



**Written Testimony of
Institute for Human Services, Inc.**

**New York State Joint Legislative Public Hearing on
2015-16 Executive Health Budget
Monday, February 2nd, 2015
10:00 AM**

**Chairs:
Senator Kemp Hannon
Assemblyman Richard Gottfried**

**Submitted by:
Kelli Guilford, Director, Steuben Rural Health Network**

The Governor's Executive Budget calls for 15.1% across the board cuts and/or contract cancelations for eight programs critical to rural health care in New York. Among these is the Rural Health Network Development program.

We are writing to you today to request that you un-bundle the Rural Health Network Development program from the Rural Healthcare Workforce program. These programs do not belong on the same budget line and we are requesting that you restore the Rural Health Network Development program to \$6.4 million and Rural Access to \$9.8 million.

The Steuben Rural Health Network (SRHN) at the Institute for Human Services, Inc. is comprised of 70 nonprofit member agencies providing over 50 rural health initiatives in Steuben, Chemung, Schuyler, Allegany, and Yates Counties, New York. The SRHN Mission is to lead and support community-wide initiatives to improve the health and wellness of rural New Yorkers. The SRHN Vision is to be a recognized leader of collaborative health-related initiatives in Steuben County.

Our annual work plan meets the critical needs of our rural community and supports the work of the Prevention Agenda as well as the goals of the state's DSRIP reforms for Medicaid recipients, and SHIP.

SRHN provides evidence-based strategies for disease management in high risk/affected populations by providing community and clinical workshops that offer the Stanford Patient Education Research Center's Chronic Disease Self-Management and Diabetes Self-Management as well as the Center for Disease Control's National Diabetes Prevention Program. Program



participants have reduced hospitalizations, emergency room visits and are better equipped to age in place as a result of these critical programs.

SRHN plays an active role in the developing Population Health Improvement Programs (PHIPs). The PHIP is a state program designed to promote the Institute for Healthcare Improvement's "Triple Aim" of improving patient care, achieving better population health, and lowering health care costs. This has a direct tie-in with DSRIP and the role SRHN plays in its local naturally occurring care network.

For close to two decades, SRHN has held an integral role in the community due to its knowledge of the region and its critical health care needs. SRHN has been the ideal organization to connect people to services needed. SRHN's existing role as a community health advocate has been expanded and is prime to serve as a ready-made Community Based Navigator program within DSRIP.

SRHN has an excellent working relationship with the health care delivery system in its catchment areas, and also has an outstanding understanding of areas where the system can be improved. SRHN helps its health care systems navigate community resources so that they can be better utilized by the provider community while connecting patients to both preventive and follow-up services.

These connections, community results, and health-improvement initiatives are threatened if the budget cuts are sustained. Again, we request that you un-bundle the Rural Health Network Development program from the Rural Healthcare Workforce program. These programs do not belong on the same budget line and we are requesting that you restore the Rural Health Network Development program to \$6.4 million and Rural Access to \$9.8 million.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the valuable and much needed work of the Steuben Rural Health Network, please do not hesitate to contact me at 607-776-9467 x-226.

Thank you for your attention and assistance with this extremely important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kelli Guilford".

Kelli Guilford, Director
Steuben Rural Health Network