



NEWS BRIEFS

Informational Newsletter for Wyoming Hospitals

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August 7, 2015

WHA Calendar:

WHA PAC Golf Tournament	9/1
WHA/Leading Age Annual Meeting & Convention Casper	9/2-9/3

Other Events:

Wyoming Quality Conference Casper	8/19-8/20
Labor Health & Social Services Lovell	8/24-8/25



President's Message

We are one month away from our first ever combined WHA and LeadingAge Wyoming annual convention. I am excited about our lineup of presenters and am anxious to meet with all of you in Casper. I encourage you to get your registrations in early. I would also like to encourage you to sign up for and play in our annual WHAPAC golf tournament. The money we raise in the tournament will be used in the legislative process both within the state and nationally. PACs are important and the money can be used to help support legislators that are supportive of hospitals and healthcare. The tournament also offers an opportunity to enjoy a beautiful day and to network with others in the healthcare field.

PAC contributions are important and necessary. It took me some years to realize how much of a difference the money can make. Early in my career I didn't donate but as the years have passed I have become more and more convinced that if we truly want to affect change and help push our agenda then PAC contributions are the answer.

While many of us feel that elections in Wyoming are hard to affect and that the outcome is pretty much a given, I believe that helping candidates that we believe in can make a difference. We have put together a PAC subcommittee that will make decisions on how the money is allocated during the elections and to whom we want to make contributions to help them in their elections.

Each year the AHA sets a goal for WHA should be able to raise to go to the AHA PAC and each year we meet that goal but only after drawing funds out of operations and not through donations. Nationally, other outside parties have millions of dollars that are being utilized to influence our national representatives. If we don't donate and get involved then we cannot complain about the outcome. I am very impressed with the work the AHA is doing on our behalf. They are constantly fighting for hospitals. This year they have done a great job in pushing an agenda to get RAC reform, help with the 2 midnight rule, meaningful use stage 2 relief, work to get rid of the 96-hour rule and much more. The only way the AHA can continue these efforts and continue to be so successful is with our support to the PAC. If you aren't involved I encourage you to

become involved and to contribute towards the AHA/WHA PAC.

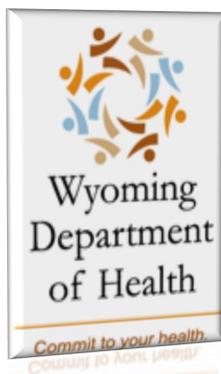
The next Joint Labor, Health and Social Services Committee hearing is coming up August 24 & 25 in Lovell, as well as the second task force meeting for Title 25 in Casper on August 12. A second survey was sent to each of you via email asking about uncompensated care and requires a simple email response to Don Richards with the LSO. For those of you who have not responded, I encourage you to do so. It'll take a couple of minutes but will help the JLHSS committee to understand the scope of the uncompensated care problem.

You should have all received letters from the Department of Health regarding uncompensated care reimbursement program. This is the second half of SF145 and will allocate \$2 million to all of the acute care hospitals around the state. It tells how much money each of you are eligible to receive and gives you the process for applying for funding. I really hope you'll all take the time to read the letter and apply for your share of the funding.

I look forward to seeing you all in Casper on September 1-3. Keep up the good work and let me know what we can do to help.



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



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CRMC Earns Award for Care of Heart Attack Patients

Cheyenne Regional Medical Center (CRMC) has received an award from the American Heart Association for providing prompt, quality medical care for heart attack patients.

The hospital received the association's Mission: Lifeline Gold Receiving Quality Achievement Award.

AHA launched its Mission: Lifeline program nationwide a few years ago to provide quick medical care

for heart attack patients.

Mission: Lifeline Wyoming started in June 2012 to improve heart attack care across the state. Wyoming received \$7.1 million from the Heart Association and the Leona and Harry Helmsley Charitable Trust to provide heart attack patients with access to care.

CRMC earned the gold because it met treatment goals for patients who have a STEMI heart attack.

Ben Leonard of the AHA in Wyoming said the award means CRMC has performed at recommended measures for two full years.

Hospitals must achieve a "door-to-device" time of 90 minutes or less at least 85 percent of the time to earn a gold award.

CRMC has an average door-to-device time of 55 minutes.

Wyoming Telehealth Workshop

The Wyoming Department of Health, Office of Rural Health and Ptolemy Data Systems would like to invite you to participate in a Lunch and Learn Workshop designed to bring Telehealth service providers together with Healthcare Professionals interested in learning more about Telehealth in Wyoming.

If you are providing Telehealth services or interested in expanding your healthcare services to include Telehealth technologies; please consider joining

us for one of our informational workshops this fall.

The Lunch and Learn Workshops begin with check-in at 11:30 AM followed up by a welcome and overview presentation during lunch.

Each workshop will host 1 – 2 speakers who will present on best practices, network options, technology integration and/or reimbursement information.

Don't miss this opportunity to grab some lunch, network with peers and learn how Telehealth technologies

can enhance your healthcare services.

The first event will be in Casper, August 20th at the Community Health Center of Central Wyoming in the Blackmore Room starting at 11:30am.

The link to register for the workshop is <https://www.eventbrite.com/d/local/wyoming-telehealth-workshop/>

For questions regarding the workshops, contact info@ptolemysystems.com

Upgrade Coming for Response to Cardiac Emergencies

The Wyoming Department of Health's Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS) is leading a statewide effort to enhance and modernize Wyoming's ability to respond to cardiac emergencies.

The Wyoming Compression Devices and Evaluation (WYCODE) project will ensure automated chest compression devices

are available for every ambulance service, hospital emergency room and cardiac catheterization lab across the state.

Wyoming OEMS will coordinate WYCODE.

Funding is being provided by the Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust through a \$1.7 million grant. The grant covers the purchase of numerous LU-

CAS™2 System devices and free training.

WYCODE will kick off with a series of trainings conducted across Wyoming during August and September. For more information about the trainings and WYCODE, please visit <http://www.health.wyo.gov/sho/ems/wycode.html> online.