

NEWS BRIEFS

Informational Newsletter for Wyoming Hospitals

Volume 42, Number 04

January 27, 2012

WHA Calendar:

WHA Board Meeting
Casper, WY **3/16**

Other Events:

Wyoming Legislature
Convenes **2/13**

HFMA Spring Meeting
Casper, WY **3/21-3/23**

Partnership Plans to Deploy Statewide HIE in 2012

The Wyoming e-Health Partnership, Inc. is working to bring health information exchange (HIE) services to Wyoming.

To date, the Partnership's efforts have focused on securing funding and developing plans to stand up a statewide HIE.

The State received \$4.8 million in federal stimulus dollars to fund health information exchange in the state. In November 2011, the Partnership was designated by Gov. Mead as the organization to lead Wyoming's health information exchange initiatives.

The Partnership will use those funds to enable and support exchange capabilities for Wyoming's hospitals. Additionally, the Partnership has contracted for shared infrastructure services with HIO Shared Services, a division of Nebraska's health information exchange, or NeHII.

NeHII is a leader in providing health information exchange services, with 1.9 million patients included in their system, more than 2,000 providers and 17 hospitals participating. Currently, 17 more hospitals have implementations pending.

It's this experience that led the Partnership to develop a shared services plan

leveraging the technical, legal and implementation "know-how" of NeHII/HIO SS to implement health information exchange services in Wyoming.

As a requirement of the federal funding, Wyoming must develop a phased implementation for providing health information exchange.



Technical implementation of Phase I will be ready by the end of January, 2012, with the installation of Direct, a specific point-to-point secure email system allowing the secure delivery of health information from a sender to a recipient.

Direct facilitates the movement of health information where a health information exchange doesn't currently exist. Therefore, care summaries, lab results, referrals, notices and other communication between providers will be possible where existing non-secure email is unable to send that communication.

The Partnership will develop a provider directory to help participants locate others with Direct email addresses. Wyoming must first

implement this functionality and meet a target of 100 providers sending care summaries before we can move moving to Phase II.

Phase II will include the implementation of an exchange that enables providers to look up a patient and see relevant health information available throughout the system. Patient information will reside at the provider's facility, and the exchange will search to find the related information, presenting it in a viewer that puts a patient's information in one place.

Wyoming plans to implement the full exchange later in 2012.

The staff of the Partnership will be traveling around the state to meet with hospital CEOs and physicians to get input regarding the HIE services that are most beneficial.

Visits have already occurred at six hospitals, including Star Valley Medical Center, South Lincoln Medical Center, Cheyenne Regional Medical Center, Wyoming Medical Center, Torrington Community Hospital and Wheatland Memorial Hospital.

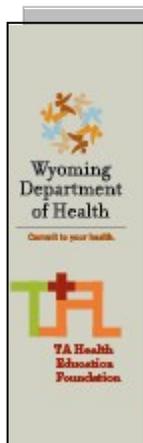
For more information, contact hroeday@ehealthwyo.org. And look for additional articles about the statewide HIE in future editions of News Briefs.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



**Bioness® System
NESS L300®**

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



Wyoming Hospital Association

**2005 Warren Ave.
Cheyenne, WY
82001**

www.wyohospitals.com

307.632.9344

Elkhorn Valley First in Wyoming to Offer Bioness Program

Elkhorn Valley Rehabilitation Hospital in Casper is the first hospital in the state to offer a new suite of services to neurological patients for both inpatient and outpatient treatment.

The Bioness program enables stroke and other neurological patients to regain lost mobility and achieve greater independence with treatment options that include its hand rehabilitation system and its foot drop system.

The innovative functional electrical stimulation (FES) systems help patients recovering from stroke, traumatic brain injury, multiple sclerosis, cerebral palsy and incomplete spinal cord injury to regain muscle control, giving them more function and more freedom.

The NESS H200 Hand Rehabilitation System has been shown to return hand function in patients at the acute phase of recovering

following stroke and brain injury, as well as in select patients whose injuries are years old.

The NESS L300 Foot Drop System is the first wireless FES system. The low profile, lightweight system uses advanced technology to allow patients to achieve a more normalized gait on changing terrains and at varying speeds.

Mental Health, Substance Abuse Training Scheduled

The Wyoming Department of Health's Behavioral Health Division and the TA Health Education Foundation have scheduled mental health and substance abuse training via the Wyoming telehealth network.

The training session, which offers up to 12.5 free CME and CEU credits, is scheduled for Feb. 21 and 22.

The program will feature Dr. Larry Gentilello, a

groundbreaking researcher and a leading advocate for substance use screening in all aspects of healthcare.

He will discuss the ways in which substance use screening is helping healthcare professionals across the nation decrease recidivism and improve patient outcomes.

A 2006 American Journal of Preventative Medicine article listed substance abuse screening as one of the three most effective clinical pre-

ventative services, ahead of screening for hypertension, screening for breast or cervical cancer, and immunizing for influenza.

Dr. Gentilello joined the faculty of the University of Washington School of Medicine in 1990, where his research focused on injury prevention and public health.

To register for the 2012 training, visit : <http://www.tahealth.org/register>. Call (307) 684-5833 with questions.

Hospital Preparedness Program Adds New Staff Member

The State of Wyoming's Hospital Preparedness Program has added a new staff member to assist with emergency preparedness efforts across the state.

Amy Skalicky joined the state office two weeks ago, serving as the Hospital Preparedness Program Specialist.

She has previously worked as a case manager and health educator, as well

as a consultant for the Wyoming Department of Education, Special Education Division.

She received her bachelor's degree in communications from Louisiana Baptist College and has begun work on her master's degree in psychology.

Hospital Preparedness Program Coordinator Merit Thomas said Ms. Skalicky will be working on all as-

pects of the program, including hospitals, EMS agencies, and other medical facilities.

Ms. Skalicky can be reached at (307) 777-8034.

