ahearn and Associates Medical Center in Kewanee were the recipients of the 2022 awards.

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Survey Solutions by ICAHN provides efficient and cost-effective patient satisfaction solutions dedicated solely to rural hospitals and providers. At the end of 2021, ICAHN had 61 clients for HCAHPS, 30 for ED satisfaction, 23 for CGCAHPS, eight for Outpatient Services, seven for Ambulatory Surgery, and 44 for Swing Bed. Indiana and Missouri joined our swing bed tablet survey program, and Survey Solutions by ICAHN has been piloting the Home Health Care CAHPS Survey and the Nursing Home CAHPS Survey.

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