

# NEWS BRIEFS

Informational Newsletter for Wyoming Hospitals

## WHA Calendar:

|                              |      |
|------------------------------|------|
| WHA Trustee Education Casper | 5/10 |
| WHA Board Meeting Casper     | 5/10 |
| WCAHN Coding Workshop        | 5/13 |
| WCAHN Meeting Casper         | 5/26 |

## Other Events

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| NRHA Meeting  | 5/18-5/21 |
| Joint Labor, Health and Social Services Committee Basin       | 5/24      |
| Joint Labor, Health and Social Services Committee Thermopolis | 5/25      |
| Western Regional Trustee Symposium Denver, CO                 | 6/9-6/11  |

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## WHA Hires New Vice President, Bahmer to Manage WCAHN

The Wyoming Hospital Association has hired Neil Hilton, formerly the CEO of Brown County Hospital in Ainsworth, Neb., as the organization's new Vice President.

Hilton's first day with the WHA is May 10.

A Nebraska native from Cambridge, Hilton had been CEO of Brown County Hospital for five years and had worked in a variety of hospital roles over the past 21 years. Fourteen of those years were spent in Administrator positions.

"To have the occasion at hand to apply my experience and genuine interest in healthcare as a part of a state association is very exciting to me, and something I believe I will truly enjoy," Hilton said.

In addition to his work as a hospital administrator, Hilton has also served for the past three years as a member of the Nebraska Hospital Association Board of Directors. He is currently Vice Chairman of the NHA Board.

"Over the past several years, I have continued to become increasingly aware

of and impressed with all aspects of what NHA does on behalf of all hospitals, large and small alike, across our state," Hilton said.

"WHA fulfills this role in an excellent manner throughout the state of Wyoming, and I am looking forward to taking a very active part in their efforts."

Hilton concludes his tenure at the Ainsworth hospital following a wide range of facility improvements, a number of key new additions to the clinical staff, and a general stability financially that will serve the community well in the future.

"It has really been a privilege to serve Brown County Hospital through this period, the staff that is in place and the trust and confidence that exists in the community has grown to be a wonderful thing," he said. "Lifelong friends that my family and I have established will genuinely be exactly that, points of great reference for years to come."

Hilton graduated from the University of Nebraska and holds an MHA degree from the University of Colorado. He and his wife Pam, also a native of western Nebraska, have two sons, Chase, 9, and Grant, 6.

As the new Vice President of the WHA, Hilton replaces Steve Bahmer, who held that position for two years.

Bahmer will continue his work with Wyoming's hospitals, however, as director of the Wyoming Critical Access Hospital Network (WCAHN), an affiliate of the WHA that provides programs for the state's 15 critical access hospitals.

In his new role, Bahmer will continue to work directly with the hospitals, the state Office of Rural Health, and other partners to deliver education, communication, and support for the WCAHN. This new role also ensures a dedicated focus on the unique issues that confront critical access hospitals.

"I have enjoyed my work on behalf of Wyoming's hospitals very much," Bahmer said, "and I am honored to have the opportunity to continue that work."

"With the smallest hospitals facing an increasingly difficult regulatory environment and significant new demands driven by health reform and health information technology, a focus on critical access hospitals may be as important now as it has ever been," he said.



**Neil Hilton**



**Steve Bahmer**



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

## West Park Hospital Partners to Create Healthcare Library

West Park Hospital (WPH) in Cody wanted to create a library to provide the public with accurate, timely, and helpful information on nearly any healthcare subject. But the space was not available.

So, rather than installing its own library, the hospital partnered with the actual library to develop a solution that is a win for the public and for the hospital.

The Planetree Health Resource Center, located in the Park County Library, includes books and visual materials that provide healthcare information.

Materials in Spanish and a medical reference section are also located in the center.

Books on healthcare subjects for children are available, too. WPH recently added about 25 books to the children's shelves in the Planetree Center.

Computers are also available in the Planetree area and are available by reservation for use in medical research only.

Partnering with the library solved housing and management problems for

the hospital, and it made materials easily accessible to the general public, WPH Planetree coordinator Dawn Garrison told the Cody Enterprise newspaper.

A hospital staff committee seeks grants and donations to fund WPH purchases of materials. Meanwhile, the library has reorganized many health-related books from its regular collection to the Planetree shelves.



## Symposium Focuses on Governing in Turbulent Times

In an era of rapidly changing healthcare rules, regulations and reimbursements, hospital trustees need knowledge and tools to help them improve quality, patient care, financial stability, and community image.

The 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Western Regional Trustee Symposium is designed to help prepare trustees to manage these and other critical gov-

ernance issues. The symposium, which will focus on "Elevating the Standards of Hospital Governance," is set for June 9 to 11 in Denver.

Key sessions at the symposium include Governing in an Era of Uncertainty, the Board's Role in Assuring Quality Healthcare, Board Succession Planning, and Practicing Competency-Based Governance, among

others.

The symposium also includes a federal update from AHA Executive Vice President Rick Pollack, and keynote addresses by John Nance, Larry Walker, and Steven Summer, president of the Colorado Hospital Association.

The registration deadline for the Denver event is May 18.



## Practices of Highly Effective Hospital Boards

The clock is ticking, but there is still time to register for the Practices of Highly Effective Hospital Boards, a trustee education program sponsored by the Wyoming Hospital Association.

Hospital boards that function well do so efficiently and with a clear sense of purpose and do not do so by accident.

There are, in fact, best practices and approaches that are critical to ensuring that your board functions effectively.

The session, which features noted consultant Pam Knecht, is set for May 10 at the Parkway Plaza in Casper. There is no cost to WHA members to attend the program.

In this day-long session, you will learn:

- The core responsibilities of a hospital board and its evolving role
- The keys to developing strong relationships and culture
- How to develop truly effective committees and policies, and much more.

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