

# NEWS BRIEFS

Informational Newsletter for Wyoming Hospitals

Volume 41, Number 17

April 29, 2011

## WHA Calendar:

WHA Trustee Conference Riverton	<b>5/6</b>
WHA Board Meeting Riverton	<b>5/5</b>
National Nurses Week	<b>5/6-5/12</b>

## Other Events:

Board of Nursing Tour de Hospital Casper	<b>5/4</b>
Board of Nursing Tour de Hospital Cheyenne	<b>5/20</b>
Western Regional Trustee Symposium Omaha, NE	<b>6/8-6/10</b>

## Emergency Preparedness Advisory Session Held in Laramie

The Advisory Committee that serves with statewide insight and local guidance to the Wyoming Department of Health leadership staff regarding emergency preparedness and planning met last week in Laramie.

Merit Thomas, Hospital Preparedness Program Coordinator and Angie Van Houten, Public Health Emergency Preparedness Manager hosted the two-day session with an excellent agenda.

Approximately 20 participants from a wide range of state and local entities representing EMS, public health, and other agencies took part in the meeting held on the UW campus.

Thomas and Van Houten opened day-one with a detailed review of current activities of their respective programs and engaged the participants with a variety of considerations from a practical and strategic perspective.

A number of new education and training events are scheduled, as these efforts will obviously continue in key importance for effective preparedness measures to be secured.

Deputy Director, Larry Green from the State Office of Homeland Security presented a timely review of flood planning and prepara-

tions taking place in numerous locations.

Andy Gienapp delivered a full review of statewide EMS activity, highlighting observations he has made personally since beginning his role as the state's EMS Administrator last summer.

He covered several elements of challenge regarding transport and communication protocols – some of which are being addressed currently, while other elements of ongoing training will be slated to evolve over time in ultimately arriving at an effective statewide trauma system.

Gienapp was very complimentary of the dedicated effort that volunteer EMS services provide in many rural locations around the state, with WDH desire to structure support and coordination in a way that works for all.

Representing public health agency efforts in Albany County, Beth Young described the impressive roster of activity locally in Laramie.

She has been instrumental in coordinating numerous drills and disaster preparations for their community – commonly involving UW staff, students, and facilities in meeting the needs in Albany County.

Wanda Hulit from Ivinson Memorial Hospital wrapped up with an excellent overview of emergency prep and functionality that has been developed at IMH, and led the group on a tour of the facility with focus upon the emergency department and ancillary services that support ER/Trauma services within IMH.

Bryan Hopper opened day-two with review of strategic national stockpile initiatives, with coordination of providing proper supply inventories and logistics in the event of a significant disaster event.

As the manager of the recently established 211 call center response line, Monique Ruby followed with a very interesting discussion and review regarding the initial activity and experience with 211.

Spencer Polluck from Wyoming Red Cross reviewed a wide range of data and Red Cross involvement in support of disaster and public health-based response.

Merit and Angie led engaging discussion regarding strategic plans and future considerations for effectiveness moving forward. WHA certainly appreciates the diligence and timely work in all aspects of their personal leadership of these preparedness works – they are commended for their attention to all constituencies they serve across Wyoming.



## SVMC Uses Custom Knee Replacement Technology

It's been in the works for a year, but patients at Star Valley Medical Center can now get custom knee replacements at their hometown hospital.

In fact, their hometown hospital is the only place in the region where they can get custom knee replacements.

Historically, knee replacements were about making the knee fit the implant. With the custom option, doctors can now make the

implant fit a person's knee.

Dr. Brian Tallerico, D.O., said with a custom knee replacement, a scan of the patient's knee is taken. The images are sent to Switzerland, where engineers map the knee and fit guides to the specific knee.

The result is a made-to-order knee replacement, which is shipped to SVMC. Currently, Dr. Tallerico is the only doctor in the region using this technology.

There are numerous ben-

efits associated with the custom procedure, Dr. Tallerico said. The surgery is shorter and less risky. It is less expensive, and the outcomes of the surgery tend to be very good.

Bringing custom knee replacements to SVMC has been in the works for a year. "I wanted to be sure I was educated and had done my due diligence in learning about the procedure," Dr. Tallerico said.

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

## Leaders to Discuss Collaborative Care Network

Hospital leaders are planning to meet for the second time to continue discussions about creating a Collaborative Care Network in Wyoming.

At the first meeting, held in March in Cheyenne, leaders from several hospitals discussed the ways in which Wyoming hospitals can prepare themselves to deal with a healthcare environment that is truly undergoing a transformation.

Because the creation of an Accountable Care Organization in Wyoming is unlikely, at least in the near term, Wyoming Medical Center and Cheyenne Regional Medical Center have proposed the creation of a Collaborative Care Network.

The Network would identify opportunities for Wyoming hospitals to improve population health and patients' experience of care, while reducing per capita costs for Wyoming citizens.

WMC and CRMC have scheduled a second meeting for 1 p.m. on Monday, May 23, at the Petroleum Club in Casper.

At that meeting, hospital leaders expect to review proposed Network bylaws, and to begin developing strategic goals for information and technical assistance sharing, primary care medical homes, and interoperable IT and data management, among others.

To RSVP, e-mail [dlarson@wmcnet.org](mailto:dlarson@wmcnet.org).

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## Applications Available for HPP Funding

The Wyoming Hospital Association and the Wyoming Department of Health, Hospital Preparedness Program, announced last week that funds are available from the 2011-2012 Hospital Preparedness Program.

Applications are due May 6, 2011, with funding becoming available sometime after July 1, 2011.

The Hospital Preparedness Program is committed

providing the following at no cost to the medical facility:

- Advanced Burn Life Support Course (7 courses held statewide);
- Hospital First Receiver Training held at your medical facility;
- Hospital Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Conference September 27 – 28, Casper;

- Hospital Public Information Officer Training TBA;
- VisualDx License for 12 additional months;

For more information, contact Merit Thomas, HPP Coordinator at [merit.thomas@health.wyo.gov](mailto:merit.thomas@health.wyo.gov); 307-777-6904 or Rose Fishback, at [rose@wyohospitals.com](mailto:rose@wyohospitals.com); 307-632-9344.