

# NEWS BRIEFS

Informational Newsletter for Wyoming Hospitals

Volume 42, Number 48

December 7, 2012

## WHA Calendar:

WHA Board of Directors Meeting Casper	<b>12/12</b>
WHA Legislative Committee Meeting	<b>12/19</b>

## Other Events:

Labor Committee Cheyenne	<b>12/13- 12/14</b>
Wyoming Legislature Convenes	<b>1/8</b>

## Wyoming Quality Leaders Participate in HRET Fellowship

Wyoming hospitals continue their efforts statewide as participants in the HRET Hospital Engagement Network project.

Sixteen hospitals are currently taking part in this effort, with clinical data analysis and best practices being studied and shared both regionally, and nationwide alongside 32 other states across the country.

In this endeavor, HRET is assisting hospitals in identifying effective solutions to work toward significant reduction in hospital acquired conditions and improved patient safety practices.

As a very tangible benefit for local hospital personnel, a series of learning collaborative programs were developed and held regionally through this past year. The Denver-based regional program held interactive educational sessions in June, September, and most recently in late November – with excellent Wyoming hospital staff participation at each session.

The Improvement Leaders Fellowship, as the program is titled, provided intensive training conducted to teach and support hospital quality leaders in improving patient care and providing technical assistance in achieving quality measure goals. Hospitals nationwide are taking part in

this effort to establish and implement systems to track and monitor progress toward quality improvement benchmark goals.

WHA is pleased to recognize and express great appreciation to the Wyoming hospitals taking part in this important program – and sincerely thank the local hospital personnel that made the commitment to complete the series of fellowship education:

- **Amy Johnson** – Star Valley Medical Center, Afton
- **Sally Myer** – Memorial Hospital of Converse County, Douglas
- **Veronica Taylor** – Campbell County Memorial Hospital, Gillette
- **Kathy Byron** – St. John's Medical Center, Jackson
- **Vicki Carrafa & Lynette Barsness** – West Park Hospital, Cody
- **Kim Harbarger** – Weston County Health Services, Newcastle
- **Cindy Treffer** – Niobrara Health & Life Center, Lusk

The insight and experience gained by these Wyoming hospital quality leaders will be certain to benefit their individual effectiveness in their important roles and ultimately for the positive outcomes and direct benefits to be gained in the patient care delivered in their local hospitals.

Designed as a focused two-year initiative, the Hospital Engagement Network program will carry forward into 2013 with new program content that will build upon the improvements documented through the past year.

The areas of clinical focus are slated to also expand into key areas involving early elective newborn deliveries and preventable hospital readmissions.

All aspects of hospital performance, including current study of infection prevention, patient safety, and quality measures are certain to be of ongoing interest – both locally in Wyoming, as well as from a nationwide perspective on the healthcare industry in general.

WHA is genuinely appreciative of the excellent work and diligence taking place in all member hospitals across the state.



## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



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



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## Iverson Memorial Hospital Construction

Iverson Memorial Hospital began construction on a multi-year, \$35 million construction project on Monday, November 26, 2012.

The west side entrance to the hospital is officially closed, in addition to a majority of the west side parking lot. Hospital patients and visitors must access the hospital from the Main entrance on the east side of the facility. Emergency patients will still use the Emergency en-

trance. Cancer Center and Outpatient Rehabilitation patients can still enter through the Meredith and Jeannie Ray Cancer Center.

The construction project includes building a new Dialysis Center, patient tower of 30 private patient rooms with private showers, upgrading existing patient rooms, renovating the operating rooms to include state-of-the-art technology and increasing dining area in the

cafeteria.

All phases of this construction project are aimed at improving patient care at Iverson. This project is already fully funded and will not cause an increase in patient fees.

During the anticipated two-year construction, updates will be provided on the Iverson Memorial Hospital Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/IversonMemorial](http://www.facebook.com/IversonMemorial).

## Medicaid EHR Incentive Program

Wyoming hospitals are reminded that the deadline is quickly approaching for making application for the Medicaid EHR Incentive Program.

There are several basic items that serve as criteria to be eligible to apply for the incentive payments that are available in supporting hospitals' transitioning to an electronic health record system.

Hospitals with at least ten percent Medicaid volume and a signed contract with any EHR vendor is eligible for the program.

The Wyoming Department of Health reports that to date, twelve hospitals have effectively submitted applications and have been deemed eligible for the incentive payments for 2012.

The deadline for additional hospitals to make application is December 31.

Many hospitals have focused their initial efforts in electronic records based upon the "meaningful use" criteria set by CMS/Medicare and have made great strides in this regard.

The Department of Health reveals that the Med-

icaid incentives, while lesser in financial impact comparative to Medicare, are still important in assisting in the financial commitment facing hospitals in implementing EHR programs.

Hospitals are encouraged to contact Shawna Hults, systems manager with WDH leading this project at 307-777-5424 or e-mail at [shawna.hults@wyo.gov](mailto:shawna.hults@wyo.gov).

Additional details regarding the EHR incentives are also available via the website [www.wyomingincentive.com](http://www.wyomingincentive.com)

## REACH Grant Available

The Wyoming Department of Health, Public Health Division, Office of Rural Health is excited to announce the second year of grant awards to host a Research and Explore Awesome Careers in Healthcare (REACH) Program.

The overall purpose of the REACH Program is to increase awareness, interest, and understanding of health

careers available in rural Wyoming supported through creative and interactive activities to students in grades 5 – 8.

Four awards, up to \$2,500 each, are available to support the planning and implementation activities of REACH Programs.

Eligible applicants are Wyoming K-8 schools and healthcare facilities such as

hospitals, clinics, community health centers, and public health units.

For more information and grant guidance, please go to: [www.health.wyo.gov/rfhd/rural/REACH.html](http://www.health.wyo.gov/rfhd/rural/REACH.html).

Please contact Michelle Hoffman, Office of Rural Health, (307) 777-8902, for additional information or questions.