



Opioid Crisis Next Door: Building Local Coalitions – September 1, 2016

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Rural communities unite

Newly formed or forming coalitions to combat growing epidemic of opioid abuse, heroin use

SPRINGFIELD, IL – In response to the “**2016 Rural Health Summit: *Opioid Crisis Next Door,***” in which more than 225 people attended from across the state, a day-long workshop, “Strategies for Building Local Coalitions,” has been organized by the Illinois Department of Public Health, Center for Rural Health, the Illinois Health and Hospital Association, the Illinois Critical Access Hospital Network, the Illinois Pharmacists Association, the Bureau/Putnam County Community Partners Against Substance Abuse, and the Healthy Communities Partnership. The event will be held on Thursday, September 1st from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Crowne Plaza, 3000 S. Dirksen Parkway, Springfield, IL. The workshop is designed to help rural communities organize, implement, and maintain coalitions to address opioid and substance abuse.

“We were extremely encouraged to see this level of commitment from the very start, from both our state partners as well as those from all reaches of even our most rural communities,” said Pat Schou, Executive Director, Illinois Critical Access Hospital Network. “This workshop in September is just the next step in the process to keep the momentum going strong.”

The Bureau/Putnam County CPASA (Community Partners Against Substance Abuse) will provide training and education, in addition to their interactive display, “Hidden In Plain Sight.” Nikki King, activist, Healthcare Fellow from Mary Margaret Hospital, will serve as the featured speaker. Ms. King was born and raised in the coalfields of central Appalachia. She graduated with a degree in economics from the University of Kentucky and recently completed her formal studies in the Masters of Health Services Administration program at Xavier University in Cincinnati, OH. She is currently completing her Administrative Fellowship at Margaret Mary Health, a critical access hospital in rural Indiana.

Dr. Nirav D. Shah, MD, JD, Director, Illinois Department of Public Health, Princeton Police Chief Tom Root, and Mark Rossi, ICAHN Board Chair, COO, Hopedale Medical Complex, will also speak. Critical access and small, rural hospital representatives, physicians, advanced practice practitioners, nurses, pharmacists, law enforcement, policymakers, drug abuse program and mental/behavioral health providers, and all other interested members of the community are invited to attend.

Cost to attend is \$35 per individual or three for \$100. Registration and a full agenda is available online at www.icahn.org. Deadline to register is Monday, August 29th. For more information, please contact the ICAHN office at (815) 875-2999. The workshop has been funded in part with a grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration through the Illinois Department of Public Health, Center for Rural Health.