



Legal Status.

The Idaho Simulation Network (ISN) operates as an Idaho a non-profit corporation. It is currently seeking federal tax exempt status.

Organization’s Mission and Purpose.

The Idaho Simulation Network (“ISN”) is made up of a voluntary group of health care and pre-hospital organizations, academic institutions, private and/or public entities (“ISN Subscribers”) working towards advancing patient safety and promoting quality healthcare through the ongoing professional development of Idaho’s healthcare workforce.

The ISN seeks to improve clinical competency and heighten confidence levels in health care students, pre-hospital Emergency Medical Service (EMS) providers and practicing health care professionals by using simulation methods and simulation technologies to teach, improve and maintain team work skills and clinical proficiency. Through the use of a collaborative shared-learning model, the ISN serves as a resource to ISN Subscribers by sharing information, developing simulation staff & faculty, conducting training sessions, developing educational tools and work products.

Historical Background.

The Idaho Simulation Network (ISN), began as a ‘planning group’ of interested parties who in 2006 came together to investigate if Idaho would benefit from utilizing simulation to enhance training of healthcare students, allied health professionals and practicing clinicians.

In 2007, the ISN held a summit meeting in Boise, Idaho, during which 150 stakeholders from a variety of health related organizations learned about simulation, experienced simulation methodology first hand and were queried as to if they believed simulation would be a useful approach in the professional development of Idaho’s healthcare workforce. A resounding 97% of attendees responded affirmatively to the benefits that would be derived by creating a statewide simulation initiative. This led to the formation of an ISN “Steering Committee” whose role was to oversee implementation efforts.

In 2012, the ISN matured to the point where its long term future would best be served by creating a non-profit legal entity and applying for federal tax exempt status.

How the ISN Benefits Idaho’s Citizenry and Healthcare Workforce.

The ISN is a network designed to benefit all simulation users in the state by coordinating, supporting and expanding the use of all forms of simulation in a variety of settings that ultimately results in improved patient care and patient safety. Idahoans, especially residents living in rural communities, benefit from the training activities of the ISN by receiving medical care from EMS and hospital personnel better prepared to reduce unanticipated harm and preventable deaths. Given Idaho’s expansive rural geography,

obtaining education and training necessary to learn, reinforce, and proficiently maintain best practices is expensive and logistically difficult. Often, organizations are left vulnerable as healthcare providers must leave the community in order to obtain education. Due to a lack of resources, training that is not readily available locally is often beyond the reach of rural health care providers.

Through simulation, the ISN enables Idaho's first responders, hospital personnel and clinicians to build competence and confidence in recognizing and managing medical events while remaining in their communities to do so.

Current Activities

Major initiatives underway include the following:

- Providing outreach simulation-based team training to those entities that cannot afford to provide training themselves with emphasis upon rural and Critical Access Hospitals (CAH's).
- Promoting the use of existing healthcare technology i.e. tele-health during simulation exercises between tertiary medical facilities and Critical Access Hospitals (CAH's) to ensure that such technology is utilized during "real" clinical emergencies.
- Supporting continuing education endeavors of Idaho's EMS providers by providing statewide practice opportunities of simulated medical and emergency situations and serving as a skills validation organization for meeting EMS continued education requirements.
- Ensuring healthcare students experience management of clinical situations prior to facing them in the actual clinical setting.
- Supporting the adoption of new inter-professional approaches to team based care such as Department of Defense Department's TeamSTEPPS curriculum.
- Participating in local healthcare conferences including health system nursing and leadership meetings, EMS conferences, Simulation Training Fests, and attending annual meetings of healthcare related professional organizations; examples being the Idaho Medical Association and Idaho Hospital Association, etc.
- Facilitating simulation staff and faculty development throughout Idaho.
- Assisting organizations within all regions of the State to develop sustainable simulation programs.
- Coordinating efforts with simulation technology companies to offer web-based technology support tutorials and offer to subscriber's preferential pricing arrangements.

For more information go to: www.idahosimnetwork.org or contact Dieter Zimmer, Executive Director, at: execdir@simnetoworks.org or by calling ph. #: 503-580-1300