



For Immediate Release:

January 23, 2008

Contact: Shanen Wright, 304-397-4071

Shanen.wright@wvruralhealth.org

Primary Healthcare Associates Selected for 2008 WV Immunization Network Award

Charleston, WV - The West Virginia Immunization Network (WIN) hosted their third annual awards luncheon Wednesday, January 23, 2008, at the University of Charleston with Primary Healthcare Associates receiving one of the awards.

WIN is a public/private partnership that works to promote immunizations across the lifespan throughout the state. During the annual event, top immunization providers from across the state are recognized for their outstanding service in promoting or encouraging immunizations. Among the six awards presented during the ceremony was the first ever Screen Shot Award, which recognizes a health care facility's achievement in fully utilizing the West Virginia Statewide Immunization Information System (WVSIIS). WVSIIS is the state's immunization's registry. West Virginia law requires all healthcare providers to report immunizations administered to children under age 18 to the registry within two weeks.

Winning the 2008 Screenshot Award was Tracy Samples of Primary Healthcare Associates, who oversees the registry for their facility. "Tracy willingly notifies the WVSIIS helpdesk when errors occur in reporting; notifies the helpdesk when technical issues with the registry occur; shares ideas of how the registry could be better; and even encourages other providers to utilize the registry," said Shanen Wright, Vice President of the Center for Rural Health Development who served as master of ceremonies for the event.

Samples was given the award for not only reporting immunizations administered as required, but also for going beyond the call of duty to input historical immunization records, utilizing patient listings, and for encouraging others in her community to use the registry. Primary Healthcare Associates used the registry to initiate reminder recall efforts to alert parents of needed or missed vaccinations. "If anyone deserved the first Screen Shot award, it was Tracy Samples and Primary Healthcare Associates," said Wright.

2008 Immunization Award Winners:

- Primary Healthcare Associates
- Lincoln Primary Care Center
- Kanawha-Charleston Health Department
- Saint George Medical Clinic
- Braxton County Health Department

-- END --