



NEWS BRIEFS

Informational Newsletter for Wyoming Hospitals

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WHA Calendar:

Legislative Reception Little America	2/9

Other Events:

Legislature Begins	1/10
National HFMA Meeting Las Vegas	1/15-1/18

Rural/Frontier Care Transitions – Project ECHO®

Rural states like Wyoming and Montana face a variety of challenges when it comes to health care.

Physician and medical provider shortages and availability of services remain constant challenges in these states. Great distances between towns, geographic barriers and weather are additional factors that complicate receiving and coordinating quality health care.

With the older population in these states aging at a faster rate than much of the country, these states could have a greater need for improved and effective care coordination.

The mission of Project ECHO® is to expand the capacity to safely and effectively provide best practice care for chronic, common and complex diseases in rural and underserved areas and to monitor outcomes of the care using a hub and spoke model.

Using the Project ECHO® model, Mountain-Pacific Quality Health, in partnership with University of Wyoming Center on Aging, will implement and facilitate the Rural/Frontier Care Transitions Network.

Each bi-weekly, one-hour session will include a case presentation and 20-minute didactic presentation of health care topics. Spoke sites, located in Montana or Wyoming

will present cases to the hub team and other network participants who will then provide evidence-based recommendations.

The didactic topics presented will be relevant to care coordination. Each session will be hosted and facilitated using Zoom, an online meeting platform.

Possible Didactic Topics include:

- Evidence-Based Care Transition Models
- Mental Health Issue
- Congestive Heart Failure
- Dementia
- Schizophrenia
- Risk Management
- High Risk Assessment Tools
- Patient and Family Engagement
- EHR – Electronic Health Record.

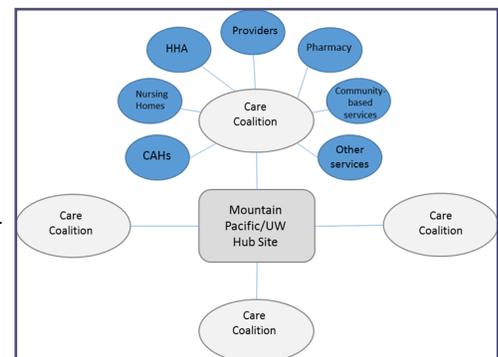
The targeted audience is community coalitions in rural frontier areas composed of critical access hospitals (CAHs) and community referral partners (e.g., home health care agencies, nursing homes, etc.) not currently recruited into community coalitions within Wyoming and Montana.

Objectives of the program are to:

- Encourage best practices, increase knowledge and practice change in the field of care transitions.
- Work to decrease hospital readmission and admissions as well as emergency department use.
- Develop a community of hub teams and spoke sites to foster positive relationships and increase support for rural frontier providers.
- Increase provider participation in care coordination.

Primary Contacts
Kevin Franke, Mountain Pacific Quality Health
307-472-0507,
kfranke@mpqhf.org

Abby Rux, 307-766-2095
amille76@uwyo.edu





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

SMH Celebrates Nurse Residency Program

Sheridan Memorial Hospital celebrated when eleven new registered nurses successfully completed the hospital's six-month Nurse Residency Program.

Key areas of focus in this program are not only clinical competencies necessary to care for patients and families, but the confidence needed to translate their learning and knowledge into clinical practice.

This type of program has been shown nationally and at Sheridan Memorial Hospital to significantly increase satisfaction in the nurses' transition to practice as well as greatly reduce new graduate nurse turnover.

SMH currently maintains a 90% retention rate after four years.

Each participant is granted the opportunity to work one-on-one with an experienced nurse preceptor.

They complete additional specialized training using a systems based approach to reinforce their education with real world hands-on nursing.

They are also scheduled to work in departments across the hospital from housekeeping and nutritional services to pharmacy, allowing them to see and understand the impact each department has on the patient experience.

Crisis Text Line Available

A statewide Crisis Text Line will provide anonymous, continuous crisis support to Wyoming residents who may be in crisis and at risk of suicide.

Promoted by the Wyoming Department of Health, Grace For 2 Brothers Foundation and the Prevention Management Organizations, Crisis Text Line enables anyone with a mobile phone with SMS capability to

access free support by texting WYO to 741-741.

"Many of our Wyoming neighbors who struggle sometimes with depression, bullying, substance abuse, relationship problems and suicidal thoughts feel they have no one to turn to," said Rhianna Brand, director of operations for Grace For 2 Brothers Foundations, a Cheyenne based nonprofit focused on suicide prevention.

Brand noted that text messages offer a discreet, familiar and accessible form of communication available to most people.

Mikki Munson, community prevention specialist with the Prevention Management Organization, said the text line's trained specialists with extensive training in crisis intervention provide emotional support to anyone in crisis, as well as safety planning and referrals.

Medicare ACO Track 1+ Model

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services has released additional details on the Medicare Accountable Care Organization Track 1+ model, which will begin in 2018.

Announced last month, the model will qualify as an advanced alternative payment model under the Medicare

Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act by incorporating more downside risk than is currently present in Track 1 of the Medicare Shared Savings Program, but less downside risk than is currently present in the more advanced Tracks 2 and 3 of the MSSP.

The new fact sheet provides additional details about the total amount of financial risk Track 1+ ACOs will be required to accept.

