

Hospital Report

Hospital Awarded \$300K Grant

Ellenville Regional Hospital has been awarded \$300,486 in grant funding through the Rural Health Care Access Development Program, a part of New York State's Health Care Reform Act. "About one-third of the award will be used for desperately needed roof repairs," said CEO Steven Kelley, "and the balance will be used for operational needs and delivery of vital health services."

Fifty-one rural hospitals will share in \$9.2 million in grant funding to further strengthen access to quality health care for more than 3.2 million New Yorkers living in rural and sparsely-populated areas of the state. The rural health grants awarded on June 17, 2004, by Governor George E. Pataki mark a nine-year, \$60 million commitment to New York's rural hospitals and communities.

The six Hudson Valley health care facilities sharing the regional total of \$1,295,528 are Benedictine Hospital - \$266,342; Catskill Regional Medical Center - \$223,639; Catskill Regional Medical Center's Grover Hermann Site - \$184,089; Kingston Hospital - \$147,260; Northern Dutchess Hospital - \$173,712; and, *Ellenville Regional Hospital* with the area's largest single award of \$300,486.

The Rural Health Care Access Development Program provides funds to support initiatives and programs that will help reduce duplication of services, enhance operational efficiencies and strengthen affiliations with community-based providers. Official notification of this grant funding comes at a critical time in *Ellenville Regional Hospital's* ongoing financial difficulties, well known to the hospital's extended service area. Community efforts in support of *ERH's* financial planning and restructuring process have been outstanding as, once again, the area has rallied to ensure the hospital's survival.

For information about *Ellenville Regional Hospital* services, call 647-6400, ext. 286.

Rodriguez Earns Certified Coder Status

Stephenie Rodriguez, Medical Records Specialist at *Ellenville Regional Hospital*, (photo right) was recently notified that she is now a Certified Professional Coder, a designation awarded by the American Academy of Professional Coders after candidates successfully complete a written exam.

Mrs. Rodriguez has been an *ERH* employee since April 2001 in the Medical Records Department where she is responsible for assigning standardized codes identifying the diagnosis and treatment of patients on billing documents submitted to Medicare, Medicaid, and the wide variety of companies which provide medical insurance. Accurate assignment of appropriate codes is essential in securing prompt payment for both the hospital and its patients.

Preparation for the early June exam included attending a one-week Intensive Boot Camp in Secaucus, NJ, in late April. Her attendance was sponsored by the hospital.

In addition to her position at *Ellenville Regional Hospital*, Stephanie is occasionally called upon to provide instruction on medical terminology and diagnosis for



Christine Cox & Associates of West Shokan, a medical consulting firm. *ERH's* Certified Professional Coder lives in Ellenville with her husband and son.

For information regarding services provided by *Ellenville Regional Hospital*, please call 647-6400.

Hospital Fundraiser Set for Sept. 18th

The *Ellenville Regional Hospital's* major fundraiser, the Annual Dinner/Dance, will be held at the *Hudson Valley Resort* on **Saturday, September 18th**.

This year's honoree is Board President Robert H. Kuhlmann, who has served on the Boards of both *Ellenville Community Hospital* and *Ellenville Regional Hospital*. Although there will be an open bar and hors d'oeuvres, an excellent dinner, and music, specific details are still in the planning stage. The Dinner Committee asks all hospital supporters to "save the date" and watch for future announcements.

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