

Connecting Resources, Strengthening Rural Health Care, Saving Lives

Illinois Telehealth Network (ITN) Member News

August 2017

HRSA Grant Award

Rural Health Network Development Grant Supports \$1.3 million ITN project



Congratulations to our 26 network CEOs that signed a MOU this past November to join a very competitive federal HRSA Rural Health Network Development (RHND) grant application. Led by HSHS St. Francis Hospital (Litchfield), our \$900,000 request was approved to support a three-year \$1.3 million project to develop and expand the Illinois Telehealth Network (ITN). Many thanks to the Hospital Sisters of St. Francis Foundation for a matching grant. This means that after two Network Planning HRSA grants, a board election, and successful incorporation as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, our network will begin the “network development” phase in its [five-year strategic plan](#).



As described in the [MOU](#), grant funding will help ITN build the capacity and sustainability of telemedicine and telehealth projects. The grant will allow ITN to organize a collaborative approach to expand current and develop new telehealth services. This will be accomplished by removing barriers, sharing best practices and coordinating resources. Our network’s RHND project will coordinate and improve the access, coordination, quality and delivery of telemedicine services for patients in rural disadvantaged and underserved Illinois shortage areas. In addition, seven Advisors signed the MOU to support our efforts with input and expertise. As you may know, we are an exceptionally rural network: ITN members include an ACO, 28 FQHCs, 19 members in rural areas, 14 critical access hospitals (24 in Primary Care HPSAs and 12 in Medically Underserved Areas).



Next Steps: Please respond to our “Blue Arrow” invitation for committee members on page 4. ITN’s committees will be a critical support to your telemedicine efforts over the next three years.



Thank you for your continued support!

Sincerely,

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

Gurpreet S. Mander, MD, MBA, CPE, FAAP
Executive Director, Illinois Telehealth Network
Chief Medical Officer, HSHS St. John’s Hospital (Springfield, IL)

David P. Mortimer, MDiv
Administrative Director, Illinois Telehealth Network
Director, Innovation Institute, Hospital Sisters of St. Francis Foundation



Telemedicine Pioneer Award

HSHS Holy Family Hospital (Greenville, Illinois) Honored for Innovation to Preserve Vital Tele-Psychiatry Program



The third annual ITN Telemedicine Pioneer Award was presented to HSHS Holy Family Hospital in Greenville, Illinois, at the annual ITN member meeting June 16, 2017 at the Chiara Center in Springfield, Illinois. The award was accepted on behalf of HSHS Holy Family Hospital by Brian Nall, President and CEO, Tammy Lett, former CNO, Susan LaMonica, Senior Wellness leader, and Nicole Lewer-Holst, VP, Legal Affairs, Southern Illinois Division, HSHS.

Dr. Gurpreet Mander, ITN Executive Director, and Chief

Medical Officer of HSHS St. John's Hospital, and Trina Casner, ITN Board Chair and President and CEO of Pana Community Hospital, presented the award. The award recognized ground-breaking work in designing and operationalizing a new tele-psychiatry program to prevent an inpatient Senior Wellness and Geriatric Psychiatry program from closing when the sole psychiatrist provider gave notice of intent to move his private practice to care for more patients in a wider geography. (Most rural IL communities have a shortage of psychiatric care, and recruitment is all but impossible.)

The team designed their own tele-psychiatry program which was launched on April 1, 2017 with no lapse in care and no change in provider. Tele-psychiatry helped avoid the closing of the Geriatric Psychiatry program, which would have resulted in a loss of \$500,000 in annual revenue and the loss of several jobs. It would also have required seniors to drive over 60 miles to obtain services. Congratulations to HSHS Holy Family Hospital for receiving this recognition!

Past Telemedicine Pioneer Award Recognitions:

- The first award was presented in June 2015, to **Hillsboro Area Hospital**, which was the first to request a neurologist specialist referral in April 2014 when the tele-stroke network was newly launched.
- The second annual award was presented June 2016 at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library to **Shelby Memorial Hospital (Shelbyville)**, later renamed **HSHS Good Shepherd Hospital**. The award recognized ground-breaking work in operationalizing a new tele-stroke program with new protocols.

Partnership for a Connected Illinois: Sept. 12th Telehealth Law Forum

Telehealth Bootcamp Series - September 12, 2017 8 am to 3:45 pm CT
 The Second Annual Telehealth Law (*live-stream or in-person*)
 Forum invites both those new to and those already working in telehealth to attend its Multi-Disciplinary Telehealth Bootcamp. Participants will hear from legal, compliance, operational, clinical and technology authorities about "what it takes" to build and operate a successful telehealth program. Register [here](#). Facebook page for news and state activities is [here](#).



Federal Grant Telemedicine Equipment Demo

USDA DLT grants support six rural hospitals in tele-stroke network led by HSHS St. John's Hospital, which hosted several site visits from program officers

On June 30, 2017, USDA Distance Learning and Telemedicine (DLT) program officers were hosted for several site visits and demonstrations at HSHS St. John's Hospital, (SJS), and rural tele-stroke network hospital partners. Sites visited with demonstrations of equipment included:

- Hillsboro Area Hospital (Hillsboro)
- Pana Community Hospital (Pana)
- HSHS Good Shepherd Hospital (Shelbyville)
- HSHS St. John's Hospital (Springfield)

USDA competitive grants totaling \$322,000 support the cost of telemedicine equipment in six rural sites. These rural grants support the wider sustainability of the 24/7 tele-stroke emergency department network in central and southern Illinois, which just passed a 1,500 tele-stroke patient milestone with 14 sites. In addition to emergency department tele-stroke services, the same InTouch Health equipment is being expanded for tele-peds and tele-NICU, hospitalist, maternal and fetal medicine and other services.



Photo above was taken in the emergency room of **HSHS Good Shepherd Hospital** in Shelbyville. From left to right: Keith Adams (USDA Assistant Administrator, Rural Utilities Service Telecommunications Program), Aaron Puchbauer (hospital President and CEO), Ryeon Corsi (USDA Management and Program Analyst), Chris Collins (USDA General Field Representative, MO-IL), Sheli Evans (Emergency Department Manager)

This USDA DLT project for six rural sites totals \$657,000, and is supported by a match from HSHS St. John's Hospital and the Hospital Sisters of St. Francis Foundation's Innovation Institute. The grant applications were made possible by a collaboration of the 26-member Illinois Telehealth Network, which began with a needs assessment that identified rural provider shortages and access disparities, and developed a five-year strategic plan. The strategic plan includes a grant and philanthropy strategy that identified the potential of USDA DLT applications to remove rural barriers and increase access to patient emergency care. Today, ITN members with tele-stroke emergency department services include:

1. Boyd Memorial Hospital (Carrollton)
2. Carlinville Area Hospital (Carlinville)
3. Hillsboro Area Hospital (Hillsboro)
4. HSHS St. Elizabeth's Hospital (Belleville)
5. HSHS Good Shepherd Hospital, formerly Shelby Memorial Hospital (Shelbyville)
6. HSHS Holy Family Hospital, formerly Greenville Regional Hospital (Greenville)
7. HSHS St. John's Hospital (Springfield)
8. HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital (Highland)
9. HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital (Breese)
10. HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital (Effingham)
11. HSHS St. Mary's Hospital (Decatur)
12. HSHS St. Francis Hospital (Litchfield)
13. Mason District Hospital (Havana)
14. Pana Community Hospital (Pana)

Coming in September's Newsletter:

- Introducing New Staff: ITN Program Director
- Prairie Cardiovascular physician has telehealth remote monitoring abstracts published in the *Journal of Cardiac Failure* (August 2017) and will present at the Heart Failure Society of America (HFSA) scientific meeting in Dallas.

Planning & Action Committees Launched

Opportunities for increasing access to care in your community

At the June 16 ITN annual member meeting in Springfield, committees were launched to help expand current telemedicine services, launch new services, and ensure sustainability. Committee charter statements are:

1. **Tele-Medicine Service Lines Committee:** “We believe that services like tele-psychiatry or tele-cardiology are not new service lines, but simply new delivery mechanisms to increase access to care in shortage areas. This committee will explore the expansion of current telemedicine services and pilot new services based on the member needs and desires. We may seek grant funding for pilots. Successful models may be shared and scaled.”
2. **Virtual Technologies & Population Health Committee:** “We will explore and plan pilots that support patients with chronic disease (such as heart failure) where they live. We believe remote patient monitoring in the home can help people better manage chronic disease and reduce hospitals admissions and ED visits, which reduces costs and supports a population health model of care. We may seek grant funding to expand current pilots or create new pilots.”
3. **Finance Committee:** “We believe that shared or group purchasing and shared vendor contracts can create economies of scale that provide better price points for all involved.”
4. **Tele Nursing & SANE Committee:** “We believe that it is critical to increase access to Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) care in rural areas that have no or newly-trained specialists, and that tele-mentoring and tele-nursing can help support newly certified ED SANE staff and physicians address difficult cases and carefully collect evidence using best practices to best support victims in court. We will explore concepts and models and seek support and direction from state SANE leaders and may seek grant funding to test a pilot that provides 24/7 tele-nursing SANE support.” *This committee is seeking ED directors, administrators and SANE ED staff.*
5. **Grants, Philanthropy, Reimbursement & Sustainability Committee:** “We believe that increasing access to care with telemedicine means providing sustainable long-term programs that are supported through any or all of the following: payer reimbursement for care, a demonstrated ROI to demonstrate value, filling gaps with philanthropy (which includes helping ITN members fundraise for their own telemedicine program), and securing private foundation and federal grant funding to fund pilots, secure equipment, provide consulting and legal services to accelerate planning, and support network development.” *This committee is seeking fundraising representatives and philanthropy directors and administrators.*



ACTION ITEMS: There is still room on committees for additional members, and there are no organizational limitations to participation. All committees have a facilitator and chair (or co-chair), agendas and minutes, and will meet by conference call, with some opportunities for in-person meetings.

- Please nominate yourself or someone else to represent your organization on a committee:** Contact the ITN Program Director, Erin Kochan at Erin.Kochan@HSHS.org or by calling (618) 234-2120 ext. 1361.
- The ITN board will fill a vacated seat and is requesting nominations from members to be considered for appointment.** Nominations are due by September 1 and should be sent to David.Mortimer@hshs.org

ITN's Mission & Vision:

- **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.



Education, Outreach & Sharing Innovations

Supporting Rural Health

ITN board and team members receive many invitations to share our network planning journey with rural health and telehealth organizations in Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota and Indiana, and even national resource centers. ITN members voted unanimously on December 9, 2016, to make ITN documents “open source” to help support other emerging networks. Recent educational and outreach presentations included:

- Presentation on March 22 by Dr. Loren Hughes, President, HSHS Medical Group, “Telemedicine in our Vision of Medicine 3.0” to the **American Medical Group Association (AMGA)** Quality Leadership Council in Grapevine, Texas.
- Jeaneene Gesell, Anytime Care Service Line Manager at HSHS Medical Group, an ITN Member, presented on the virtual urgent care pilot called www.Anytimecare.com at the American Telemedicine Association (ATA) international conference and tradeshow. The April 25 conference bills itself as the world’s largest telehealth innovation and networking event and will be held in Orlando, Florida. American TA. Slides may be found [here](#). (Photo of presentation below.)



- An ITN panel presentation on June 13 at the **Indiana Rural Health Association** Annual Conference on June by ITN board member Alison Kennedy, MHA, BSN, RN, SCRNP, LSSBB, Director of Clinical Service Lines, HSHS St. Elizabeth's Hospital; ITN Outreach Director, Julie Edwards, MBA, HSHS St. John's Hospital; and David Mortimer, MDiv, ITN Administrative Director. The presentation was titled, “Leveraging Economies of Scale with a Multi-Stakeholder Rural and Urban Telehealth Network in Illinois.” Slides may be found [here](#).



- Contribution by David Mortimer as a member of a telemedicine panel for the **WHA Wisconsin Rural Health Conference** on June 22. Slides may be found [here](#).



ITN Board and Officers

After considering nominations, the ITN board announced the addition of two new board members at its June 16 annual meeting:

- Paul Skowron, CPA, MBA, CEO, Dr. John Warner Hospital (Clinton, IL)
- Kenny Boyd, MS, CEO, McDonough District Hospital (Macomb, IL)



Current board members (from left to right) are:

1. **Vice Chair:** David Imler, Board Chair, Hillsboro Area Hospital (Hillsboro)
2. **Treasurer:** Patti Fischer, RN, MBA, FACHE, formerly CEO, HSHS St. Francis Hospital (Litchfield), and now COO, HSHS St. John's Hospital (Springfield)
3. Paul Skowron, CPA, MBA, CEO, Dr. John Warner Hospital (Clinton)
4. **Chair:** Trina Casner, CEO, Pana Community Hospital (Pana)
5. Alison Kennedy, Director of Clinical Service Lines, HSHS St. Elizabeth's Hospital (Belleville)
6. **Secretary:** Meredith Barnes, RN, BSN, Clinical IT Specialist, *HSHS Good Shepherd Hospital, formerly Shelby Memorial Hospital (Shelbyville)*
7. **Executive Director (ex officio):** Gurpreet Mander, MD, Chief Medical Officer, HSHS St. John's Hospital (Springfield)

Not pictured:

8. Dr. Charles Lucore, CEO, HSHS St. John's Hospital (Springfield)
9. Kenny Boyd, MS, CEO, McDonough District Hospital (Macomb)

Your ITN Support Staff

- **Gurpreet S. Mander, MD, MBA, CPE, FAAP, ITN Executive Director, CMO, HSHS St. John's Hospital** Gurpreet.Mander@hshs.org
- **Erin Kochan, MBA, ITN Project Director, HSHS St. Elizabeth's Hospital, (Belleville, IL),** Erin.Kochan@hshs.org
- **Maria Clark, BS, PHR, ITN Finance Director; HSHS St. Francis Hospital (Litchfield, IL)** Maria.Clark@hshs.org
- **Julie Edwards, MBA, ITN Outreach Director; CONNECT Outreach Representative, HSHS St. John's Hospital** Julie.Edwards@hshs.org
- **David Mortimer, MDiv, ITN Administrative Director; Innovation Institute Director, Hospital Sisters of St. Francis Foundation** David.Mortimer@HSHS.org cell: 217.381.5483