

Connecting Resources, Strengthening Rural Health Care, Saving Lives

Illinois Telehealth Network Member News

February 2018

Call for Input for Telemedicine Equipment Needs *New ITN Federal Grant Application Being Prepared*

After two successful USDA Distance Learning and Telemedicine (DLT) grant applications to secure telemedicine equipment for six rural hospitals, the ITN is planning to submit another application when the next grant round is announced. Based on feedback from members in committees and from the 2017 needs assessment, we are planning an application to secure more and new telemedicine equipment to further expand the network and increase access for patients.



At this point, our application is needs to “score” every possible potential site, with a strategy to identify 5 to 10 sites that will provide the highest score. If your organization is interested in purchasing its own Telemedicine equipment over the next two years, and is able to provide a 15% cash match, this application might have the potential to accelerate your project. Network staff members are reviewing newly announced changes to this federal program. Click [here](#) to learn more about the 2018 DLT Grant opportunity.



For additional information, or if you are interested in participating in this grant, please contact [Erin Kochan](#) or [Julie Edwards](#) by **February 28**. At that time, the team will begin reviewing potential scoring options and strategy for an approach for a competitive ITN application.

ITN Welcomes New Board Members

Amy Ballance, MHA, Vice-President of Business Development and Strategy for [HSHS](#) Southern Illinois Division, was appointed to the Board at the January meeting. Amy has been HSHS Southern Illinois Division Vice-President of Business Development and Strategy since 2013 and has collaborated continuously with hospitals across the Division, Prairie Heart Institute, and HSHS Medical Group to identify needed physicians across the Division. This has included the sharing of specialty resources through outreach clinics and a vision to utilize telemedicine services to expand access. Amy led the integration of Holy Family Hospital Greenville into HSHS to ensure all facets of integration were identified and was instrumental in the hospital's expansion of its inpatient tele-psychiatry service. Amy has also helped worked with Prairie Heart to increase access to advanced cardiac services in rural areas.



Joan Coffman, MBA, FACHE, President and CEO of [HSHS St. Mary's Hospital](#) (an ITN charter member) in Decatur, was appointed to the Board at the November meeting. Joan is a national leader in rural health care advocacy and received the American Hospital Association (AHA) 2017 Grassroots Champion award. Joan has served as a board member of the Rural Wisconsin Health Cooperative (the recipient three years ago of a prestigious HRSA Rural Health Network Development grant, similar to ITN); and served on the board of the Wisconsin Hospital Association (WHA) and the American College of Healthcare Executives - Wisconsin Chapter. Until her new position, she was also a member of Wisconsin Governor Walker's Opioid Task Force and other WHA subcommittees and councils. At the federal level, Joan is member of the Rural Hospital Issues Group of the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy and Chair-Elect of the Governing Council of the AHA Section for Small or Rural Hospitals. Joan has supervised more than \$15 million in capital improvements, developed new physician partnerships, and engaged with community partners to improve health and wellness.



Please share Your Network News!

Is something exciting occurring at your organization in regards to the advancement of telehealth? If so, let us know! We would love to feature this in our bimonthly newsletters!

Please send your happenings to [Erin Kochan](#)

SAVE THE DATE



ANNUAL ITN MEMBER MEETING
FRIDAY, JUNE 8, 2018
9AM – 3PM

Please mark your calendars for the Annual ITN Member Meeting! We will be meeting Friday, June 8, 2018 from 9am – 3pm at the Chiara Center in Springfield. It is located at 4875 LaVerna Road, Springfield IL 62707-9780

The team is working on the agenda now. Members are welcome to submit suggestions for session topics to Erin Kochan, MBA.



- All Member Dues are due **February 28, 2018.**
- Members interested in participating in the upcoming DLT grant should submit their interest and equipment needs by **February 28, 2018.**
- ATA Conference is **April 29 – May 1.** The ITN has been selected as a panel presenter! You still have time to register!
- \$4,500 supply reimbursements for year one of our three year HRSA grant are due by **June 30, 2018.** This reimbursement is for any telemedicine supply purchased between *July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2018.*
- Service Line Committee meets the third Wednesday of each month from 9 – 10am.
- Virtual Technologies and Population Health Committee meets the third Wednesday of each month from 2 – 3pm.
- Grants, Philanthropy and Sustainability Committee meet the fourth Tuesday of each month from 2 – 3pm.

For additional information about any of these items, please contact [Erin Kochan, MBA](#)



ITN Joins the SHLB Network

ITN recently became a member of Schools, Health, & Libraries Broadband Coalition (SHLB). SHLB's mission is to "promote government policies and programs that enable schools, libraries, health care providers, and other anchor institutions and their communities to obtain open, affordable, high-speed broadband connections to the Internet."

By joining this network, ITN hopes to expand the telehealth services to additional rural communities and collaboratively support advocacy for improved rural broadband infrastructure.

To learn more about SHLB, please visit www.shlb.org



Advocacy Updates

Governor Rauner Letter

Dr. Mander, representing the ITN, along with SIU, Presence Health, Illinois Health and Hospital Association, Partnership for a Connected Illinois and McDermott, Will & Emery, recently worked together on an advocacy letter for advancing telehealth in Illinois.

The advocacy letter discussed requesting eliminations on the originating sites, provider shortages and coverage clarity. A link to the letter can be found [here](#).

Meetings & Follow-up with Senator Andy Manar (48th District)

ITN has been working with Senator Manar's office to provide information to support the legislative process to improve telehealth services and access to care in Illinois.

If you encounter any telehealth reimbursement barriers or have any legislative ideas that you would like to address with the Illinois legislature, please reach out to [Julie Edwards](#), ITN Network Director.

Your ITN Staff

- ✓ **Gurpreet Mander, MD, MBA, CPE, FAAP**, ITN Executive Director,
Gurpreet.Mander@hshs.org
- ✓ **Julie Edwards, MBA**, ITN Network Director,
jedwards@illinoistelehealthnetwork.org
- ✓ **Erin Kochan, MBA**, ITN Project Director,
ekochan@illinoistelehealthnetwork.org
- ✓ **Maria Clark, BS, PHR**, ITN Finance Director,
Maria.Clark@hshs.org
- ✓ **David Mortimer, MDiv, GPC**, ITN Administrative Director,
David.Mortimer@HSHS.org

ITN 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.

ITN Vision

ITN will connect and share resources, strengthen rural health care and save lives.

Grant Received to Build Capacity and Support Sustainability of ITN

ITN received a matching grant of \$40,000 which will be transferred soon. This is ITN's first-year match to the \$300,000 HRSA grant. In year two, ITN will receive a HRSA match of \$50,000 and in year three, the match commitment will be \$60,000. Matching funds, along with Network Member dues, support the salaries of two staff members for ITN. This also allows a significant portion of federal grant dollars to benefit each network member, to support up to \$4,500 in reimbursements for Telemedicine supplies.

Find us online!

www.illinoistelehealthnetwork.org

Check out this article by the USDA regarding the ITN Tele Stroke Network!

[USDA Newsletter Success Story](#)