

Illinois Telehealth Network Newsletter



Vol. 4, Issue 1
Winter 2019-2020



From the Executive Director

Dear ITN Members,

On behalf of the Illinois Telehealth Network board of directors and staff, we hope you all had a happy and safe holiday season! As the team reflected on the successes of network members this past year, we wanted to share some of those highlights with you in this special two-part edition of the ITN newsletter.

It has been an incredible year of growth and opportunity for the Illinois Telehealth Network in helping to address rural and underserved patients in Illinois through telemedicine. As you will see, our Board, network staff and member organizations are continually collaborating both within the network and with our legislative and community partners to help address critical health care needs and to expand access to services using innovative telemedicine care delivery methods.

ITN members are emerging as leaders in telemedicine in Illinois, as shown by the hard work ITN members and staff are doing around telemedicine program development, advocacy and education. We are excited to celebrate the recognition ITN members are receiving for their efforts in the telehealth sector and look forward to what 2020 will bring.

We look forward to working with you, our local, state and federal officials, community partners and vendors to expand telehealth services and resources in all areas of downstate Illinois. Happy new year to you all!

Gurpreet S. Mander, MD, MBA, CPE, FAAP
Executive Director, Illinois Telehealth Network

2019 Highlights (Part 1)...



(L-R) Dr. Gurpreet Mander, Trina Casner and David Mortimer

Pana Community Hospital CEO Trina Casner accepts the 2019 Illinois Telehealth Network Pioneer Award from ITN Executive Director Dr. Gurpreet Mander and ITN Director for Philanthropy & Sustainability David Mortimer for her service, leadership and commitment to expanding telehealth in Illinois.



(L-R) Rose Ghattas, Holly Jones and Kathy Hull

Illini Community Hospital (Pittsfield) representatives **Rose Ghattas, Holly Jones and Kathy Hull** display the telehealth leadership achievement award they received at the Partnership for a Connected Illinois' [2019 Awards for Excellence in Telehealth Leadership](#) luncheon held in Chicago, Illinois. Illini received the award for their innovative approach to addressing community health care needs, including a partnership with a local corrections facility, through the use of telemedicine.



Phil Schaefer

Southern Illinois Healthcare (Carbondale) Senior VP of Ambulatory Services & Chief Care Network Development Officer **Phil Schaefer** at the [2019 Awards for Excellence in Telehealth Leadership](#) luncheon in Chicago. SIH was awarded a PCI telehealth leadership achievement award for their system-wide commitment to leverage telehealth solutions to meet health care needs in rural counties in Southern Illinois.

Member Action Items

CMS 2020 Physician Fee Schedule Updates



The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) finalized its CY2020 proposed revisions to the Physicians Fee Schedule. Revisions include new reimbursable codes for opioid use disorder, new therapy and counseling components and code changes and additions for transitional care, chronic care and principal care management. The [Center for Connected Health Policy](#) created a fact sheet outlining the updates, which can be [found here](#).

Save the Date !

The ITN has set its annual meeting of the membership for **Thursday, May 21, 2020** in Springfield. This year's meeting will have a new format, location and speakers. An official announcement and more details concerning registration and programming will be coming soon!



Calling All ITN Members !



ED Tele-psychiatry Services

The ITN team would like to invite members interested in learning more about a possible opportunity to provide emergency department tele-psychiatry services to contact us. If your organization is interested in offering tele-psychiatry services to patients in an emergency department setting, please contact ITN project director [Alison Rhodes](#) by **January 31, 2020**.

NEW ITN Policy Committee

To address ITN member interest, the ITN Board approved the creation of the ITN Policy Committee. The committee will provide ongoing review of federal, state and local legislation, regulations, reimbursement and other policy matters impacting telemedicine. Outcomes for this committee include creating education and resource material around policy matters for network members and providing routine updates to the ITN board about policy/reimbursement issues. If you would like to explore membership in this new committee, please contact [Julie Edwards](#).



ITN Year in Review (Part 1)

The [Illinois Telehealth Network](#) had an active and productive year working to promote its mission to expand the capacity of its members to improve access to health care in rural, underserved and disadvantaged communities through telehealth. Take a look at the many activities of ITN member organizations and network leaders below!

FIRST QUARTER 2019 ACTIVITIES

- ITN Network Director Julie Edwards presents information about the network and telemedicine to the medical staff and leadership team at ITN member [Warner Hospital and Health Services](#).

- The ITN Network Director Julie Edwards participated in a radio interview with guest host [US Congressman Rodney Davis](#) to discuss the ITN's award for telemedicine equipment for opioid treatment, prevention and education.
- ITN leadership attended the IHA legislative reception to discuss telemedicine reimbursement with Illinois legislative leaders.
- The ITN team conducted onboarding sessions for newly elected ITN board members EJ Kuiper ([HSHS](#)), Kristin Doster ([Prairie Heart Institute/Prairie Cardiovascular Consultants](#)), and John Kessler ([Culbertson Memorial Hospital-Rushville](#)).
- ITN leadership worked with state of Illinois leaders regarding implementation of Illinois SB 3049 which expanded providers eligible for telehealth reimbursement for behavioral health services.



SECOND QUARTER 2019 ACTIVITIES

- [ATA19](#), the American Telemedicine Association's annual conference, took place in New Orleans.
- The ITN staff team performed a telemedicine demonstration for [Illinois Representative Avery Bourne](#).
- ITN advisor [Lisa Mazur](#) spoke at a Virtual Coffee concerning various telemedicine legal matters, including informed consent and telemedicine documentation.
- Robots obtained from the awarded USDA DLT grant were deployed.
- Network leaders participated in the Illinois Health and Hospital Association [Advocacy Day](#) to promote advancements in telemedicine reimbursement.
- The ITN hosted [Dr. Yulun Wang](#) from InTouch Health as the keynote speaker at the network's annual meeting.
- Pana Community Hospital CEO [Trina Casner](#) was awarded the ITN's 2019 Pioneer Award for her outstanding work and commitment to the ITN as the Board's chairperson.
- The ITN Board and staff team participated in a network strategic planning session with grant technical assistance provider RHI representatives.
- The ITN in collaboration with HSHS St. Francis Hospital in Litchfield was awarded a 1-year planning grant to develop telemedicine strategies for opioid treatment and education from the [Health Resources and Services Administration \(HRSA\) Rural](#)

[Communities Opioid Response Program](#). ITN members [Jersey Community Hospital](#) and [Southern Illinois Healthcare Foundation](#) also received awards.

- The ITN staff team performed a telemedicine demonstration for [Congressman John Shimkus](#).
- The project manager for the awarded RCORP planning grant, Brandi Young, joined the ITN team and began work on the ITN's Heroin Opioid Prevention Education project.
- The ITN staff team completed the Business Plan, a milestone deliverable for the network's Rural Health Network Development Grant.
- ITN board and staff along with several ITN member organization representatives attended a [conference on addressing the opioid crisis](#) hosted by ICAHN in Springfield.
- The ITN Annual Needs Assessment Survey opens for members.



(L-R) Heather Fear and Rose Ghattas

[Heather Fear](#) of Southern Illinois Healthcare (Carbondale) and [Rose Ghattas](#) of Blessing Physician Services (Quincy) attend the American Telemedicine Association's annual conference (ATA19) in New Orleans.



(L-R) Lynsey Canty, Karen Webb, Maria Clark, IL Rep. Avery Bourne, Elisa Feldmann, James Timpe and Becky Bishop

[Illinois State Representative Avery Bourne](#) (R-Litchfield) visits HSHS St. Francis Hospital to learn about how telemedicine is utilized for patient care in their facility.



Rep. John Shimkus (R-Collinsville) (Center) and Aaron Puchbauer

[Congressman John Shimkus](#) learns more about telemedicine and the virtual services offered at



(L-R) Trina Casner, Dr. Yulun Wang, Dr. Gurpreet Mander, Alison Tindall and Peter Mannix

Founder of InTouch Health [Dr. Yulun Wang](#) joins ITN board members [Trina Casner](#), [Dr. Gurpreet Mander](#) and [Alison Tindall](#) along with HSHS Vice

STAY TUNED FOR PART 2 OF THE 2019 YEAR IN REVIEW!

We want to promote and celebrate ITN member organization efforts in expanding access to care through telemedicine! To submit information about your organization's activities in telehealth or to highlight your organization in future issues, please contact ITN team member [Rebecca Schnorf](#).

Upcoming Events



- **January 20, 2020** || [Write Your Own DLT Grant Workshop](#) (Indianapolis, IN)
- **April 17-19, 2020** || [Illinois State Medical Society Annual Meeting](#) (Springfield, IL)
- **May 3-5, 2020** || [American Telemedicine Association Annual Conference/ATA2020](#) (Phoenix, AZ)
- **May 21, 2020** || **ILLINOIS TELEHEALTH NETWORK ANNUAL MEETING** (Springfield, IL)
- **July 2020** || [mHealth and Telehealth Conference](#) (Boston, MA)
- **July 14-15, 2020** || [Upper Midwest Telehealth Resource Center 2nd Annual Conference](#) (South Bend, IN)
- **July 20-22, 2020** || [InTouch Annual Telehealth Forum](#) (Santa Barbara, CA)
- **August 5-6, 2020** || [Illinois Rural Health Association 31st Annual Educational Conference](#) (Champaign, IL)



 SHARE

 TWEET

 FORWARD

Illinois Telehealth Network

1215 Franciscan Dr., Litchfield
United States

mailer lite