

NEWS BRIEFS

Informational Newsletter for Wyoming Hospitals

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WHA Calendar:

WMS/WHA Patient Safety Conference Casper 11/2

Other Events:

HFMA Meeting Saratoga 10/17-10/19

STEMI/SCA System Meeting Casper 10/29

Joint Labor Health and Social Services Committee Casper 11/12-11/13

One-Day Summit to Focus on Improving Patient Safety

A one-day summit in Casper next month will focus on continuous improvement in patient safety across all of Wyoming’s healthcare delivery channels.

The summit is scheduled for November 2 at the Ramada Plaza Riverside. It will feature discussions about medical error disclosure, medical law, Wyoming’s apology law, patient safety organizations and care transitions.

The event is sponsored by the Wyoming Medical Society and the Wyoming Hospital Association.

WMS President Dr. Mike Tracy said the practice of medicine is increasingly complex, with care being delivered in a variety of settings, including office practices, emergency departments, hospitals, surgery centers, and nursing homes.

Though it is every provider’s goal to prevent illness, compassionately treat patients, and reduce suffering, things do not always go as planned.

“Please join a group of concerned healthcare stakeholders in a one-day summit to discuss issues related to patient safety that will help us all to proactively improve the safe delivery of healthcare in our great state,” he said.

WHA Chairman Eric Boley echoed the need for continuous improvement in the safe delivery of healthcare.

“When a patient comes to us for their healthcare, they expect and deserve to be treated with respect and compassion,” he said. “They also expect to be safe. While we all do a great job in delivering excellent care to those we serve, we can always do better.”



The program will feature Kimberly Irby, program manager for care transitions activities for the Colorado Foundation for Medical Care. Ms. Irby is currently the program manager for analytics for the Integrating Care for Populations and Communities National Coordinating Center.

In that role, she supports Quality Improvement Organizations across the country in identifying local target com-

munities and implementing improvement plans that coordinate hospital and community-based systems of care.

Kathy Springer, Patient Safety/Risk Management Account Executive for the Northwest Region of The Doctors Company, will also present at the summit. Ms. Springer is registered nurse with pediatric clinical experience.

Her 35-year career in outpatient healthcare includes experience in management and administration, risk management, physician professional peer review, and other areas.

The summit will also feature Dr. Alan Lembitz, Vice President of Patient Safety and Risk Management at COPIC. Dr. Lembitz’s key areas of focus include physician education, communication including disclosure of unanticipated outcomes, physician management, patient safety, and others.

For a complete schedule of events, and to register online, visit www.wyomed.org/patientsafety.



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



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



CRMC Receives Community Partner of the Year Award

The University of Wyoming Fay W. Whitney School of Nursing presented the 2012 Basic BSN program's Community Partner of the Year award to Cheyenne Regional Medical Center (CRMC) at the school's annual Nightingale Ceremony.

The Basic BSN program, a traditional on-campus bachelor of science in nursing program, has enjoyed a successful clinical partnership with CRMC.

CRMC provides UW nursing students with clinical

experiences and actively seeks to hire UW's graduates.

"We continue to enhance our clinical partnership each year," said Susan Steiner, Associate Dean of the school. "CRMC's Karen Bowen, BSN, RN, CRMC Clinical Education Manager, works very hard at and is successful in facilitating the CRMC clinical experience for our students."

"She has been particularly diligent in helping faculty find the best experience for every senior capstone stu-

dent who wishes to be placed at CRMC."

In addition to Bowen's administrative support, the staff in the various CRMC units elicited praise from Deborah Retz, a nursing faculty member and clinical instructor at CRMC.

"I am privileged to have had the honor of working for CRMC for 33 years. I can tell you that the Telemetry, Cardiac Catheterization Lab, ICU and OR staff are wonderful to work with and are very pro-student," she said.

Ward Receives Daniel J. Lex Award for Long-Term Care

Sandy Ward, CEO of Johnson County Healthcare and administrator of the Amie Holt Care Center in Buffalo, received the second annual Daniel J. Lex Award for Lifetime Service in Long-Term Care during the LeadingAge Wyoming annual conference in Jackson last month.

The award was created in honor of Daniel Lex, who served for more than 20 years as executive director of the Quality Health Care Foundation – now called LeadingAge Wyo-

ming – which represents Wyoming's non-profit nursing homes. Lex died in 2010.

The award recognizes an outstanding professional who has dedicated their career to providing high quality long-term care.

"It is an honor to be selected as the recipient of the Dan Lex Award," Ward said. "Dan was a wonderful person who made a significant contribution to healthcare in Wyoming."

Ward was hired as Chief Executive Officer of the

Johnson County Healthcare Center in Buffalo in November 1987. His responsibilities include administration of the hospital, clinic, and the Amie Holt Care Center.

"The letter nominating Sandy for this award speaks of his commitment to his residents, to his employees, and to his community," said Steve Bahmer, executive director of LeadingAge Wyoming.

"Sandy is a respected leader, and he truly embodies the spirit of this award."

WHA Adds Job Posting Feature to Web Site

A new feature on the Wyoming Hospital Association web site is intended to help member hospitals advertise open positions and find the best candidates to fill those positions.

The feature, which is accessible from the home page of the WHA web site at www.wyohospitals.com,

enables hospitals to post information about any open position in their hospital.

It will also enable members to link to their own web sites or other online resources for more detailed job descriptions and contact information.

The newly launched feature is located at the

'Employment' link at the left side of the WHA home page.

For more information about the new feature, or to post a job opening, contact Rose Fishback at the WHA at (307) 632-9344, or via email at rose@wyohospitals.com.

Wyoming Hospital Association

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