

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: PARTNERS IN HEALTH NETWORK



The **Partners In Health Network, Inc. (PIHN)** was founded in 1995 and is the largest and oldest rural health network in West Virginia. The PIHN is a vertically integrated delivery network of 23 health care facilities in 16 counties in southern and central West Virginia. The mission of the PIHN is to “meet the health care needs of our communities striving for quality care throughout the network by leveraging existing resources while working collaboratively to improve organizational efficiencies.” PIHN and its members are dedicated to providing high quality health care through a seamless continuum of care covering public health, prevention, primary care, psychiatric care, dental care, specialty outpatient care and acute inpatient hospital care.

The Principles of Operation for PIHN reflect a focus on accountability and responsiveness to community needs; a seamless continuum of care; commitment to excellence; integrated management systems; and shared control and a collective sense of responsibility. In practice these Principles of Operation translate into an established network of partner organizations that routinely engage in projects together and a central office that coordinates projects and offers a menu of services for members. Many of the PIHN projects and programs focus on quality and training such as:

- Credentials Verification Service that includes initial and re-appointment verification services and is accredited through the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA)
- Community Access Program (CAP) which provides access to primary and hospital care for the working uninsured. Currently the program provides CAP coverage to approximately 5,000 patients
- In partnership with WVRx, implementing systems to automatically notify WVRx when a patient is enrolled in CAP
- With a grant from Carelink, PIHN and its members are providing enhanced care management to Carelink Medicaid patients located in Kanawha, Putnam, Boone and Clay Counties
- Also in collaboration with Carelink, a Childhood Obesity project which includes activities such as health fairs, presentations at after-school programs and CME for providers
- Grant-funded training for health centers that use WV inROADS, which is an online system to help eligible children apply for CHIP or Medicaid benefits
- Enhanced care management for 1,200 Medicaid disabled/SSI eligible patients through a project funded by the WV Health Improvement Institute
- WV Telehealth Alliance project to increase bandwidth, a statewide collaboration with funding from the FCC

PIHN has a dedicated staff supporting the Member organizations. **Bob Whitley** is the Executive Director and is joined by **Tom Kuhn**, Coordinator; **Ina Angel**, Administrative Secretary; **Brenda Greene**, Credentialing Specialist; and **Thomas Horsman, MD**, Physician Liaison. The WVRHA is pleased to have PIHN as a member organization and Tom Kuhn as a Board Member.

*The West Virginia Rural Health Association advocates for empowering all West Virginians to advance their quality of life, well-being and access to excellence in rural health care.*

