

## **Banner's Best Awards Showcase Platte County Memorial Hospital**

Banner Health celebrated best performance by recognizing the achievements made by facilities on 2007 strategic initiatives as part of the annual Leadership Conference held April 8 and 9 in Phoenix. Nearly 300 of the top leaders in the organization helped recognize achievements in the four areas represented in Banner Health's strategy map: Financial, Customer, Operations and Learning, as well as the Performance Excellence Awards. Platte County Memorial Hospital in Wheatland, was recognized for their 2007 achievements in Acute Myocardial Infarction, Heart Failure, Surgical Care Improvement, Patient Safety Outcomes, Patient Safety – Skin Care and Retention of First Year Employees in Hard To Fill Positions.

## **Community Healthcare Assessment Grant**

Wyoming communities may apply for grants from a pool of \$275,000 to conduct assessments of their local healthcare delivery systems. The grants are intended to help communities build their infrastructure, including healthcare services and availability. Grants will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis through June 30, 2008. At Gov. Freudenthal's request, \$250,000 was placed in the Office of Rural Health's biennial budget, and the ORH added another \$25,000. The funding is intended to provide communities with a snapshot of their healthcare delivery systems. Interested communities should submit a proposal to the ORH that describes the need for the assessment, how the findings will influence local policies and programs, the level of community support, and the willingness of key agencies and individuals to participate in the process. Each community may submit only one application. The ORH has selected an agency that has successfully helped healthcare providers and their communities with community-based planning and development processes. However, communities may select the consulting agency of their choice to assist with the assessment. Call Sharla Allen, 307-777-7293, or email her at [sharla.allen@health.wyo.org](mailto:sharla.allen@health.wyo.org) with any questions about the program.

## **National Health Conference In Jackson This Month**

A national conference in Jackson April 23-25 has potential to change the way people think about healthy lifestyles for children and adults in Wyoming. Professionals from a wide range of disciplines who work at the community level with youths and adults will attend "Shaping a Healthy Future IV: A Rocky Mountain Conference." The conference focuses on promoting health through pleasurable and healthful eating, enjoyable physical activity and positive body image for youths and adults. This is the fourth conference hosted by the Wyoming Dietetic Association and Wellness In Wyoming (WIN Wyoming).

The kickoff speaker is Brian Wansink, recently appointed director of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Center for Policy and Promotion and author of "Mindless Eating." Also speaking will be Susan Linn from the Harvard School of Medicine on how marketing and commercialization affect children's health; Jennifer Orlet Fisher from the Baylor School of Medicine on how caregivers and parents influence children's eating habits; Russell Pate from the University of South Carolina on ways to increase physical activity in youth; and Dayle Hayes, a consultant in Montana on improving the health of school environments. Information about the conference, including an online registration, is at [www/outreach.uwyo.edu/conferences/healthyfutures](http://www/outreach.uwyo.edu/conferences/healthyfutures).

## **State Board of Nursing Appoints New Director**

Mary Kay Goetter has been named the executive director for the Wyoming State Board of Nursing. She will officially start her new position on May 1. The board's main purpose is public safety. The group oversees more than 14,000 state licenses for registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, certified nursing assistants and advanced practice nurses. Part of the oversight includes background checks, license renewals and approving refresher programs for continuing education. Mary Kay has nearly 30 years of nursing experience. She has worked as a staff nurse in an intensive care unit, military nurse and nursing administration having worked the last nine years at Cheyenne Regional Medical Center.

## **Department Encourages Community Support for Older Residents**

With May set as "Older Americans Month," the Wyoming Department of Health's Aging Division is planning to showcase organizations that are working in tandem with other community entities to meet older adults' needs. Bev Morrow, Aging Division administrator with the Wyoming Department of Health, said "We are very fortunate in Wyoming to enjoy strong partnerships within and between the private and public sectors. This is good news for our state's older adults." Representatives of community organizations that support older residents are invited to submit an entry discussing their partners, and their programs, projects or activities designed to meet the needs of local older adults. For more information and important details about entry requirements, please call Doreen Sing at (307) 777-6321 or 1-800-422-2766. Completed entries must be sent to the Aging Division by April 25. Aging Division staff will copy entries for inclusion in the "Working Together for Strong, Healthy and Supportive Communities" booklet, which will be distributed around the state.

## **Department Promoting Early Substance Use Screening Process**

The Wyoming Department of Health is working to encourage Wyoming healthcare providers to provide early screening of potential substance use-related health issues in the people they see. Known in Wyoming as Screening, Brief Education and Referral to Treatment (SBERT), the simple screening process involves just a few questions. Trained interviewers work with

individuals to determine their risk level based upon behavior patterns. A brief educational intervention can significantly reduce or even end the person's use of harmful substances.

For those whose screening indicates a severe problem or dependence, the next step is referral to Wyoming community mental health and substance abuse centers. The Wyoming Department of Health is helping to spread the practice around Wyoming in medical settings. The Cheyenne Free Clinic, eight public health nursing offices and the Laramie County public defender's office are in various stages of implementing the screening process. The department is also offering an online screening tool called the Alcohol, Smoking, and Substance Involvement Screening Test (ASSIST), which can be found at <http://health.wyo.gov/mhsa/treatment/assistindex.html>. A toll-free number, 1-866-569-1311, is also available for additional help with the ASSIST tool and educational information. Doctors who want to know more about SBERT should contact the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services Division at (307) 777-7071.

National Volunteer Week  
April 28 - May 4

National Nurses Week  
May 6 - May 12

National Hospital Week  
May 11 - May 17