

NEWS BRIEFS

Informational Newsletter for Wyoming Hospitals

Volume 40, Number 39

October 8, 2010

WHA Calendar:

Hospital Advisory Group
Cheyenne 10/27

HFMA Fall Meeting
Laramie, WY 11/11-11-12

Other Events

Mid America Summit
Des Moines, Iowa 10/20-10/21

65th WHA Convention Addresses Changes in Healthcare

The Wyoming Hospital Association hosted its largest -ever convention last week, with more than 225 participants and 60 vendors gathering in Cheyenne for the WHA's 65th Annual Meeting & Convention.

The convention focused, appropriately, on the changing landscape in healthcare. Federal healthcare reform is in large part driving that change, and Accountable Care Organizations (ACO) are at the center of the discussion.

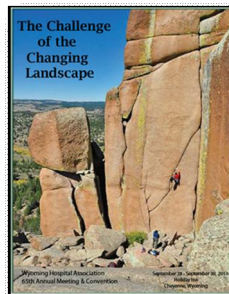
Two sessions at the convention focused on the strategic implications and tactical concerns related to ACOs. The first, led by John Harris of DGA Partners, focused on the long-term implications for Wyoming.

Essentially, ACOs were created by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to help control spiraling healthcare costs. The model for doing so requires a calculation of an ACO's projected Medicare costs, as well as its target costs ó its reduced costs as a result of streamlined care and the use of patient-centered medical homes, among other elements.

Finally, an ACO's actual costs will be tracked. The difference between target

costs and actual costs represents the savings an ACO can expect to share with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).

Mr. Harris said the formula for sharing those savings with CMS is unknown, as are a number of other elements of the program.



Hospital administrators and staff raised a number of questions regarding the eligibility of Wyoming providers to form an ACO, the relationships between physicians and hospitals within an ACO, and what the impact of ACOs might be on critical access hospitals.

A second session focused more tightly on a process for implementing an ACO, and for ensuring that all affected players ó and the necessary technologies ó have been considered and planned.

The WHA plans to convene a meeting to discuss the creation of a statewide ACO, and it will publish informa-

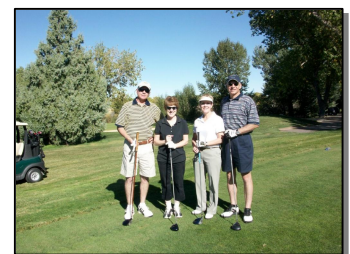
tion to help educate and answer as many of those currently unanswered questions as possible.

Health reform has also meant an increased focus on technology, including health information exchanges.

Representatives from the state Medicaid office, the Governor's eHealth Partnership, and the Regional Extension Center (REC) updated administrators on the status of statewide HIE efforts, and on the services the REC can provide to help hospitals achieve meaningful use.

The convention kicked off on Wednesday with a timely keynote address that encouraged hospital leaders to lighten up.

Motivational humorist Scott Friedman reminded the opening-session audience that humor will not only reduce their own stress levels, but it can help them reduce stress and improve the environment for their employees and families as well ó even during this time of significant change.





**MEMBER
SPOTLIGHT**



Michelle Oliver

Star Valley's Oliver Receives Nursing Excellence Award

Michelle Oliver, R.N., of Star Valley Care Center (SVCC), received the prestigious Norman S. Holt Award for Nursing Excellence at the 65th annual Wyoming Hospital Association Annual Meeting and Convention.

Since 1999, Oliver has been the Director of Nursing at SVCC, a 24-bed intermediate care facility known throughout Star Valley as an excellent facility that delivers excellent care. SVCC was listed by CMS as a 5 Star Facility and received a deficiency-free rating in

2009 from the state Department of Health.

The award was established in 1983 by the WHA Board of Directors in honor and memory of Norm Holt because of his tremendous understanding and active involvement with the nursing profession. The award is presented annually at the WHA Convention to honor one outstanding nurse in Wyoming.

Oliver's nomination for the award cited her tireless efforts to train, hire, and develop CNAs, her speaking engagements throughout the

community on clinical topics, and her ability to stimulate young people to pursue nursing as a career.

Additionally, the nomination highlighted her commitment to the residents of SVCC. In one case, Oliver traveled two hours to sit with a resident who had been transferred to a tertiary care facility. Oliver stayed until the resident's granddaughter was able to arrive.

Oliver received a complimentary registration to the WHA convention, a plaque, and a monetary award.

HSCMH Auxiliary Wins Auxiliary of the Year Award

Hot Springs County Memorial Hospital's Auxiliary took matters into its own hands in 2009, and as a result, it won the 2010 Auxiliary of the Year Award at the 65th Annual Wyoming Hospital Association Annual Meeting and Convention.

HIPAA and privacy standards have made a family waiting room in the hospital's inpatient wing a necessity. As clear as the need was, however, funding for the project simply was not available.

Enter the HSCMH Auxiliary. In July 2009, the Aux-

iliary voted to take on the creation of an inpatient family room as its own project.

The members planned, funded and carried out the remodeling of a little-used medical library into a family waiting area.

Through the Auxiliary's ongoing efforts, including money raised through bake sales and silent auctions and items sold in their gift shop, as well as donations they received, the Auxiliary contributed \$4,000 toward the purchase of furniture, home entertainment equipment, and decorative items.

The family waiting room was ready by the 2009 Christmas season.

"This room has been a valuable asset for our patients and their families," according to the nomination. "We have received numerous comments about how much the room has benefited the people who have used it, and how much they appreciate having it."



Don't forget to send us a story about your hospital so we can feature you in our Member Spotlight section!

**Wyoming Hospital
Association**

**2005 Warren Ave.
Cheyenne, WY
82001**

www.wyohospitals.com

307.632.9344

Boulder Associates Dominates WHA PAC Golf Tourney

A team from Boulder Associates Architects dominated the fourth annual WHA PAC golf tournament at the Cheyenne Country Club last week.

The tournament kicks off

the WHA Annual Meeting and Convention and is the WHA's primary fundraising event for the WHA PAC.

The winning team, which included Dave Ridgway, Chris Bryant, Brian Wien-

master, and Chin Goh, shot a 62 to earn the tournament title.

Fifty players comprised the 10 teams that participated in the event.