

## **Steve Bahmer Joins WHA As Vice President**

Steve Bahmer joined the Wyoming Hospital Association on January 14<sup>th</sup> as the Vice President. Steve came to the WHA after nearly 10 years at OCI, a Cheyenne-based healthcare information technology company, where he held numerous positions, including Vice President of Operations and Vice President of Marketing and Sales. A Wyoming native from Glenrock, Steve graduated with honors from the University of Wyoming with a bachelor's degree in communications and an emphasis in journalism. Steve lives in Cheyenne with his wife and three daughters. Steve can be reached at the Association by calling 307-632-9344 or via e-mail at [steve@wyohospitals.com](mailto:steve@wyohospitals.com).

## **VisualDx Year Extension For Hospitals**

The Wyoming Department of Health, Hospital Preparedness Program is pleased to announce the extension of thirty VisualDx licenses' for a twelve month period. VisualDx is a point-of-care diagnostic software system that helps primary care and emergency clinicians rapidly diagnose and treat patients with visually diagnosable problems. This system has been installed in thirty locations across the state including twenty-five hospitals, since February 2007. For more information concerning VisualDx, please contact Merit Thomas, HPP Coordinator at (307) 777-6904 or via e-mail at [merit.thomas@health.wyo.gov](mailto:merit.thomas@health.wyo.gov).

## **Emergency Planning For People With Disabilities**

The Wyoming INstitute for Disabilities (WIND) recently established a contract with Mr. Marc Rudkin of Cheyenne to spearhead a project involving emergency planning for people with disabilities. WIND, in partnership with the Wyoming Department of Health Hospital Preparedness Program and the Office of Homeland Security is collaborating to ensure local emergency planning includes people with disabilities. Mr. Rudkin, a former nurse, has been involved with fire and emergency services for about thirty years and is active with the BIA and USFS in Helitack and helicopter management on wildfires. In addition, Mr. Rudkin is a former deputy chief of a large rural volunteer fire service.

The focus of the project is to provide training and technical assistance for: 1) people with disabilities in creating personal emergency plans, 2) providers of services to people with disabilities for developing emergency plans, 3) emergency managers to ensure emergency plans include provisions for people with all categories and types of disabilities and assist emergency managers in contacting people with disabilities to help coordinate local plans, and 4) inclusion of plans for people with disabilities in all hospitals throughout the state.

For questions about inclusion for people with disabilities in developing, planning or coordinating local emergency plans, contact Mr. Rudkin at 307-287-0440 or Dave Schaad at WIND, 307-766-2095.

## **Workers' Compensation Loss Run Reports**

A loss run is a detailed report that lists workers' compensation claims for your facility. The list includes injury description, injury costs and reserves for active and inactive claims. This information is beneficial in monitoring claims activity and costs. You may specify the time frame for this report. The report requires a release authorization from a company representative. Loss runs can be requested and delivered by fax, e-mail or US mail. Loss runs can be found online at <http://doe.state.wy.us/riskonline>. This service is free of charge to all Wyoming Workers' Safety and Compensation policyholders.

## **Changes To Federal Form I-9**

The Department of Homeland Security recently made changes to Form I-9. This form must be completed on all new employees. Information on the changes and access to the new form can be found at <http://www.uscis.gov/i-9>.

## **ER One Institute - Emergency Preparedness Conference**

The ER One Institute 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference - "Hospitals on the Frontline: Emergency Preparedness"- will be held on March 3-4, 2008. The two-day conference will give hospital-based health professionals and other community responders the tools they need to better plan, train and respond to mass casualty incidents and other events of significance. The program is being held in Washington, DC, and ACHE credits are available. Merit Thomas, HPP Coordinator has notified us that there are limited scholarships available to attend this program. If you are interested, please contact Merit at (307) 777-6904 or via e-mail at [merit.thomas@health.wyo.gov](mailto:merit.thomas@health.wyo.gov).

## **HRET Disparities Toolkit**

The updated Health Research and Educational Trust (HRET) Disparities Toolkit gives hospitals, health systems, clinics, and health plans the information and resources needed for collecting race, ethnicity, and primary language data from patients. In order to make this invaluable Toolkit more accessible to all health care providers, the Toolkit is now available free of charge. Disparities in processes and outcomes of patient care are well-documented. Collecting accurate data on patients' race, ethnicity, and primary language is needed to track the prevalence and nature of disparities in care and to help focus efforts to eliminate disparities and improve quality of care. HRET's Disparities Toolkit helps clinicians and administrators at all levels learn why and how to collect race, ethnicity, and primary language data from patients. The Toolkit is useful for educating and informing hospital staff about the importance of data collection, how to implement a framework to collect the data, and how to use these data to improve quality of care for all populations. Go to [www.hretdisparities.org](http://www.hretdisparities.org) to access the new Toolkit.

## **AHRQ Issues Incentives Guide For Health Care Purchasers**

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality has published a document (<http://www.ahrq.gov/qual/value/incentives.htm>) to guide employers, health plans and other health care purchasers in using financial incentives to improve health care quality and reduce costs. The guide includes examples of financial incentives already being offered, criteria for selecting performance measures and suggestions for increasing the likelihood that a consumer will be attracted by the incentives. The guide includes 21 questions health insurance purchasers should take into account when considering whether to implement an incentives program.