

NEWS BRIEFS

Informational Newsletter for Wyoming Hospitals

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State Takes More Control of Suicide Prevention Efforts

Laura Hancock—Casper Star Tribune

WHA Calendar:

**WHA CEO/
Trustee Spring
Meeting
Casper, WY**

5/19

**LeadingAge
Wyoming
Spring Meeting
Casper, WY**

5/17-
5/18

Other Events:

**AHA Annual
Meeting
Washington
DC**

5/7-
5/10

The Wyoming Department of Health has eliminated the contract for the work for training of teachers and others to recognize suicide warning signs. This had previously been handled by the Prevention Management Organization of Wyoming.

DOH personnel will undertake the effort using tobacco settlement funds since the Wyoming Legislature cut a large portion of suicide, tobacco and substance abuse prevention money in the 2017 session, said Dr. Wendy Braund, the state health officer.

After eliminating the suicide prevention contract, the Health Department awarded two other contracts for substance abuse prevention to the Prevention Management Organization.

The organization received the contracts for the fiscal year starting July 1. It took over the work in 2012, when the Health Department decided to contract it out in an attempt to make it more effective.

She said there were several applicants for the contracts this year, but PMO received them because it scored highest in the department's evaluation process.

Keith Hotle, CEO of the organization, said one contract is for \$2.1 million, a 46 percent decrease. The value of a second contract isn't yet final. It was originally for \$650,000, but Hotle expects it to be lower.

Lawmakers during the 2017 session criticized the PMO, calling it ineffective, redundant and having too much overhead. They said it took credit for efforts already underway in Wyoming's counties.

Hotle has previously said overhead costs at the PMO run lower than state-managed prevention. Hotle formerly worked in prevention for the state.

In addition to cutting the Health Department's budget for prevention, the Legislature stipulated that only 10 percent of the prevention contractor's budget could be used on administration.

Because of those cuts, Hotle said there will be layoffs, salary cuts and a reorganization in how the PMO works.

In the past, the PMO was generally given latitude in how it used state grants, Hotle said. But this year, the Health Department specified how it would be spent – down to the

number of positions and the percentage of money for salaries at the community level, he said.

Currently 10 counties have two to three professionals helping with suicide and substance abuse prevention, Braund said. Thirteen counties have one specialist. Now, 15 counties will have one professional and eight counties will share one, she said.

The PMO also worked on marijuana prevention. While that can still be a focus in communities, state money cannot be used on that effort next year, Hotle said.

Braund said with less money, the Health Department prioritized preventing abuse of alcohol, tobacco and opioids. The state received some federal money to curb opioids, she said.

Hotle said the changes will keep the PMO nimble and focused, but it will also reduce the scope of its work.

The PMO has trained 45,000 Wyomingites, or 9 percent of the state's population, on how to watch for suicide warning signs. That training could be saving lives, as 44 percent of the people who have taken the classes said they've used the skills they learned, Hotle said.



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

Wyoming Hospital Association

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St. John's Medical Center Receives Environmental Award

Recently, in recognition of its programs that reduce environmental impact, St John's Medical Center received the Partner for Change Award from Practice Greenhealth, the nation's leading organization dedicated to environmental sustainability in health care.

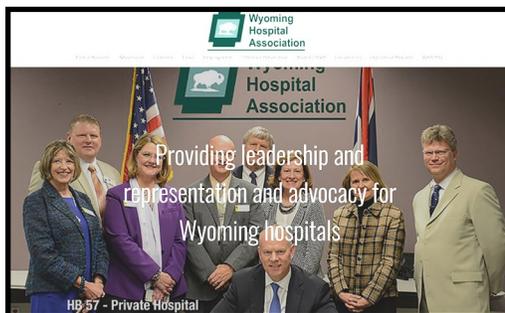
The award is one of the Environmental Excellence Awards given each year to honor environmental achievements in the health care sector.

"This award is a testament to the work that the sustainability committee has undertaken for the past 30 years, and buy-in from the CEO, the board, and our employees," Lisa Smith, sustainability coordinator at St. John's, said in a statement. "We take pride in our sustainability programs and the positive impacts they have on the environment and the community we serve. We look forward to continuing to grow and expand our programs."

Winning facilities recycle at least 15 percent of their total waste, have reduced regulated medical waste, are on track to eliminate mercury and have developed successful sustainability programs in many areas.

The focus on sustainable foods include serving antibiotic- and hormone-free, grass-fed beef and bison. Healthy food options, like the salad bar, are now more affordable. Bottled water has been replaced by filtered water stations throughout the campus.

WHA Launches Updated Website



The Wyoming Hospital Association is proud to reveal our updated website.

The website provides information on:

- Each individual Wyoming hospital
- Newsletters
- Calendar of events for the year,

- Employment opportunities in the state,
- State Infection Prevention efforts,
- Convention information,
- Legislative reports,
- PAC information; and
- Board and staff of the Association.

If you have not already done so, please send your updated pictures and information on your hospital so we can keep our website current.

Newborn Screening Conference

The Newborn Screening and Genetics program, within the Maternal and Child Health Unit, is excited to announce the upcoming newborn screening education conference, "Every Hour Counts" on June 29-30, 2017 in Cheyenne.

This conference is

meant for labor and delivery staff, health information managers, and anyone who is involved in newborn screening specimen collection.

If you have any questions, please contact Newborn Screening and Genetics Coordinator, Carleigh Soule at car-

leigh.soule@wyo.gov.

Additional details, including conference agenda, will be shared later this month. Register for the conference online at <https://goo.gl/forms/r6k1AT7YbDk9erQG2>.