

In this month's magazine ...

UV Safety Month

page 14



INPCLC Outcomes Congress

page 8



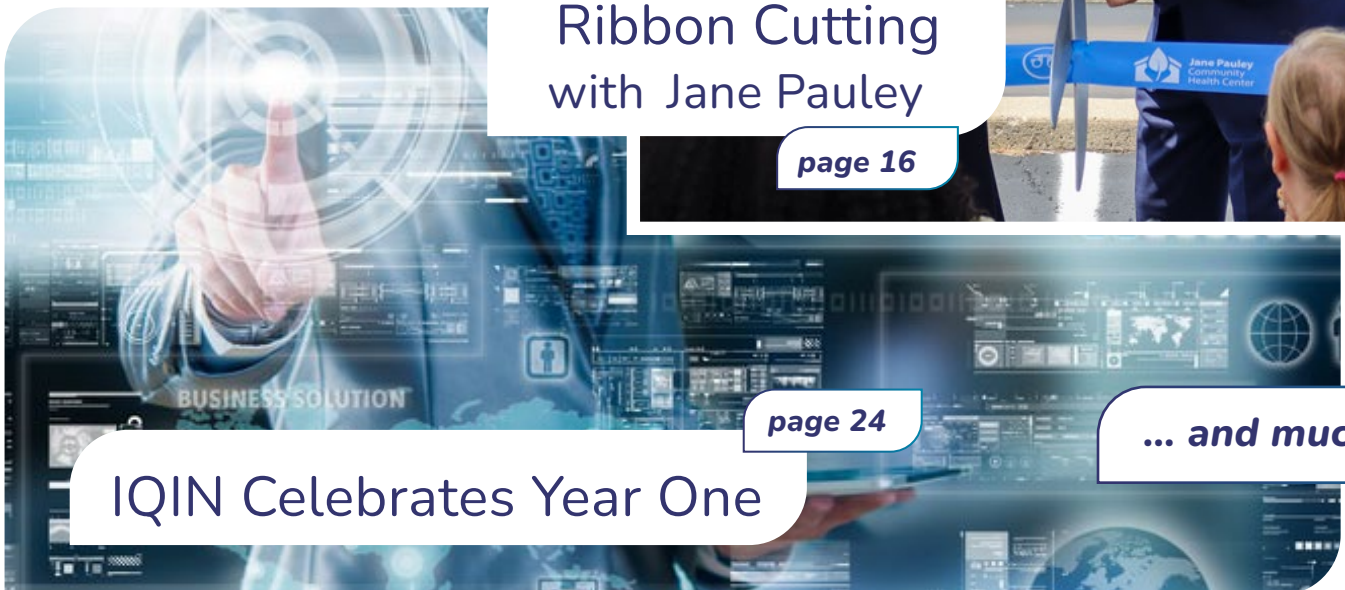
Ribbon Cutting with Jane Pauley

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IQIN Celebrates Year One

... and much more!





Letter from Sean

Welcome to the July Edition

As we move into the heart of summer, there is no shortage of exciting work taking place across our association and our member health centers.

July is a time of momentum as we build on the successes of the first half of the year while looking ahead to the opportunities that await us this fall.

Emergency preparedness remains a priority this summer with the summer weather bringing us thunderstorms, tornados and extreme heat. We continue to encourage health centers to strengthen their plans, participate in upcoming preparedness activities, and to make plans to participate in our annual emergency preparedness tabletop **Cyber Incident Tabletop Exercise, July 28 - 31**. As cyber threats continue to evolve, preparedness depends on planning, collaboration, and regular practice. These sessions will be for both the IT/technical and operational/executive people in your organization.

Detailed information will be coming to you in the next couple of days.

Planning is also well underway for the **2026 IPHCA Annual Conference, Leading the Way: Advancing the Future of High-Quality Primary Care**, taking place October 5 and 6 in Muncie. Our conference continues to be one of the premier opportunities to share innovative ideas, successful programs, and practical solutions that help health centers strengthen operations and improve patient care. **Look out for our agenda and conference app - going live July 15th! [See page 30.](#)**



Thank you for your continued partnership and your unwavering commitment to delivering accessible, high quality primary care to the communities that depend on you. We hope you enjoy this month's issue and find valuable ideas and resources that support your important work.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer!

Sean

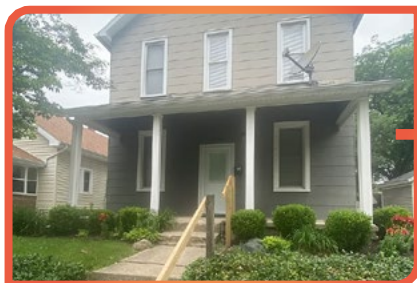
Sean Herbold, IPHCA CFO

Contact Sean

>>> **Clickable links** are provided throughout this newsletter - please notify us of any missing or incorrect links.

Any comments or suggestions please contact **Sean Herbold**

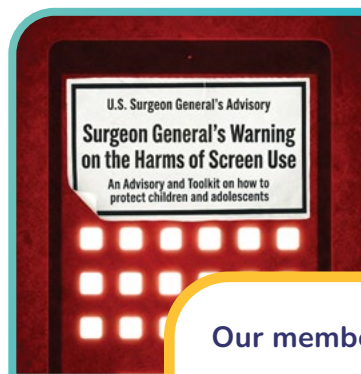
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Dates to note for July:

(Click links for info)

- **UV Safety Month**
- **National Cleft & Craniofacial Awareness & Prevention Month**
- **Cord Blood Awareness Month**
- **World Hepatitis Day July 28**

DISCLAIMER This monthly magazine is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of awards totaling \$1,017,064 with 5% financed with non-governmental sources, and \$1,040,817 with 5% financed with non-governmental sources.

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please follow us on Facebook!



Also **visit our website** to find links to **previous issues**, an **events calendar**, our **resource center** and more!



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John Fordham Design

Our member organizations





Now available!

Forvis Mazars Training VBC Billing & Coding Series

During 2025 and into 2026, we presented a series of training sessions on Value-Based Care (VBC) Billing and Coding, in conjunction with Forvis Mazars.

All meeting recordings and other materials from the series are now available for you to review.

**forvis
mazars**

>>>Click here to access all resources including:

Session 1 – June 17, 2025

- Slide pack – PDF
- Meeting recording

Session 2 – June 20, 2025 / COO Peer Call

- Slide pack – PDF
- Meeting recording

Session 3 – August 29, 2025

Preparing for the Shift from Volume to Value

- Slide pack – PDF
- Meeting recording

Session 4 – August 29, 2025

Panel Discussion – How Documentation Impacts Value

- Slide pack – PDF
- Meeting recording

Session 5 – May 15, 2026

Understanding Risk Adjustment and HCC

- Slide pack – PDF
- Meeting recording

Session 6 – June 12, 2026

Advanced HCC Documentation & Clinical Validation for CHCs (Part 2)

- Slide pack – PDF
- Meeting recording



CEO Corner with Valley Oaks Health

A New Bridge to Recovery: Integrating Health, Housing, and Hope in Greater Lafayette



Dan Arens, MBA, Valley Oaks Health President and CEO



The opioid epidemic has touched nearly every community in America, and Tippecanoe County is no exception. While significant investments have been made in treatment and prevention, lasting recovery requires more than medication alone. It requires a coordinated system that addresses the whole person—physical health, behavioral health, housing stability, employment, transportation, and community connection.

That is why **Valley Oaks Health** is honored to partner with the City of Lafayette to launch the **Bridge to MAT + Home initiative**, an innovative Office-Based Opioid Treatment (OBOT) program coupled with a women-focused recovery housing pathway. Supported through opioid settlement funding, this initiative will expand access to evidence-based treatment, strengthen provider training, improve community referral pathways, and create safe recovery-oriented housing opportunities for women rebuilding their lives after opioid addiction.

As both a Federally Qualified Health Center Look-Alike and a Community Mental Health Center, Valley Oaks Health is uniquely positioned to provide the comprehensive, integrated care that opioid use disorder demands. Too often, addiction treatment operates separately from primary care, mental health services, and social supports. Yet research consistently shows that individuals with opioid use disorder frequently live with multiple chronic health conditions, behavioral health concerns, and significant social challenges that complicate recovery. Our patients do not experience these challenges in isolation, and their care should not be delivered in isolation either.

The Bridge to MAT + Home model recognizes that recovery begins with rapid access to treatment. Through same-day or next-day medication starts, integrated counseling services, intensive outpatient treatment, peer support, and care coordination, individuals will be able to begin recovery when they are ready—not weeks later when an appointment becomes available. The program is designed to



Valley Oaks Health Outpatient office in Lafayette, IN combines primary care, behavioral health, crisis response, and their new Opioid Programming

reduce barriers, eliminate delays, and provide warm handoffs from emergency departments, corrections, first responders, healthcare providers, and community organizations.

What makes this effort especially meaningful is its focus on women in recovery. Women leaving correctional settings or overcoming opioid addiction often face unique barriers, including trauma histories, family responsibilities, housing instability, and limited access to safe recovery environments. Through this initiative, Valley Oaks Health will establish recovery-focused housing paired with medication-assisted treatment, counseling, employment support, benefits navigation, and pathways to permanent housing. Our goal is not simply to help women achieve sobriety, but to help them build healthy, stable, and independent lives.

Equally important is our commitment to addressing the social drivers of health that often determine whether recovery succeeds. Housing, transportation, employment, healthcare access, and social connection are not secondary concerns—they are essential ingredients of long-term wellness. Through partnerships with organizations such as **the Hive**, **Paul's Plan Ministries**, community corrections, housing providers, primary care partners, emergency responders, and peer support organizations, we are creating a seamless continuum of care that meets people where they are and helps them move forward.

This initiative also advances Valley Oaks Health's vision of whole-person care. Every participant will be connected to ongoing primary care, helping identify and manage chronic diseases that often accompany opioid use disorder. By integrating physical health, behavioral health, recovery services, and social supports, we can improve health outcomes while reducing unnecessary emergency department utilization, hospitalizations, incarceration, and long-term community costs.

The City of Lafayette's investment represents more than a response to addiction—it represents a commitment to recovery, resilience, and hope. Together, we are building a model that treats the whole person, strengthens families, and creates healthier communities for generations to come.

>>> [Read the City of Lafayette's press release on this program](#)



A significant focus on this program involves addressing SDOH needs for women. This 2 unit, 5 bedroom home, provides a safe and stable place for recovery.



Valley Oaks Health
415 N 26th St,
Lafayette, IN 47904
valleyoaks.org

INPCLC Outcomes Congress 2026:



Celebrating Collaboration, Innovation and Impact Across Indiana's Community Health Centers

by **Shay Bex**, MPH, MBA, CPH, CHES, CPS-A | Health Center Practice Improvement Advisor, Division of Chronic Disease, Primary Care, and Rural Health

On June 17, 2026, the Indiana Department of Health's Division of Chronic Disease, Primary Care, and Rural Health hosted the annual Indiana Primary Care Learning Collaborative (INPCLC) Outcomes Congress at the Indiana Government Center South.

The full-day event brought together 34 Community Health Centers (CHCs) from across the state to share challenges, successes, data insights, and PDSA-driven improvements designed to strengthen patient care and population health outcomes.

This year's Congress highlighted the power of learning, collaboration, and transparent storytelling. CHCs presented five-minute spotlights on their work, followed by group Q&A sessions that fostered rich dialogue, peer learning, and practical takeaways. Themes that emerged included leveraging data for improvement, refining team-based workflows, using population health tools more effectively, and strengthening patient engagement strategies.

Across centers, success stories reflected the breadth and depth of work happening statewide:

- Significant improvements in cancer screening rates, including cervical cancer screening gains after sustained focus and monthly data visibility
- Creative workflow redesigns such as implementing EMR reminders, integrating self-swab options for cervical cancer screening, and using interoperability tools to close care gaps on breast and cervical screening.
- Enhanced team communication and trust, with staff empowered to raise challenges that informed leadership decisions and improved quality workflows.
- Innovative patient engagement strategies, like targeted outreach supported by population health software leading to measurable increases in completed screenings.



Daisy Surface, Erin Huse, and Hannah DeLucio from the Chronic Disease, Primary Care, and Rural Health Division work an exhibit table.



- Powerful patient-centered stories, including lives saved through attentive clinical judgment, strengthened mental health through consistent, compassionate care, and significant chronic disease improvements through focused coaching and care management.
- Community-based impact, such as health fairs, screening events, and expanded behavioral health support that deepened local engagement.

These stories demonstrate the collective commitment of Indiana's CHCs to evidence-based practice, continuous quality improvement, and addressing barriers to care.

Gratitude and Acknowledgments

This event was made possible through the support and partnership of many. We extend our sincere appreciation to the IDOH internal planning team, Derek Kendrick, Shay Bex, Daisy Surface, Joyce Fillenwarth, and Brent Anderson, as well as the additional staff from the Division of Chronic Disease, Primary Care, and Rural Health who supported registration, exhibits, and day-of logistics. Their dedication ensured a smooth, well-organized, and energizing experience.

We also thank IPHCA for their ongoing partnership and the Indiana Department of Administration Events Center team, led by Tracy Jones and Tim Carter, for exceptional service and support.

This year's exhibitors including statewide health programs, academic partners, and community organizations, brought valuable resources that will continue helping CHCs connect patients to essential supports and preventive services.



Top left: Presenters from Group 1 respond to questions from attendees.


Top right: Dr. Weaver, Indiana State Health Commissioner, recognizes Joyce Fillenwarth for her dedication to expanding primary care and improving health outcomes for Hoosiers in rural communities.

Above: Heart City Health team members reflect on their year's PDSA successes and lessons learned.

Looking Ahead

Please save the date for the INPCLC Year 2 Kickoff & Storyboard Presentations on September 15–16, 2026, again at the Indiana Government Center South.

The Outcomes Congress continues to highlight what makes Indiana's primary care community extraordinary: its shared commitment to learning, innovation, compassion, and improving health for all Hoosiers. This year's accomplishments serve as a powerful reminder that when we listen, collaborate, and continually iterate, meaningful transformation is not only possible, it's happening.



IPHCA™
Outreach & Enrollment

NEWS & UPDATES



For help, to give feedback or provide resources for the O&E section of this newsletter please contact:

Jenny Walden
or call: 317.630.0845



Don't miss:

Outreach and Enrollment Peer Calls

This is a bi-weekly call that includes Navigators, SHIP Counselors, CHW and Certified Application Counselors who share best practices.

July dates:

- **Thursday July 9 / 11am**
- **Thursday July 23 / 11am**

>>> Visit our Events calendar to register

Getting ahead ...

August is National Immunization Awareness Month

As we get ready to go back to school shopping, along with paper, pens, calculators and new back packs, don't forget to add making sure your child and yourself are up to date on all of the recommended vaccines.

A great way to prepare for this is to host a back to school event. Events don't have to be large scale productions. They can be pop up events. Talk with your community partners about getting together to share information and the value of vaccines.

You can partner with your local faith-based organizations, pharmacies and community centers.

Bring in your dental and vision team and offer back to school physicals.

Provide enrollment assistance for needed health insurance programs, not only for the student, but for family members as well.

Create a Ready for School campaign

Simple messaging could include:

- Required school vaccinations
- Recommended vaccinations
- School Registration information and deadlines
- Mental Health and Wellness
- Develop Multilingual Materials in the most commonly spoken languages
- Include: Vaccine schedules, School requirements, clinical locations, and FAQ sheets.

More resources:

>>> National Immunization Awareness Month (NIAM) - CDC

>>> See all immunization resources in our Resource Center



Latest news from Beyond the Basics

Federal Court Strikes Down Many Marketplace Rule Provisions



In summer 2025, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a regulation ([the 2025 Marketplace Integrity and Affordability Final Rule](#)). Several cities and public health advocates sued the administration over many provisions in this rule.

On August 22, 2025, a federal court **issued an injunction** temporarily stopping several provisions in the Final Rule from taking effect. These provisions were stayed (not implemented) while the court reviewed the facts of the case.

On June 12, 2026, the same federal court struck down the following provisions in the Final Rule, meaning they will not take effect as planned:

- Imposing new paperwork requirements on certain people to prove income

- Allowing insurance companies to add past-due premiums to enrollees' binder payments
- Allowing less time to resolve data matching issues
- **Reinstating a one-year failure to reconcile policy (this will still go into effect in 2028, due to P.L. 119-21)**
- Charging some people a fee for being automatically reenrolled instead of actively reenrolling
- Requiring pre-enrollment verification for certain Special Enrollment Periods (SEPs)
- Enabling insurers to offer certain lower value plans
- Shortening the open enrollment period

For more information, see "Impact of Federal Court Decision" at the end of our updated "[New Laws & Policies](#)" page.

2025 Marketplace Integrity and Affordability Final Rule

The federal government uses guidance and rulemaking to create new policies and regulations that directly affect marketplace enrollment. The Notice of Benefit and Payment Parameters regulation is issued annually to update marketplace rules, and other regulations and guidance are issued as needed.


In summer 2025, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a regulation ([the 2025 Marketplace Integrity and Affordability Final Rule](#)) and Congress passed a major law ([P.L. 119-21](#)) that made significant changes to marketplace eligibility and enrollment policies. In May 2026, CMS issued another regulation, the [2027 Notice of Benefits and Payment Parameters](#).

Key changes that are taking effect as finalized are summarized in the link below. [New Laws & Policies - Beyond the Basics](#)

Medicaid Enrollment Trends

Enrollments are down 28,575 from April 2026 to May 2026 - ending with 1,528,969 Hoosiers enrolled into an Indiana Medicaid program

[>>> Click here to view FSSA's Enrollment Dashboard](#)



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Enrollment

NEWS & UPDATES



CHW Appreciation Day

INCHWA's CHW Appreciation Day is on July 16, and we are hosting a virtual summit for CHWs and employers.

[Click the image to register](#)



... addressing barriers
that impact
CRC screening

Webinar

Working Within Health Systems and Communities to Address Variabilities in the Underserved Population

Wednesday July 15 / 11 am - 12 pm

Presented by Tara Schroeder with
Exact Sciences is now Abbott



**EXACT
SCIENCES**
is now
ABBOTT

This training is designed to support systems of care who are integrating CHWs/Navigators/ Patient Educators as an evidence-based strategy to address barriers that impact CRC screening.

The training is intended to support those who play a role in:

- Working within health systems and communities to address disparities that impact underserved populations.
- Educating communities to improve Colorectal Cancer (CRC) screening through culturally competent service delivery.
- Navigating patients through the continuum to remove barriers that prevent them from screening.

[>>> Click here to register](#)

CMS Rule for Work Requirements

Medicaid Community Engagement Requirement for Certain Individuals Interim Final Rule with Comment Period (CMS-2454-IFC)

As required by law, on June 1, 2026, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued an interim final rule implementing a new statutory requirement for certain adults in Medicaid to meet an 80 hours

per month work requirement (sometimes referred to as Medicaid community engagement) as a condition of eligibility. States must generally implement this requirement no later than January 1, 2027.

This fact sheet discusses the provisions of the Interim Final Rule with Comment Period.

CMS.gov



CHCollective is Recruiting Health Center Professionals for its Advisory Committee

CHCollective, the most dynamic organization serving health centers' group purchasing needs, utilizes an Advisory Committee to provide health center insights and advice on new initiatives.

The Committee is made up of health center professionals. CHCollective is expanding this committee to include new voices. We'd love to have you apply!

- Provide advice to the most dynamic organization serving the health center GPO needs.
- Have a real impact on the national health center supply chain.
- Network with health center professionals across the country.
- Meet quarterly, typically virtually but occasionally in-person.

Submit your Application Here

chcollective.com

Contact Alex Vactor for more information

avactor@chcollective.com 412.612.0593





RESOURCE BULLETIN



To give feedback or provide resources for this section please contact **Nicole Stilianos** or call: 317.630.0845

July Health & Wellness Awareness

UV Safety Month



Raising Awareness and Protecting Indiana Communities

July is UV Safety Month, providing an opportunity for Indiana Community Health Centers (CHCs) to educate patients about the dangers of excessive ultraviolet (UV) exposure and the importance of sun protection.

While many people associate skin cancer and sun damage with vacations or beach trips, UV exposure can affect anyone who spends time outdoors, including agricultural workers, construction workers, landscapers, children participating in summer activities, and individuals experiencing housing insecurity.

Many CHC patients face barriers to preventive care and health education, making community-based awareness efforts especially important. By incorporating UV safety messages into routine medical, behavioral health, women's health, pediatric, and dental visits, health center teams can help patients understand the risks of UV exposure and take simple steps to protect themselves and their families.

Opportunities for CHCs to Raise Awareness

Health centers can promote UV safety by:

- Displaying educational materials in waiting rooms and exam rooms during the summer months.
- Incorporating sun safety discussions into well-child visits, sports physicals, and preventive care appointments.
- Sharing UV safety tips through social media, newsletters, patient portals, and community outreach events.
- Providing educational materials in multiple languages to reach diverse patient populations.
- Encouraging providers to discuss skin cancer prevention with patients who work outdoors or spend significant time in the sun.

Key Messages for Patients

Patients should be encouraged to:

- Use broad-spectrum sunscreen with SPF 30 or higher.
- Wear hats, sunglasses, and protective clothing when outdoors.
- Seek shade during peak sunlight hours (10 a.m. to 4 p.m.).
- Stay hydrated during hot summer days.
- Avoid indoor tanning devices.
- Monitor their skin for new or changing spots and seek medical evaluation when concerns arise.

Patient Education Resources

CHCs can share these trusted resources with patients and families:

- [The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) Sun Safety Resources](#)
- [The Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\) UV Index Tool](#)
- [The American Academy of Dermatology's Skin Cancer Prevention Resources](#)
- [The Skin Cancer Foundation's Sun Protection Education Materials](#)

By promoting UV safety awareness and preventive behaviors, Indiana CHCs can help reduce the risk of skin cancer and other UV-related health conditions while supporting the overall health and well-being of the communities they serve.

DID YOU KNOW?

Even on cloudy days, up to 80% of the sun's UV rays can reach your skin. Sun protection is important year-round, especially for children, outdoor workers, and anyone spending extended time outside during Indiana's summer months.

>>> [Click here for all UV safety resources](#)

News update

New Surgeon General Advisory Highlights the Harms of Excessive Screen Use Among Children and Youth

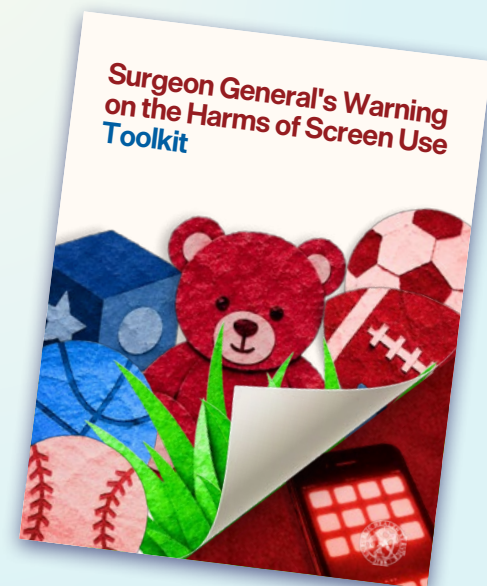
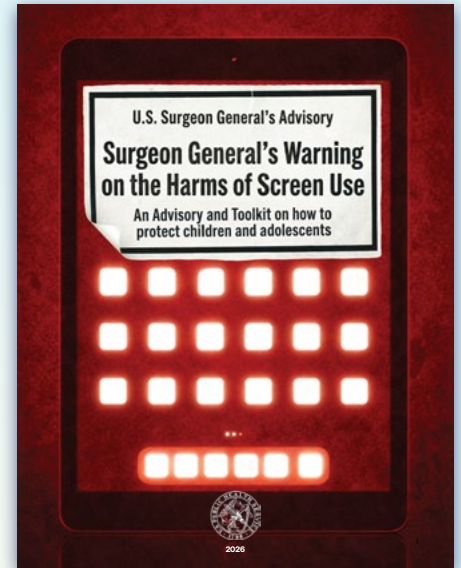
The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of the Surgeon General has released a new advisory, **Warning on the Harms of Screen Use: An Advisory and Toolkit on How to Protect Children and Youth**, highlighting growing concerns about the **impact of excessive and harmful screen use on young people's health and well-being.**

The advisory provides evidence-based information on how screen use can affect mental health, sleep, learning, and social development, while also offering practical strategies for families, educators, healthcare providers, and communities. The accompanying toolkit includes resources to help support healthy digital habits and create environments that promote positive youth development.

As trusted healthcare providers, Community Health Centers can play an important role in educating patients and families about healthy screen use and identifying opportunities to support children's overall health and wellness.

CHC staff are encouraged to review the advisory and toolkit and consider sharing these resources with patients, caregivers, and community partners to help foster healthier relationships with technology.

Please see [the toolkit](#) and [HHS website](#) for more information.



>>> [Click here to view in our resource center](#)



New FQHC Optometry Office Hours & Networking Session

Friday, July 17 | 1-2 p.m. ET

Join the **Association of Clinicians for the Underserved's (ACU)** new quarterly office hours series for FQHC optometrists on July 17. Led by Dr. Kristin White, a national expert in building CHC optometry programs, the first session, Optimizing the Technician Role, will explore ways to strengthen technician retention, recruitment, and training, as well as to streamline workflows. Join the session to connect with peers, get practical advice, and bring your toughest questions about improving your CHC's vision services.

>>> Register here.

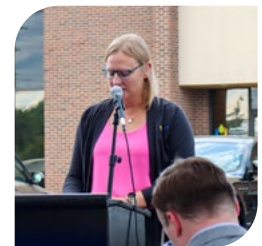
News from our network

A new vision as Jane Pauley launches Optometry services

The Optometry Ribbon Cutting celebrated the launch of new optometry services at Jane Pauley Community Health Center (JPCHC), expanding the organization's comprehensive list of patient offerings.

During the event, attendees heard from JPCHC CEO **Marc Hackett** about the decision to add optometry services and the benefits they will bring to the community. IPHCA representative **Devan Busenback** shared statewide community health goals, City Councilor **Andy Nielson** spoke to the local impact of the new services, and JPCHC optometrist **Dr. Anna Slemp** outlined the services offered and described the positive impact they are already having on patients.

We are grateful to everyone who attended, listened to remarks about this important addition, and toured the new space. Optometry services are a valuable enhancement to JPCHC's existing offerings as we continue working to provide comprehensive, integrated, and accessible care for all.



Left: Marc Hackett and Dr. Anna Slemp cutting the ribbon!

Above: Devan Busenback, IPHCA Health Information Program Director



Above & right - Jane Pauley team members gather to celebrate!

IIC Webinars & Meetings



**INDIANA
IMMUNIZATION
COALITION**
#VACCINATEINDIANA

Meetings:

North IIC Adult and Flu Summit

July 21, 2026 / 9:00am to 12:00pm

Location: Bethel University, 1001 Bethel Circle,
Mishawaka, IN 46545

Join us for our yearly **North Adult and Flu Summit!**

You will hear IIC and IDOH updates and a presentation on the personal impact of influenza. There will be a hot breakfast buffet.

>>> Register now!

Central IIC Adult and Flu Summit

July 22, 2026 / 9:00am to 12:00pm

Location: Conner Prairie, 13400 Allisonville Rd,
Fishers, IN 46038

Join us for our yearly **Central Adult and Flu Summit!**

>>> Register now!

South IIC Adult and Flu Summit

July 23, 2026 / 9:00am to 12:00pm

Location: Ivy Tech Community College, 8204 HWY 311,
Sellersburg, IN 47172

Join us for our yearly **South Adult and Flu Summit!**

>>> Register now!

Webinar:

Vaccination Updates

July 14, 2026 / 3:00pm to 4:00pm

Please join us for a webinar discussion of vaccine updates. You will learn about vaccine developments after the June ACIP meeting. The webinar speaker will be John Christenson, MD, Professor of Clinical Pediatrics at IU School of Medicine.

>>> Register now!

Webinar:

Updates on Adult and Respiratory Vaccines

August 11, 2026 / 3:00pm to 4:30pm

Join multiple Pharmaceutical Medical Science Liaisons as they provide updates on vaccines and new products.

>>> Register now!

Webinar:

RSV Disease and Vaccine Guidelines/ Updates

September 9, 2026 / 3:00pm to 4:00pm

Join us for a discussion about RSV disease along with information about RSV vaccines, presented by Ruth Carrico, PhD, DNP, an Infection Prevention and Control Consultant Professor at Louisville School of Medicine

>>> Register now!

Webinar: Clinical Drug Testing Dashboard

Thursday, July 11 / 1:00 p.m. ET

CDC has launched a new **Clinical Drug Testing Dashboard**.

This tool provides timely data on the detection of heroin, fentanyl, cocaine, and methamphetamine,

helping us identify shifts in drug use across the U.S. more rapidly. It is updated quarterly,

CDC will host a webinar to provide a live walkthrough of the dashboard and key findings.



**>>> Register for
the webinar here**



IPHCA™
Maternal &
Child Health
Corner



To give feedback or
provide resources for this
section please contact

Alexis Stewart
or call: 317.630.0845



July's MCH Focus

National Cleft and Craniofacial Awareness and Prevention Month

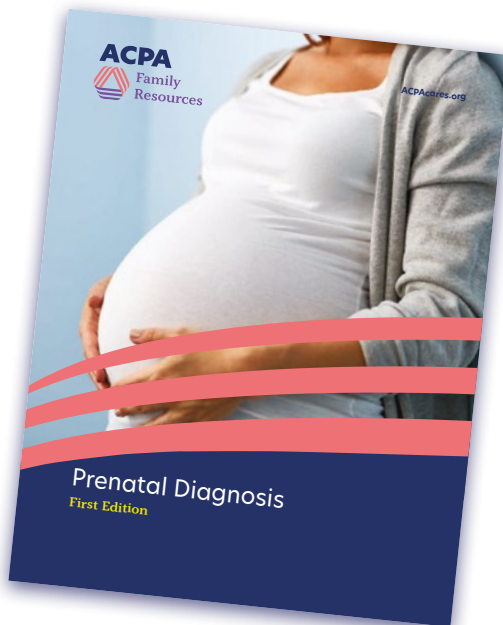
July is recognized as **National Cleft and Craniofacial Awareness and Prevention Month**, a time dedicated to raising awareness about conditions affecting the head and face and supporting the individuals and families impacted by them. These conditions are more common than many realize, facial clefts occur in approximately **1 in every 600 births**.

Craniofacial conditions can present a wide range of challenges, affecting not only physical health but also emotional and mental well-being. Individuals may experience difficulties with feeding, hearing, and speech, along with social and self-esteem concerns. As a result, many require comprehensive medical care as well as ongoing community and family support.

There are several reasons why a child may be born with a cleft or craniofacial birth defect. One reason could be genetic; according to the **Mayo Clinic**, babies can inherit genes from either the mother or father that increase the likelihood of developing a cleft lip or palate. Additionally, environmental factors may contribute to these birth defects. For instance, smoking, alcohol consumption, or drug use during pregnancy, as well as certain medications taken by the mother, can play a role. While various factors can lead to a child being born with these types of birth defects, a specific cause often remains unknown.

Cleft and craniofacial birth defects can often be diagnosed during pregnancy, sometimes as early as 20 weeks through routine ultrasound scans. A cleft lip is typically easier to detect than a cleft palate. However, according to the **American Cleft Palate Craniofacial Association**, recent research shows that magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) can identify cleft palate more accurately than an ultrasound.

There are several important steps individuals can take to **help reduce the risk** of having a child with a cleft or other craniofacial birth defect. Avoiding smoking, alcohol, and illicit drug use during pregnancy is critical, as these factors can increase the likelihood of complications. Proper management of chronic health conditions, such as diabetes and thyroid disease, is also essential for both maternal and fetal health. In addition, taking a daily folic acid supplement or preconception vitamin supports healthy fetal development. Expecting parents should also consult with their healthcare



**Click image to
view / download
this toolkit from ACPA**

**Click here to browse
Maternal and Child
Health resources**



provider or OB-GYN about any medications they are taking to ensure they are safe during pregnancy.

The **American Cleft Palate Craniofacial Association** offers a wide range of helpful, downloadable resources covering many aspects of cleft lip and palate, from prenatal diagnosis to support during the school years. These materials are designed to empower families with the knowledge and tools they need to navigate both the challenges and opportunities associated with these conditions. Whether you are a healthcare professional or a parent, these resources can serve as a valuable guide throughout the journey.

Through increased awareness, prevention efforts, and compassionate support, we can work together to improve outcomes and promote healthier futures for all families.

>>> See more resources here

JayCeon and the Super Strong Heart



IPHCA would like to highlight a resource that is both informative and engaging, offering an enjoyable way to educate children about heart health.

JayCeon and the Super Strong Heart is the first book in **Saving Our Sons Initiative's JayCeon's Strong Heart Series**, a prevention-focused children's literacy series designed to help youth and families build healthy habits early. Through engaging storytelling, heart-health education, and social-emotional learning, the series introduces topics such as healthy eating, movement, emotional wellness, and confidence in fun and age-appropriate ways. SOSI is a Central Indiana-based nonprofit dedicated to youth and family heart-health education through literacy, wellness, and community engagement.

Paperback copies of JayCeon and the Super Strong Heart can **purchased on Amazon** or downloaded for free on Kendel. [Click here for more information.](#)



STRONG HEARTS START EARLY!

SAVING OUR SONS INITIATIVE
YOUTH & FAMILY HEART HEALTH EDUCATION

BUILDING HEALTHY HABITS. BUILDING STRONGER FUTURES.

SOSI is a Central Indiana-based nonprofit dedicated to youth and family heart health education through literacy, wellness, and social-emotional learning.

- LITERACY & STORYTIME**: Engaging books that inspire healthy choices and confidence.
- HEALTHY HABITS EDUCATION**: Teaching kids about nutrition, movement, and heart health.
- EMOTIONAL WELLNESS**: Building emotional awareness, self-regulation, and resilience.
- MINDSET & MINDFULNESS**: Encouraging active living, calmness, and body balance.
- FAMILY & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**: Stronger families. Stronger communities.

TOGETHER, WE CAN RAISE A GENERATION THAT KNOWS, GROWS, AND GLOWS!

LEARN MORE
savingoursonsinitiative.org

CONNECT WITH SOSI
info@savingoursonsinitiative.org

BRING SOSI TO YOUR SCHOOL, CHURCH, OR COMMUNITY



RESOURCE BULLETIN

IPHCA is committed to supporting Oral Healthcare provision across all community health care settings for our membership and throughout Indiana.



For help, to give feedback or provide resources for this section contact:

Karla Marin Muskus
or call: 317.630.0845

[Click here to browse Oral Health Resources](#)

Get this lobby poster and other great resources to share with your patients [here](#)

Healthy Smiles, Healthy Hearts: The Role of Oral Health in Whole-Person Care

As Community Health Centers continue to advance integrated, patient-centered care, the connection between oral health and overall health remains an important consideration. Research has demonstrated associations between periodontal disease, chronic inflammation, and cardiovascular disease, highlighting the value of oral health as a component of whole-person care.

The American Heart Association's **Healthy Smiles, Healthy Hearts™** initiative emphasizes the role healthcare and dental professionals can play in promoting cardiovascular health through oral health education, preventive care, and early intervention. Dental visits may also provide opportunities to identify health concerns, such as elevated blood pressure, and connect patients to additional care when needed.

For Indiana CHCs, collaboration between medical and dental teams can help improve health outcomes, increase preventive care efforts, and support a more comprehensive approach to patient wellness. By reinforcing the importance of good oral hygiene and routine dental care, providers can contribute to both healthier smiles and healthier hearts.

Learn more about the oral-systemic health connection through the **American Heart Association's Healthy Smiles, Healthy Hearts™** resources.

As Indiana CHCs continue to advance whole-person care, we encourage you to share these resources with your dental and medical teams to support coordinated approaches to improving patient outcomes.

• **Ready. Set. Go.: Blood Pressure Screen and Refer Implementation Guide**



American Heart Association.
Healthy Smiles, Healthy Hearts™

[>>> See this resource in our Resource Center](#)





**American
Heart
Association®**

Learning module

The Cardiovascular-Oral Systemic Link: A Groundbreaking Interprofessional Course

Educating healthcare professionals and oral health care professionals on the connection between heart health and oral health is crucial.

This e-module provides foundational knowledge to understand and identify the connection between oral and cardiovascular health to guide the patient toward appropriate definitive treatment. By working collaboratively, primary care team members and dental care team members can offer comprehensive care, educate patients on the impact of oral health on overall well-being, and promote preventive measures to reduce the risk of cardiovascular conditions.

>>> Access Now *(requires log-in)*

Training Opportunity

From Chairside to Community: Oral Health's Role in Cancer Prevention

IPHCA

July 21, 2026 / 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

This continuing education course explores the expanding role of oral health professionals in cancer prevention and public health impact.

Participants will review current trends in oral and oropharyngeal cancers, including HPV-associated disease, and develop a structured approach to risk assessment and comprehensive head and neck cancer screening. Emphasis will be placed on translating chairside findings into meaningful patient education, risk-reduction strategies, and timely referrals.

The course will also highlight opportunities for interprofessional collaboration to extend cancer prevention efforts beyond the dental setting.

By the end of this session, participants will be able to:

1. Identify major risk factors and current trends associated with oral and oropharyngeal cancers, including HPV-related disease.
2. Demonstrate a systematic approach to head and neck cancer screening and recognition of high-risk clinical findings.
3. Apply patient-centered and community-informed strategies to support cancer prevention, including risk reduction counseling and appropriate referral.

>>> Register here



WEBINARS & TRAINING



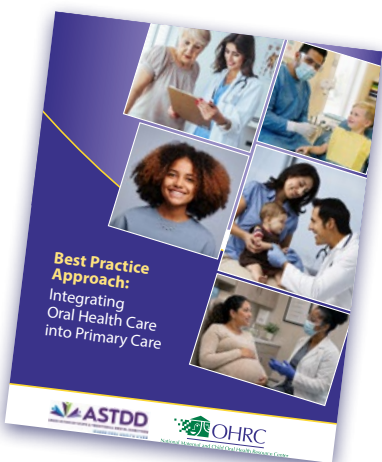
National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center

Newly released:

Best Practice Approach Report: Integrating Oral Health Care into Primary Care

This publication includes examples and best practices of medical and dental integration, including NNOHA's integration of oral health and primary care practice approach, and examples from health centers.

Click image to view / download



Webinar Recording

Understanding the Connection Between Oral Health and Cognitive Function.

Tune in to explore promising practices, such as integrating cognitive health screenings and strengthening early prevention care, to support your older adult patients and their caregivers, so they can safely age in place.



Throughout the session experts discussed how oral health problems can contribute to a cycle of declining health and function in older adults. These negative cycles are not inevitable and they can be interrupted with the right support. Consistent access to dental care allows for early identification of oral health problems, timely intervention, and coordinated care. This helps maintain function, supports overall health, and promotes continued independence

>>> [Click here to watch the recording](#)

Webinar:

Front Office Fundamentals: Improving Workflow and Patient Satisfaction



August 12, 2026 / 6:00 pm

Explore practical strategies to strengthen front office operations and improve the patient experience in dental settings. Speakers will discuss approaches to patient scheduling, appointment flow, intake and registration processes, insurance verification workflows, and communication strategies that support efficient daily operations.

Learning Objectives:

- Identify strategies to improve patient scheduling, appointment flow, and front office workflows.
- Discuss approaches to insurance verification, patient intake, and communication that support a positive patient experience.
- Explore coordination strategies between front office staff, dental assistants, and providers to improve operational efficiency and reduce patient frustration.

Speakers: Andrea Dickhaut and Charmaine Idlett

>>> [Click here for full details / registration](#)



On Demand Webinar

From Bump to Baby: A Guide to Maternal and Infant Oral Health



Pregnancy presents a powerful opportunity for prevention—and dental professionals play a critical role in protecting both maternal and infant oral health.



Our on-demand CE webinar, From Bump to Baby: A Guide to Maternal and Infant Oral Health, explores the connection between maternal oral health and infant oral development.

Here's what you'll learn:

- Explain the role of oral hygiene during pregnancy
- Identify common oral health conditions associated with pregnancy
- Address common myths about dental care during pregnancy
- Communicate evidence-based guidance to patients.

This on-demand webinar is completely free, and provides 1 CE credit upon completion.

>>> To watch the webinar click here

adha26
ANNUAL CONFERENCE
★
SEPTEMBER 26-28
FORT WORTH, TEXAS

REGISTRATION IS
Now Open

REGISTRATION SAVINGS THROUGH AUGUST 7

adha26
ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The dental hygiene profession gathers once a year for three days of education, connection, and career-building, and this year it's in Fort Worth, Texas!

ADHA26 The Heart of Hygiene runs September 26–28 and brings together dental professionals from across the country for up to 21 CE credits, 6 education tracks, and a program built for the realities of modern practice.

>>> More info and registration here!



RESOURCE BULLETIN

IQIN is a constituent network of community health centers within IPHCA, who work together to improve the quality and value of care provided to Indiana's most vulnerable residents.

By using health information technology and data, health centers are able to change the way they deliver care to produce better health outcomes for their patients.



For further help or to give feedback or provide resources for IQIN please contact:

Laura Totten
or call: 317.630.0845



[Click to see all upcoming IQIN Events in our Calendar](#)

IQIN Update:

Celebrating Year One & Looking Ahead

As we approach the close of the first year of the IQIN grant, we want to take a moment to reflect on the progress made, recognize the work happening across Indiana health centers, and thank those who have helped guide these efforts.

Year One Highlights & Successes

Over the past year, we've worked closely with health centers to build a strong foundation for advancing digital health and quality improvement efforts across the state.

Key accomplishments include:

- **Individual Health Center Engagement**

We successfully completed engagement calls with each participating health center, allowing us to better understand where each organization stands in relation to IQIN goals and identify opportunities for support.

- **Targeted Technical Assistance**

We provided technical assistance across a range of focus areas, including:

- Azara optimization and reporting
- Workflow development and improvement
- Facilitating peer connections for shared problem-solving
- Supporting conversations around digital health tools and strategies

- **Educational Opportunities & Peer Learning**

Throughout the year, we focused on creating meaningful learning opportunities by:

- Bringing in expert speakers for Health IT calls
- Hosting Azara User Groups to strengthen system utilization
- Offering ongoing educational sessions to help health centers continue advancing their digital capabilities

- **Network Growth**

We were pleased to welcome one new health center into the IQIN network this year, further strengthening collaboration and shared learning across participants.

These efforts represent an important first step toward building stronger data-driven systems and improving patient outcomes across Indiana.

Thank You to Our IQIN Committee Members

We would also like to extend our sincere appreciation to the IQIN Committee members who are concluding their service. Your leadership, insight, and commitment have been instrumental in shaping the direction of this work. From providing strategic guidance to sharing on-the-ground perspectives, your contributions have helped ensure the IQIN initiative remains relevant, practical, and impactful for health centers.

Welcoming New Committee Members

As we look ahead to the next phase of the grant, we are excited to welcome new members to the IQIN Committee.

The IQIN Committee plays a critical role in:

- Providing oversight and strategic direction for grant activities
- Ensuring alignment with health center needs and priorities
- Sharing real-world experiences and best practices
- Helping guide improvement efforts across clinical quality and digital health initiatives

We look forward to the insights and collaboration our new members will bring as we continue this important work together.

Looking Ahead

While we are proud of the progress made in year one, we know there is more to accomplish. We remain committed to supporting health centers with the tools, resources, and connections needed to succeed—and we are excited to continue building momentum in the year ahead.



RESOURCE BULLETIN



The KLAS Corner



Register using your community health center’s provided email address, and you will have access to all the resources KLAS provides.

KLAS Arch Collaborative Success Pathway-Superusers

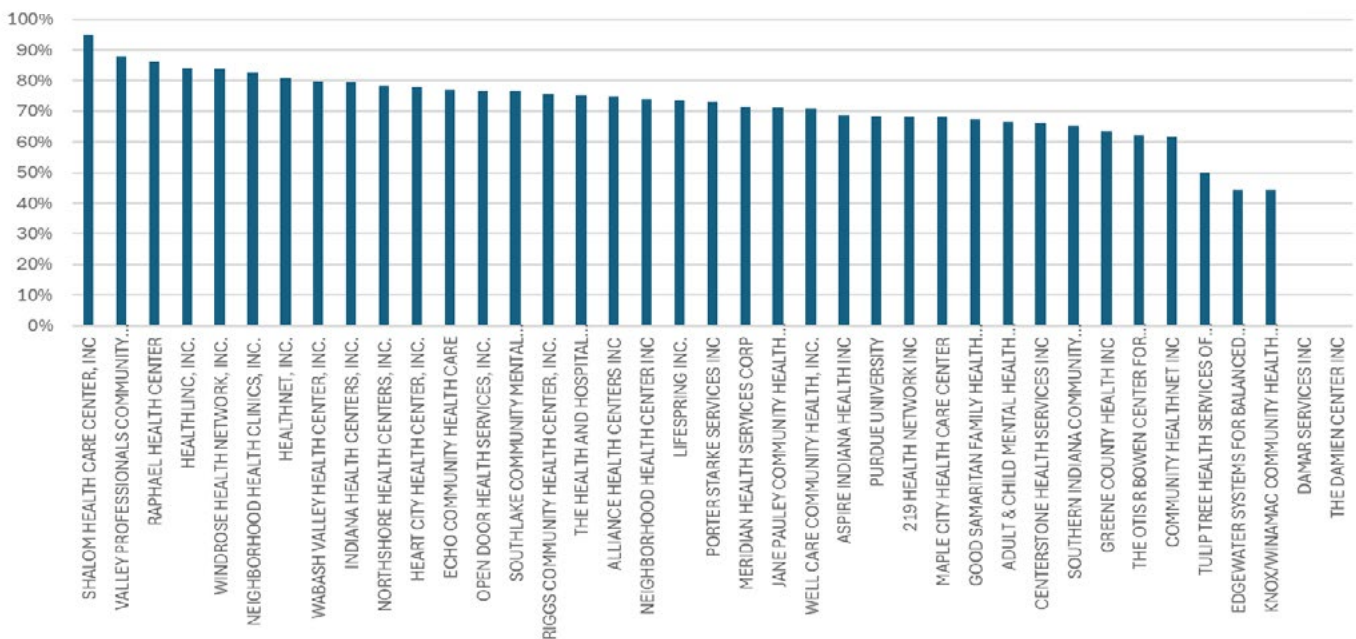
This article outlines key best practices for building and sustaining an effective EHR superuser program, including clearly defining roles, providing advanced training, integrating superusers into daily operations and system changes, and supporting their long-term development. It also encourages organizations to assess their current approach and strengthen superuser programs to improve workflow efficiency, adoption, and frontline support.

>>> [Click here to read more:](#)

UDS Data Spotlights: Each month, IQIN will highlight metrics from the UDS 2024 data. This month, we are highlighting the importance of aspirin therapy to prevent Ischemic Vascular Disease [Click to view data.](#) See the full dashboard [here.](#)



Aspirin Therapy for IVD (UDS 2024)

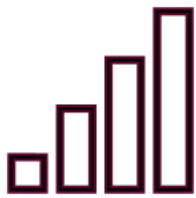


Context: This graph shows the percentage of adult patients who have been diagnosed with certain vascular conditions and had a documented use of Aspirin. The denominator includes all adults 18 and over who had either one of the following diagnoses in 2023 or 2024: 1) acute myocardial infarction, 2) coronary artery bypass graft, or 3) percutaneous coronary interventions or who had a diagnosis of ischemic vascular disease during 2024. The numerator includes all of those patients with an active medication of either Aspirin or a different antiplatelet. Patients who were in hospice care or who had documented use of anticoagulant medication during the measurement period were excluded from the denominator.

To view more UDS data at the center level, [visit the PowerBI Dashboard](#)

Transform How You Approach Patient Coverage

Proactive Coverage Management: The Key to Better Care, Revenue Protection, and Operational Excellence



Data & Reporting

Harness the robust data and reporting capabilities of a large health system designed to keep you ahead of evolving rules and regulations. Ensure seamless compliance while driving operational excellence at every level.



Automate Outreach

Convert 90-minute manual processes into 30-minute automated workflows. Scalable multi-channel outreach efficiently engages entire member populations.



Empowered Patients

Deploy a 24/7 self-service patient experience that empowers patients to apply or renew coverage from their phone, in their native language, without requiring clinic staff intervention.

Pointcare

pointcare.com





It's Annual Awards time!

Nominate your Champions of Healthcare and Quality

The Annual IPHCA Champions of Health Care and Quality Awards acknowledge and celebrate the amazing people, providers and projects that make our community.

Every one of you is a healthcare champion, day in and day out. Your diligent work continues to improve the health of all Hoosiers and is moving the needle regarding healthcare quality in Indiana. Every year we have the honor of recognizing a few of the champions among us who make a difference in the lives of Hoosiers.

The Awards ceremony takes place in the closing session of our Annual Conference, to honor individuals and organizations that have demonstrated exceptional leadership, innovation, and commitment to community health in Indiana.

See opposite to find out about all the categories.

Your nomination form can be found here.

To make your nomination count, please submit before **September 11, 2026.**

[Click here to start your nomination form](#)

[>>> Visit our Award pages](#)

Click image to view last year's winners, or visit **IPHCA Monthly for November 2025**



The IPHCA Champions of Health Care and Quality Awards 2026

Award Categories



Volunteer of the Year Award

This award recognizes a primary health volunteer who has demonstrated excellence through: 1) patient advocacy; 2) innovative programs/services/systems; or 3) collaborative efforts.

- The primary health care volunteer must have volunteered for the health center for a minimum of two years.

Legislator of the Year Award

This award recognizes a state or national elected official who has championed access to health care and supported safety net infrastructure.

Provider of the Year Award

This award recognizes an outstanding provider who has demonstrated excellence in clinical leadership through: 1) advocacy; 2) innovative programs/services that have increased access, improved health care services to the community, or decreased disparities; or 3) collaborative efforts to reach high-risk populations in the community.

- A provider is defined as any provider who can directly bill hours for clinical services, including but not limited to: MD, DDS, NP, PA, Dental Hygienist, Psychologist, MSW, CNW, and CNS.
- The primary health care provider must have practiced at the health center for a minimum of three years.
- The Provider of the Year Award is given to the outstanding nominee in each of three categories - **Dental, Medical and Behavioral Health.**

Employee of the Year Award (Non Provider)

This award recognizes a primary health employee (non-practitioner) who has demonstrated excellence through: 1) patient advocacy; 2) innovative programs / services / systems; or 3) collaborative efforts.

- The primary health care employee must have worked for the health center for a minimum of two years.

Special Exemplary Project Award (x4)

This award honors a notable project by a member organization that has demonstrated excellence through: 1) advocacy; 2) innovative programs/services/systems that have increased access, improved health care services to the community, or decreased disparities; or 3) collaborative efforts to reach high-risk populations in the community.

- The project must have been in effect for a minimum of one year.
- The Project of the Year Award is given to the outstanding nominee in each of four categories - **Dental, Medical, Behavioral Health and Operations.**

The Debra Meers Grassroots Advocacy Award

This award is given in honor of Debra Meers. Debbie was the office manager and Director of Membership at IPHCA until she passed away in 2005 from a long-term illness. Debbie is fondly remembered for her bright smile and her passion for grassroots advocacy.

The award honors a health center consumer, Board member, or a staff person of an IPHCA member organization who has been a strong voice for community health centers with the state and national legislature and within the local community.

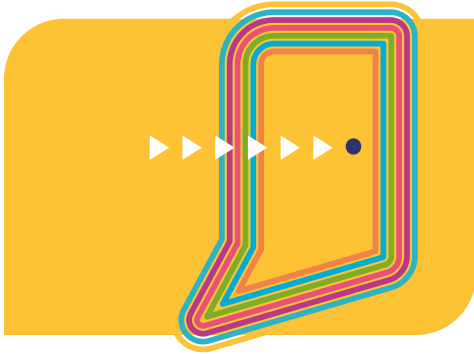
Philip L. Morpew, Health Center Dedication

This award recognizes an individual who has championed the advancement of community health centers' mission to deliver high quality, culturally competent, comprehensive primary care services regardless of patients' ability to pay. They have demonstrated a steadfast commitment to supporting the growth of the community health center program through education, partnership, or service.

- Recipients may include employees, community partners, consultants, contractors, or an individual demonstrating long term support of community health centers.

Start your nomination form

Conference Roundup ...



Leading the Way:

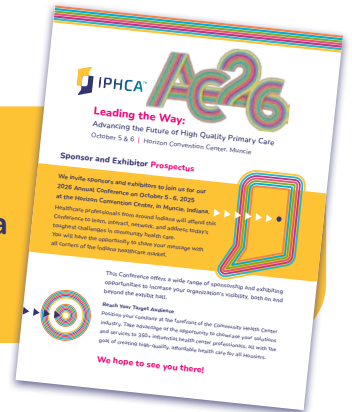
Advancing the Future of High-Quality Primary Care

Join us for IPHCA Annual Conference on the 5th and 6th of October at the **Horizon Convention Center, Muncie!**



>>> Head to our Conference pages for all details!
Look out for our Agenda and Conference app - going live July 15!

Sponsor and Exhibitor Prospectus Join us at AC26 to learn, interact, network! Share your message with leaders from all corners of the Indiana healthcare market! **Download our prospectus today!**



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