

NEWS BRIEFS

Informational Newsletter for Wyoming Hospitals

Volume 44, Number 40

October 18, 2013

WHA Calendar:

Healthcare Leadership Training	11/1
Wyoming Patient Safety Summit Casper	11/15

Other Events:

HFMA Fall Meeting Sheridan	11/7-11/8
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Wyoming Hospitals Recognized for Quality Improvement

Three Wyoming hospitals among the participants in the HRET Hospital Engagement Network activity were recently selected for personal site visits by the leadership of the nationwide quality improvement program.

Dating back to early 2012, the Wyoming Hospital Association has continued to serve as the host organization in advancing quality improvement efforts and education on behalf of the American Hospital Association's Health Research & Educational Trust (HRET).

The program was initiated nationwide by CMS to provide a new level of focus and resources to be made available to support multiple aspects of hospital quality improvement, infection prevention, and patient safety endeavors.

Through this support from HRET, Wyoming's participation via WHA has grown to include a roster of seventeen hospitals representing the state in the project.

This past week, WHA hosted HRET's Jessica Blake and Cynosure Health representative, Cheryl Ruble, for a series of personal site visits at three outstanding Wyoming hospital organizations: West Park Hospital, Powell Valley Health Care, and North Big Horn Hospital.

Through the intent of this program, HRET clinical teams have been conducting hospital site visits across the country and were extremely pleased to have these hospitals represent Wyoming very well in all aspects of quality improvement and the effective engagement of local medical staff and hospital leadership.



Jessica Blake reviewed with each hospital the updated goals and priorities that have been established by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Innovation and the Partnership-for-Patients program.

Through HRET, the American Hospital Association's commitment to providing programmatic and data gathering support was clearly illustrated by the content provided by Ms. Blake.

From a more clinical perspective, with advanced practice nurse and trauma coordinator background, Cheryl Ruble identified her work with Cynosure Health as a clinical consult role designed

to provide practical application of quality improvement direct with local hospital staff.

She provided each hospital a variety of helpful measurement tools and 'top-10 checklists' for several clinical areas, including CLABSI, CAUTI, and surgical site infection prevention.

At each hospital, the focus on reducing the incidence rate of hospital readmissions was also a key area of interest and extensive discussion.

The study of readmissions is clearly found to lend itself to analysis of protocols for avoiding adverse drug events and the positive impacts that an effective medication reconciliation program can have on reducing readmissions.

From a nursing perspective, Ms. Ruble illustrated the concept of maintaining a highly-reliable, comprehensive approach to patient care and top quality goals for patient outcomes and experience.

WHA expresses its appreciation to all Wyoming hospitals for their diligent participation in quality improvement efforts statewide – and specific thanks to the hospital staff members in Cody, Powell, and Lovell for representing Wyoming in such positive personal manner this past week.



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



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



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Teddy Bear Clinic Held at Star Valley Medical Center

Kindergarten students have once again participated in the annual Teddy Bear Clinic at Star Valley Medical Center (SVMC).

"The tots will be taking a tour of much of the hospital," said Mike Hunsaker of SVMC. "They will be able to take their stuffed animal through the ambulance, and then tour the ER. From the ER they will stop at the nurse's station and learn

how to put a bandage on their bear. They will go the lab station and learn to wash their hands and check them under a black light to see if they got all the glittery soap off. Next they will go to the radiology department to let their bear ride on an x-ray machine. They will also see the CT machine and look at some x-rays of things kids have swallowed. They will see our friend Mr. Skeleton

and learn about bones. From there they will go to a patient room where Dr. Peiper will talk to them about staying healthy and teach them how to take their temperature."

According to Hunsaker, the students will each receive a bag of items to take home. Each class will "get some stethoscopes that they can use in their classroom," he said.

Dockter is new CEO at Castle Rock Hospital District

Bailie Dockter has been named Chief Executive Officer of Castle Rock Hospital District in Green River.

Dockter had been the human resources director for the district. She said her new responsibilities will include overseeing all of the district's institutions including the medical center, the convalescent center, The Villa assisted living facility and the ambulance service.

The decision by the Castle Rock Hospital District and Memorial Hospital of Sweetwater County to work together while retaining their separate identities will

also increase service. Under the agreement, local physicians in Green River and Rock Springs are sharing expertise.

"We're a small community in a small state, so it makes sense to tap into each other's resources," Dockter said.

Dockter said she has personally worked with her on human resources matters and will continue to assist with staff and physician recruitment. The recruitment of quality staff will continue as always, Dockter said and the Castle Rock Hospital District will

continue working to meet the financial challenges it faces and to provide the best quality health care for area residents.

Dockter said that she grew up in a ranching family in Lusk. She attended Dickinson State University in North Dakota and earned bachelor degrees in business administration and psychology. She has been with Castle Rock for six years and she has been active in physician recruitment and the 6th-cent tax initiatives.

WHA Goes Live on Facebook and Twitter

In order to expand communications with members, as well as legislators and the public, the Wyoming Hospital Association has launched a presence on Facebook and Twitter.

The WHA's social media approach will enable it to directly deliver key information on important topics, such as the Medi-

caid expansion, and when information is moving quickly, such as during the legislative session.

Facebook and Twitter also open up WHA communications more broadly to the public, strengthening the WHA's position as the key source for hospital and healthcare related information in Wyoming.

Both social media outlets will be updated regularly, so check them often to stay up with the latest from the WHA, and on healthcare news from around Wyoming.

Follow the WHA on Facebook by visiting www.facebook.com/wyohospitals, and follow us on Twitter using @WyoHospitals.