

Connecting Resources, Strengthening Rural Health Care, Saving Lives

Illinois Telehealth Network Member News

October 2016

Board Elected, Bylaws Adopted, Strategic Plan Updated! From the Board Chair



Buckle your seatbelts! After a busy year, our Illinois Telehealth Network (ITN) now has a board, approved bylaws, and an updated strategic plan. We have engaged McDermott Will & Emery to assist us in preparing and filing the necessary documents to incorporate ITN as an Illinois not-for-profit corporation, and to apply for tax-exempt status as a Section 501(c)(3) charitable organization. This month, ITN began another HRSA grant application that will request \$900k to support a three-year project that will leverage matching funding to total approximately \$1.3m.

Just a few years ago, our telehealth network began with just a handful of members. As interest quickly grew ITN membership grew to 23 hospitals and physician groups, and is today supported by a diverse portfolio of more than one million dollars in grants.

Pana Community Hospital is proud to be an inaugural member. I am also proud to have been elected to the ITN board, and honored to have been elected by the other board members to serve as your board chair. We have a highly skilled and experienced board, executive director and support team (bios may be found [here](#)). In just a few years, ITN has made great strides in increasing access to essential health care services in underserved rural areas with provider shortages.

We are witnessing sweeping "whitewater" changes. There are new demands upon rural health care: More patients, provider shortages, barriers to patient access to care, reimbursement penalties, and funding delays and reductions.

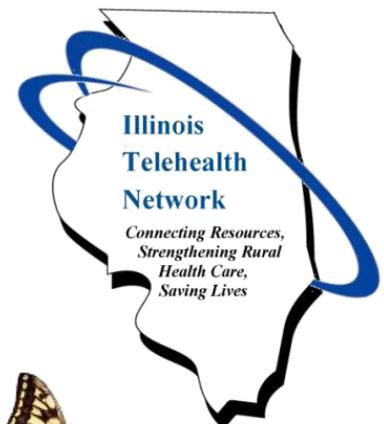
From day one, this network has been a collaborative strategy built upon transparency. Individual actors came together voluntarily, agreed on a course of action, signed a MOU and began taking action cooperatively. Together, we design pilots, test them, then improve and scale them elsewhere. We sometimes share costs.

What makes the ITN unique is that many stakeholders freely provide their time, trust, will, resources and skills. It's never easy to agree on common goals, let alone a common strategy for achieving those goals. Collaboration is hard work, and requires thoughtfulness and time. But it's a winning strategy when it allows us to be a catalyst for innovation.

Congratulations on three successful years of a metamorphosis into a robust network. And best wishes to all those involved in developing our network and new pilots in the next three!



Trina J. Casner, FACHE
Board Chair, Illinois Telehealth Network (ITN)
President and CEO, Pana Community Hospital (Pana, IL)



Pioneer Award Presented to Shelby Memorial Hospital



Meredith Barnes, RN, BSN, Clinical Nurse Specialist, receiving the ITN Telemedicine Pioneer Award from Dr. Gurpreet Mander, on behalf of her Shelby Memorial Hospital colleagues and Marilyn Sears, President and CEO.

At the ITN annual meeting held at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library on June 10, the second annual **Telemedicine Pioneer Award** was presented to Shelby Memorial Hospital (Shelbyville). The award was accepted by Meredith Barnes, RN, BSN, Clinical Nurse Specialist, on behalf of her Shelby Memorial Hospital colleagues and Marilyn Sears, President and CEO.

In presenting the award, Dr. Gurpreet Mander, ITN Executive Director and Chief Medical Officer of HSHS St. John's Hospital, commended Shelby Memorial Hospital. "This Telemedicine Pioneer Award recognizes groundbreaking work in operationalizing a tele-stroke program, training emergency room staff, providing radiology access, and learning new protocols," Dr. Mander said. "This is a program that literally saves lives and improves outcomes for stroke patients."

Shelby Memorial Hospital is one of 10 hospitals participating in the ITN tele-stroke network with HSHS St. John's Hospital in Springfield.

Stroke is a leading cause of death and disability, but in rural EDs, tele-stroke can save lives by providing rapid videoconference access to stroke specialists. These specialists may be hundreds of miles away, but they can evaluate patients for tPA, a clot-busting drug that can reduce death and disability from stroke if administered within a few hours after stroke symptoms begin. Computed tomography (CT) scans and other tests are also shared through the tele-stroke network during consultations.

In June 2015, the first annual Pioneer award was presented to Hillsboro Area Hospital, which was the first to request a neurologist specialist referral in April 2014 when the network was newly launched.

Network Mission & Vision

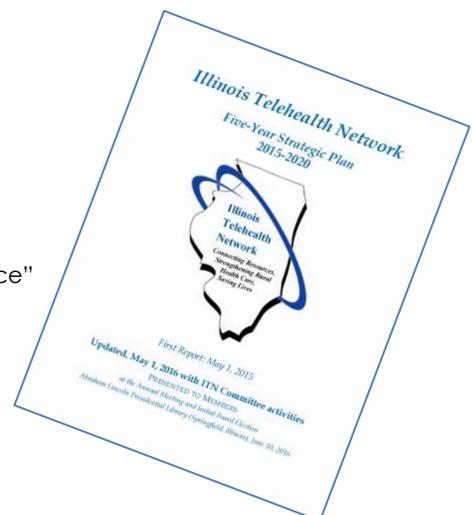
The mission and vision are articulated in the ITN [Strategic Plan](#) (p. 7):

- **Mission:** ITN promotes the capacity of Members to improve access to health care, in rural, underserved and disadvantaged communities, through the application of telehealth and telemedicine solutions.
- **Vision:** ITN will connect and share resources, strengthen rural health care and save lives.

Strategic Plan, Member Map & Bylaws

ITN Members voted unanimously on 12/9/16 to make ITN documents "open source" to help support other emerging networks. The following documents are linked in DropBox (it is not necessary to create an account to download documents):

- Five-Year Strategic Plan (updated in May 2016) may be found [here](#).
- Member Map (as of October 2016) may be found [here](#).
- Bylaws (Approved 8/30/16) may be found [here](#).



HRSA Grant Application Being Prepared for \$1.3m project: \$150k foundation match commitment secured to support \$900k federal ask

ITN is preparing an application to the HRSA Rural Health Network Development Program. The three-year funding opportunity was issued September 21. An executive summary with a list of current grantees is available [here](#). ITN has already secured a \$150k foundation matching grant (contingent on HRSA funding). The ITN board approved raising additional matching funds from annual member dues in the amount of \$3k. If all 23 ITN members participate, the total three-year project will be about \$1.3m. (A MOU invitation to participate in the grant project will be sent to ITN member organizations' CEOs with details [by early November](#).)

This funding opportunity is only offered every three years. ITN team leaders have been speaking with and learning from networks that currently have these grants. It seems to be a good fit for ITN and funding would allow ITN to fill two critical full-time staffing positions identified in the five year strategic plan. A HRSA grant would accelerate new pilots and support member projects.



\$1 million in current ITN grant funding

Federal, state and private foundation grants are helpful "accelerators" as our network works to build a sustainable model. Below is a list of awarded grants for ITN projects.

Grant	Amount	Purpose	Duration/Status/Applicant
HRSA Rural Health Network Planning (Year 1)	\$85,000	Conduct a needs assessment and five-year strategic plan for 17 network member hospitals	12 months/Successfully completed May 31, 2015/HSHS St. Francis Hospital (Litchfield)
USDA Distance & Learning Telemedicine (DLT)	\$181,000	To secure telemedicine equipment for Havana, Pana and Shelbyville (to participate in telestroke)	Three years/Equipment delivered & operationalized in April-May 2015 with patient neuro calls/HSHS St. John's Hospital
<i>Connections for Cardiovascular HealthSM</i> A program of the AstraZeneca HealthCare Foundation	\$206,000	Expanding the Tele-Heart Pathway (heart failure remote monitoring) for high risk and fragile patients in 13 underserved rural and urban outpatient settings	12 months/new program pilots launched and enrolling patients/HSHS St. John's Hospital and Prairie Heart Institute
HRSA Rural Health Network Planning (Year 2)	\$100,000	To formalize 21-member network governance and a board, and continue planning in three new telemedicine focus areas	12 months/Successfully completed/HSHS St. Francis Hospital (Litchfield)
USDA Distance & Learning Telemedicine (DLT)	\$154,000	To upgrade telemedicine equipment (three-year lease) for Carrollton, Greenville and Hillsboro for telestroke and teleICU	Three-year project in process/HSHS St. John's Hospital
Hospital Sisters of St. Francis Foundation (HSSFF) Innovation Institute	\$290,000	Cash match commitment to federal and private foundation grant projects (above)	From 1-3 years/Support to all project budgets listed above to advance work plans to advance the Three Aims of better health, better health care, and lower costs
Total:	\$1,016,000		

Congratulations to Newly Elected Board and Officers

Congratulations to members of the inaugural ITN board on their June 10 election by members at their annual meeting held at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in Springfield.

At its first board meeting in Litchfield, on August 30, members of the newly elected ITN board elected officers that included an executive director:

- **Chair:** Trina Casner, CEO, Pana Community Hospital (Pana)
- **Vice Chair:** David Imler, Board Chair, Hillsboro Area Hospital (Hillsboro)
- **Secretary:** Meredith Barnes, RN, BSN, Clinical IT Specialist, Shelby Memorial Hospital (Shelbyville)
- **Treasurer:** Patricia Fischer, CEO, HSHS St. Francis Hospital (Litchfield)
- **Executive Director (ex officio):** Gurpreet Mander, MD, Chief Medical Officer, HSHS St. John's Hospital (Springfield)
- Dr. Charles Lucore, CEO, HSHS St. John's Hospital (Springfield)
- Daniel Perryman, CEO, HSHS St. Mary's Hospital (Decatur)
- Alison Kennedy, Manager of TeleHealth, Referral Management, and Special Projects Management, HSHS St. Elizabeth's Hospital (Belleville)



ITN Board Members, front from left to right: Alison Kennedy, Dr. Charles Lucore, Meredith Barnes, David Imler, Trina Casner, Daniel Perryman, Patricia Fischer, Dr. Gurpreet Mander

Your ITN Support Staff

- **Dr. Gurpreet Mander**, ITN Executive Director, CMO, HSHS St. John's Hospital Gurpreet.Mander@hshs.org
- **Chris Schmidt**, ITN Network Director; Regional Stroke & Telemedicine Nurse Coord., HSHS St. John's Hospital Chris.Schmidt@hshs.org
- **Maria Clark**, ITN Finance Director; HSHS St. Francis Hospital (Litchfield, IL) Maria.Clark@hshs.org
- **Julie Edwards**, ITN Outreach Director; CONNECT Outreach Representative, HSHS St. John's Hospital Julie.Edwards@hshs.org
- **David Mortimer**, ITN Administrative Director; Innovation Institute Director, Hospital Sisters of St. Francis Foundation David.Mortimer@HSHS.org cell: 217.381.5483

Stellar Tele-Stroke Response Times! Tele-Peds & Tele-NICU Deployed Next

Since April 2014, the ITN tele-stroke program in central Illinois, led by HSHS St. John's Hospital, and managed by Chris Schmidt (photo at right), completed 876 tele-stroke calls. This year, average neuro specialist consult response times provided by Eagle Physicians were less than 3 minutes! "Sometimes rural communities have no physicians with specialty stroke training," explained Chris Schmidt. "Our tele-stroke program allows rural hospitals to have 24/7 emergency department (ED) access to stroke specialists, and someday we will use the same technology to provide other specialty services that are unavailable in rural areas."

Stroke is a leading cause of death and disability, but in rural EDs, tele-stroke can save lives by providing rapid videoconference access to stroke specialists. These specialists may be hundreds of miles away, but they can evaluate patients for tPA, a clot-busting drug that can reduce death and disability from stroke (tPA must be administered within a few hours after stroke symptoms begin). CT scans and other tests are also shared electronically in a tele-stroke consultation.

Telemedicine equipment in the ED is the first step to adding other services.

- **Tele-NICU** went live at HSHS St. Mary's Hospital (Decatur) in September
- **Tele-Peds:** The tele-stroke program in southern Illinois has provided consults to more than 2500 patients so far. Tele-Peds is planned next, made possible by the new SSM Cardinal Glennon ED pediatric physician coverage at HSHS St. Elizabeth's Hospital (Belleville). Eventually, this new service will be provided to smaller community hospitals nearby, including HSHS St. Joseph's Hospitals in Breese and also in Highland. These programs are being managed by Alison Kennedy (photo at right).



Chris Schmidt, RN, BSN, ITN Network Director. Chris serves as the Regional Stroke & Telemedicine Nurse Coord., HSHS St. John's Hospital. In her leisure time, Chris shows Arabian horses and has won national titles.



In addition to serving on the ITN Board, **Alison Kennedy, MHA, BSN, RN, SCR, LSSBB**, is Manager of TeleHealth, Referral Management, and Special Projects Management, HSHS St. Elizabeth's Hospital



ITN Executive Director Interviewed on NPR Illinois with Tele-Stroke Patient

A segment on Telemedicine & Rural Healthcare was aired live on the radio program, "The 21st" on WILL-Urbana/WUIS-Springfield/WGLT-Bloomington/Normal. The interviews included Bob Denton, a rural tele-stroke patient from HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital (Effingham), and Dr. Gurpreet Mander, ITN Executive Director. (Dr. Mander is also CMO of HSHS St. John's Hospital.)

<http://will.illinois.edu/21stshow/program/telemedicine-rural-healthcare-political-outlook>

A [profile](#) of Dr. Mander and his work as a pediatrician was also recently published in Springfield's Own (SO) Magazine.



Press Conference Announces Rural Equipment Grants

A new Emergency Department (ED) telemedicine equipment grant that will benefit three rural ITN members was announced at a Springfield press conference at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library. Colleen Callahan, Illinois State Director, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development, made the announcement and recognized the three hospitals that will benefit from a USDA Distance Learning & Telemedicine (DLT) grant:

1. Boyd Memorial Hospital (Carrollton, IL)
2. HSHS Holy Family Hospital, formerly Greenville Regional Hospital (Greenville, IL)
3. Hillsboro Area Hospital (Hillsboro, IL)

"The USDA Rural Development Distance Learning & Telemedicine program is designed to help rural communities access modern telecommunications for education and healthcare – key components of community and economic development," said Ms. Callahan. "[These hospitals] will have new equipment to build capacity and expand services, yet the ultimate beneficiary is the rural resident and patient."



Pictured from left to right: Rex Brown, Administrator, Hillsboro Area Hospital; Dr. Gurpreet Mander, ITN Executive Director and CMO, HSHS St. John's Hospital; David Imler, Board Chair, Hillsboro Area Hospital, and also Vice Chair, ITN Board; Colleen Callahan, Illinois State Director, USDA Rural Development, Brian Nall, CEO, HSHS Holy Family Hospital (Greenville); Dr. Chuck Lucore, CEO, HSHS St. John's Hospital (the lead applicant)

The \$155,000 grant supports the total project cost of \$315,000, and allows the rural hospitals to participate in the ITN. Network services currently include emergency department tele-stroke, and could someday include tele-pediatric care, tele-neonatal intensive care, tele-intensive care, and others.

ITN received grant support letters for the DLT proposal from U.S. Senators and Members of Congress.

"...this program will enable HSHS St. John's Hospital to obtain telemedicine equipment, which would help save lives and reduce the disability of stroke victims in rural Illinois hospitals. It would also help expand patient access to advanced medical care."



-Senator Dick Durbin
(USDA grant support [letter](#))

"By increasing access to stroke neurologists..., we can also increase the likelihood that stroke victims receive tPA, the only FDA approved treatment for an ischemic stroke... tPA helped save my life and I want others to have the same opportunity."



-Senator Mark Kirk
(USDA grant support [letter](#))

Support for ITN Philanthropy & Fundraising

All ITN grant projects have had the support of the [Hospital Sisters of St. Francis Foundation](#)'s Innovation Institute Director, David Mortimer. In addition to applications, grant management and reporting, the Innovation Institute has, so far, provided \$290,000 of grant funding to leverage \$726,000 in federal, state and private foundation grant support over four years.

ITN has demonstrated success in creating economies of scale for members. In welcome comments to members and CEOs at the June 10 ITN Annual Meeting, Mary Starmann-Harrison, President and CEO, Hospital Sisters Health System, described the future:

Already, member organizations in this network are experiencing economies of scale and the 'win-win' of collaborative action that helps meet the needs of patients in rural and small town areas... I see a bright future: I believe ITN has the potential to leverage economies of scale to reach goals that are only dreams today. ITN can strengthen the business models and market share of all its members.

Even more importantly, I believe ITN has the potential of saving hundreds of lives in the years ahead. It can also improve patient outcomes, reduce disability, and increase access to care for countless rural patients... I commend you and wish you all success on your journey. In this time of care transformation, redesign, and accountable care preparedness, I believe that your network will be transformative.



Hospital Sisters
OF ST. FRANCIS FOUNDATION
Innovation Institute



David Mortimer, MDiv, ITN Administrative Director, serves as Director of the Innovation Institute, Hospital Sisters of St. Francis Foundation. David has 26 years of successful administrative non-profit and health care sector leadership experience.

ITN Honored with Award of Merit



At its Educational Conference and Annual Meeting on August 11 in Effingham, the Illinois Rural Health Association (IRHA) presented its "2016 Rural Health Award of Merit" to the Illinois Telehealth Network (ITN). Each year, the Award is presented to a group that has made great strides to improve access to rural health care with innovative programs or activities that provide outstanding benefit to the public's health.

Pictured: Gurpreet Mander, MD, ITN Chair; CMO, HSHS St. John's Hospital; David Imler, ITN board member, board chair of Hillsboro Area Hospital; David Mortimer, ITN Administrative Director; Innovation Institute Director, Hospital Sisters of St. Francis Foundation; Chris Schmidt, RN, BSN ITN Network Director; Regional Stroke and Telemedicine Nurse Coord., HSHS St. John's Hospital; Tammy Lett, RN, MBHA, ITN Tele-Behavioral Health Committee Co-Chair, CNO, HSHS Holy Family Hospital, (Greenville, IL); Margaret Vaughn, Executive Director, IRHA; Ryan Jennings, MD, ITN Tele-Behavioral Health Committee Co-Chair, CMO, HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital (Effingham, IL)

Sharing Best Practices in State and National Forums

ITN members have supported other telehealth networks by sharing ITN innovations at regional and national forums:

- In March, the ITN Administrative Director presented a webinar to Upper Midwest Telehealth Resource Center ([UMTRC](#)) members in **Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, and Ohio** (3/18/2016)
- ITN telestroke program development best practices have been shared with hospitals in **eastern and western Wisconsin**.
- **Illinois Hospital Association's** Commitment to Transformation innovation forum, Chicago, Illinois (11/5/15)
- **American Telemedicine Association** Annual Conference, Minneapolis, Minnesota, (5/17/16)
- **Illinois Rural Health Association's** Educational Conference, Effingham, Illinois, 8/11/2016
- **Illinois Telehealth Law Forum**, McDermott, Will & Emery, Chicago (9/13/16)



21st ANNUAL TELEMEDICINE MEETING & TRADE SHOW
ATA 2016 MINNEAPOLIS, MN
 MAY 14-17, 2016



Mark R. Stampehl MD, MA, FACC, Medical Director of Heart Failure at HSHS St. John's Hospital and a Prairie Cardiovascular physician providing care to many rural clinics, presents at IHA's Innovation Forum. Dr. Stampehl shared about the Tele-Heart Pathway, an in-home remote monitoring innovation for high risk and fragile heart failure patients. Funding to expand the program into outpatient settings was provided by the *Connections for Cardiovascular HealthSM*, A program of the AstraZeneca HealthCare Foundation.

Illinois Telehealth Network (ITN) Members and Board Members (2016-2017)

Rural Counties and Metropolitan Counties with Designated Eligible Rural Census Tracts

