



# NEWS BRIEFS

Informational Newsletter for Wyoming Hospitals

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April 11, 2014

## WHA Calendar:

WHA Board Meeting  
Casper 5/15

Trustee Educational Program  
Casper 5/16

## Other Events:

AHA Annual Meeting  
Washington, DC 5/4-5/7

Western Regional Trustee Symposium  
Henderson, NV 6/11-6/13



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## CAH CEOs Plan for the 2014-2015 Flex Grant Application

Wyoming's critical access hospitals met in Casper this week to set the Wyoming Critical Access Hospital Network priorities for the 2014-2015 Flex grant year.

The grant application is due to HRSA by May 15, and the planning meeting was the hospitals' opportunity to help shape the agenda for utilizing Flex grant funding to most effectively help Wyoming's smallest hospitals.

In addition to critical access hospital CEOs, the meeting was attended by members of the Wyoming Office of Rural Health, Mountain Pacific Quality Health, and the state EMS office.

Following overviews from each of those partners regarding quality and performance improvement efforts that are underway, meeting participants discussed the current state in their hospitals in terms of three key Flex grant areas: quality improvement, financial/performance improvement, and health systems development and community engagement.

In the quality improvement category, critical access hospital CEOs settled on a list of four priorities, which may ultimately become projects that are initiated by the WCAHN in the next grant year.

Those top priorities included: a statewide project focusing on patient safety, the deployment of quality coaches at CAHs to help drive lasting culture and quality change, planning with respect to the severe mental health issues facing Wyoming's healthcare system, and funding to help hospitals participate in HCAHPS reporting.



CEOs cited common concerns regarding quality improvement efforts in their hospitals, including the difficulty of recruiting and funding full-time staff who are dedicated to quality improvement and the culture change that is necessary to sustain it.

Priorities in the financial/performance improvement category focused on helping CAHs conduct in-depth financial and operational assessments, providing grant funding for hospital-specific projects such as Chargemaster reviews and other similar projects, and funding for training in areas such as ICD-10 and Lean processes.

Participating CEOs identified revenue cycle management, the now-delayed ICD-10 conversion, and electronic medical records conversions

as key challenges they face with respect to financial and operational performance.

The third key area of focus under the Flex grant is health systems development and community engagement. In that category, critical access CEOs recommended the following priorities: exploration of a community paramedicine program, funding for rural trauma team development courses, funding to address needs identified in each hospital's community health needs assessment, and funding for EMT training.

Using these priorities, the Office of Rural Health will begin working on the grant application, which will include a work plan for the coming year. The new grant year begins September 1.

Critical access hospital CEOs who were not able to attend the Flex planning meeting are encouraged to offer their input on the priorities developed during the meeting. Because of the short timeline for preparing the grant application, any additional feedback must be submitted as soon as possible in order for it to be considered. Please send feedback about these priorities to Steve Bahmer at [steve@wyohospitals.com](mailto:steve@wyohospitals.com), and to Michelle Hoffman at [michelle.hoffman@wyo.gov](mailto:michelle.hoffman@wyo.gov).



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



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## Rawlins Sleep Lab Ready for Business

The Memorial Hospital of Carbon County (MHCC) has two new rooms that look like hotel rooms—except there are some machines and tubes at the head of the queen size beds.

These are the hospital's new sleep labs, where people spend the night with monitoring devices attached to them to test for sleep disorders.

Now with a certified doc-

tor to read the sleep results, the hospital can begin scheduling patients for sleep tests.

Amber Green, hospital interim chief clinical officer, said the hospital had done sleep tests in the past, but the service had been discontinued and physicians would have to send people out of town.

"We are happy to be able to provide this service," she said. "We're contacting

physicians in all of Rawlins and as soon as the doctors give the orders, we can set up appointments."

The service is provided by Rx Sleep, an adult and pediatric center based in Salt Lake City. They will send sleep technicians to Rawlins at least once or twice a month, depending on the need.

## Advancing Health Equity Through Cultural Competency

Are you interested in learning how to build and sustain a culturally competent organization?

In commemoration of National Minority Health Month, the Mountain States Regional Health Equity Council (RHEC) is hosting the webinar Advancing Health Equity through Cultural Competency, which will help organizations and businesses explore ways to cultivate cultural competency in the workplace.

Speakers will discuss the skills, protocols and struc-

tures that integrate the value of diversity and promote effective work with employees and patients in an effort to advance health equity.

The webinar is being held April 17 from 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. MDT

Speakers include Susana Centeno Perez, MPH, Region VIII Women's Health Coordinator; Renee Gamino, Associate Director-Outreach, AARP Wyoming, Mountain States RHEC member; Mailyn Salabarria, Community Outreach Coordinator & Translations As-

sociate Manager, One World Translation.

To register visit <https://events.na.collabserv.com/portal/wippages/register.php?id=c1afdfc4bd&l=en-US>.

The Mountain States RHEC is a coalition of leaders and health disparities experts representing several sectors and the states of Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming.

For webinar-specific questions, contact the moderator at [csatos@explorepesa.com](mailto:csatos@explorepesa.com).

## HHS Disease Prevention and Health Promotion

The nation's health is improving in more than half of the critical measures that are known to have major influence in reducing preventable disease and death, according to a new report from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Healthy People 2020 represents the nation's current 10-year goals and objectives for health promo-

tion and disease prevention.

Twenty-six specific measures—in categories such as access to care, maternal and child health, tobacco use, nutrition and physical activity—were identified as high-priority health issues.

There are 14 health indicators that have either been met or are improving in this first third of the decade, including: fewer adults

smoking cigarettes; fewer children exposed to secondhand smoke; more adults meeting physical activity targets; and fewer adolescents using alcohol or illicit drugs.

For more information about the Leading Health Indicators Progress Update, please visit <http://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/LHI/default.aspx>.