

# NEWS BRIEFS

Informational Newsletter for Wyoming Hospitals

## WHA Calendar:

WHA Legislative Committee Meeting Videoconference	11/10
WHA Nurse Leadership Training Videoconference	11/13
WHA Board Meeting, Riverton, WY	11/17
WCAHN Meeting Videoconference	11/20

## Other Events:

HFMA Fall Meeting Sheridan, WY	11/12
Telehealth Steering Committee Meeting Cheyenne	11/18
Joint Labor, Health, Social Services Committee Meeting Cheyenne	12/1

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## 2008 General Election Produces No Major Surprises

No major upsets occurred in either the Wyoming House of Representatives or the Wyoming Senate races during the Nov. 4 general election.

In all, 12 freshmen were elected to seats in the House, and no incumbents were defeated in either chamber. And because all of the incumbents were successful, the general composition of the Labor, Health, and Social Services (LHSS) committees is likely to remain intact.

The LHSS committee most frequently considers healthcare bills of interest to the Wyoming Hospital Association.

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In the wake of the elections, and in preparation for the WHA's advocacy efforts during the upcoming General Session of the Legislature, the WHA Legislative Committee has scheduled a meeting for November 17.

The committee will review a list of key concepts and begin developing the legislative agenda that will guide the WHA's advocacy during the session.

Among the items the committee will discuss are issues of access to capital, two different healthcare access reform bills, Medicaid reim-

bursement, a patient safety organization, and a statewide smoking ban.

The WHA Legislative Committee is composed of the following hospital CEOs: Tom Nordwick, chairman, Memorial Hospital of Converse County; Rod Barton, Powell Valley Healthcare; Steve Perry, Star Valley Medical Center; Doug McMillan, West Park Hospital; Eric Boley, South Lincoln Medical Center; Vickie Diamond, Wyoming Medical Center; Bob Morasko, Campbell County Memorial Hospital; Phil Eaton, Lander Regional Hospital; and Jim Schuessler, St. John's Medical Center.

## RAC Education Session Cancelled Due to Protest

CMS has cancelled a Recovery Audit Contractor (RAC) education session scheduled for November 18 due to a protest filed by two firms that were not selected to participate in the nationwide RAC rollout.

The Wyoming Hospital Association had scheduled the session in coordination with CMS to help ensure that Wyoming hospitals are prepared for the national

Wyoming is scheduled for the first phase of the national rollout, and record requests of hospitals were expected to begin in January 2009.

However, because two firms are protesting that they were not selected, according to CMS, the entire process has been halted until the protest runs its course.

The government has 100 days to make a finding in the bid protest, and an appeals process could follow that finding.

CMS has indicated they will not proceed with any education or outreach for the first phase of states until the entire protest process has played out.



## CRMC Commitment to Patient Care Generates List of Firsts

Over time, Cheyenne Regional Medical Center's (CRMC) commitment to providing the best possible patient care has resulted in a number of "firsts" in the state and region.

CRMC was Wyoming's first Level II trauma center. It was the first in the region to offer echocardiography in the hospital's Heart Center.

It provided Wyoming's first CARF-accredited Acute Rehabilitation Unit.

And its Lifestyle Management Center

(Bariatric Services) is the first program in Wyoming to become a Bariatric Center of Excellence.

CRMC's 218 beds, 175 physicians, and 2,000 employees and volunteers serve the healthcare needs of patients from southeast Wyoming, northern Colorado, western Nebraska, and communities throughout Wyoming.

Additional CRMC resources include the Wellington Medical Center in Wellington, Colo., and the Home Care program in

Wheatland and Torrington.

In addition to its list of firsts, CRMC is the only hospital from Colorado Springs to Rapid City to offer TomoTherapy, the latest in radiation therapy for cancer patients. It is in the top 8<sup>th</sup> percentile nationally for timely care to heart attack patients, and the CRMC Heart Center has been recognized by *Money* magazine as one of the 25 best hospitals in the nation for heart valve replacement surgery.



Cheyenne Regional  
Medical Center

## Platte County Memorial Hospital Names New CEO

Eric McVicker, most recently the Chief Financial Officer at Platte County Memorial Hospital and Nursing Home (PCMH&NH), has been named the hospital's Chief Executive Officer.

McVicker has been with Banner Health for 17 years. He served 16 years in Phoenix, including positions with Patient Financial Services, Central Accounting, Finan-

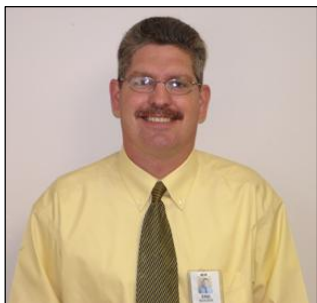
cial Reporting, and the Research Institute.

He served for one year as PCMH&NH's CFO, and he took over as interim CEO in September.

"I've enjoyed working with the excellent staff at Platte County Memorial Hospital and Nursing Home over the last year as CFO and am honored to be taking on the role of CEO,"

McVicker said. "With our fantastic medical staff, leaders and employees, we will continue to provide excellent patient care to the community we serve."

McVicker replaces Gavin Carmichael, who left Wheatland in September to take the Associate Administrator position at Banner Good Samaritan Medical Center in Phoenix, Ariz.



Eric McVicker has been named CEO of Platte County Memorial Hospital and Nursing Home

## Health Education Center Launches at Historic T-A Ranch

A health education center at the foot of the Big Horn Mountains launched last week with the goal of delivering educational programs to Wyoming physicians and allied healthcare professionals. Programs offered by the T-A Health Education Center will focus on rural healthcare.

In addition to on-site programs, the center will

also offer distance programs delivered via live, HD-quality web casts to established telehealth networks and physicians' desktops across the state.

The T-A Health Education Center is governed by an Advisory Board of Wyoming healthcare thought leaders, including Rex Arney, co-chairman of the Wyoming Healthcare Com-

mission, Dr. Jerry Saunders, director of medical education and public health at the University of Wyoming, Dr. Mike Jording, immediate past president of the Wyoming Medical Society, and Dr. Kenneth Madsen, a Cheyenne-based vascular surgeon.

Programming at the center is set to begin in Spring 2009. For more information, visit [www.tahec.org](http://www.tahec.org).

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