

# Clay County doctor named Outstanding Rural Health Practitioner

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HUNTINGTON -- A Huntington native and Clay County primary care physician was recently honored as "Outstanding Rural Health Practitioner" of the year.

Dr. Sarah Chouinard received the award during the 2008 West Virginia Rural Health Conference at The Resort at Glade Springs.

The award recognizes a direct service provider who has exhibited outstanding leadership by bringing or improving health care services to rural populations. Factors considered include the provision of outstanding care, collaboration and multi-disciplinary teamwork, involvement in the community and involvement in education.

"Dr. Chouinard is to be commended for her significant contributions not only in individual care to her patients and her rural community, but also for her innovative use of health technology and for vital enhancements in the health care system," said Debbie Curry, chair of the 2008 conference, in a press release.

Chouinard is a graduate of the Marshall University School of Medicine and practices rural health care at the Primary Care System clinic in Clay. She is the medical director of primary care, which provides services to more than 7,000 patients. She also serves as the chief medical advisor to the Community Health Network of West Virginia. She serves on a number of national and state advisory panels for health improvement efforts and is involved in a number of civic projects.

She is widely recognized for her leadership and innovation in the use of electronic health technology to improve patient outcomes.