Over the last year and a half, the CRHSSD has added several new staff members to its team: Martha Cropper, Field Representative; Ainon N. Mizan, Researcher II; Kim Sanders, Education Coordinator; Joel Fritzler, IDN Project Coordinator; and Mark Bartlett, Field Representative. Robynn Nawrot, Field Representative, and Dan Shannon, Health and Safety Coordinator, have been with the CRHSSD for several years. Office support is provided by Karen Rotter, Program Administrative Assistant, and Darla Lowe, Office System Assistant III. Together the staff members bring to the CRHSSD a varied set of expertise and skills which is reflected through the diverse projects, programs and training services provided by the CRHSSD. To focus on the activities of the CRHSSD, we will publish Center Briefs three times annually. It is a part of our commitment to disseminate information on the happenings of the CRHSSD to a larger audience in the field of public health, social service, education, and public policy. Questions regarding the Center Briefs should be addressed to the Editor, Ainon N. Mizan, at 453-4283 or ainon@siu.edu.
Community Training Series

The CRHSSD has taken the lead to develop The Rural Community Training Program. The training is targeted to be a community-based educational program, with the goal to impact and improve the overall provision of rural health care and social service delivery to the Southern Illinois region. The three components that will spearhead the training program are: (a) the formation of a regional steering committee, (b) regular training needs assessment of the health care and social service providers in the Southern Illinois region, and (c) the development and implementation of trainings based on the assessment.

The upcoming “Grow Your Own Leaders” training for supervisors and managers who have been promoted through the ranks within their organization is the outcome of an initial training needs assessment. The two-day Supervisory/Management workshop incorporates topics such as team building, time management, conflict resolution, and maximizing staff strength. The Rural Health Development Initiative (RHDI) grant from Health Research and Services Administration – U.S. Department of Health and Human Service provides the support for the beginning training series.

The first training session is scheduled for August 20 & 21, 2002, at Southeastern Illinois College in Harrisburg. Plans are being made to offer the training at SIU’s Dunn-Richmond Economic Development Center in Carbondale, Rend Lake College in Ina, and at Shawnee Community College in Ullin. For more information regarding these trainings or to register, contact the Education Coordinator, Kim Sanders at 453-1270 or kimsand@siu.edu.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Southern Illinois University Carbondale’s Center for Rural Health and Social Service Development (CRHSSD) is to develop healthier communities in Southern Illinois, the state, and the region in partnership with those committed to improving health and social services by providing research, planning, training, and development services. The primary goals of the Center are to:

- support and coordinate new grant development of community projects and programs
- develop resources to support improvement in the delivery of community health and social service delivery
- stimulate and conduct cooperative research
- coordinate and conduct program demonstrations
- conduct program evaluations and needs assessments
- provide information transformation services for the public and private sectors
- recommend policy alternatives