

# NEWS BRIEFS

Informational Newsletter for Wyoming Hospitals

Volume 44, Number 38

October 4, 2013

## WHA Calendar:

Healthcare Leadership Training	10/18
Wyoming Patient Safety Summit Casper	11/15

## Other Events:

HFMA Fall Meeting Sheridan	11/7-11/8
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## President's Corner

In an effort to enable the membership to understand more fully the activities of the Association, I am pleased to announce that I will be writing a monthly feature in Newsbriefs beginning the first Friday of every month.

Many times I have heard someone say, "Gee, I didn't realize you were involved in that!", which tells me that we should ramp up our efforts to highlight what is going on here at the Association as well as offering observations on healthcare issues occurring at the state and federal level.

At the time of this writing, the government shutdown is currently taking the spotlight in the news largely because of the House attempting to defund the Affordable Care Act.

While that specific attempt won't see the light of day, I can't help but wonder what the future holds for carrying out some of the mandates of the ACA. House Republicans have demonstrated their intention to impose a one year delay in the requirement in the

healthcare law for individuals to purchase coverage.

Meanwhile, in the coming months our politicians will be squabbling over all types of funding cuts through the budget negotiation process.

WHA is in the middle of an effort between a subcommittee of the board and a subcommittee of the Wyoming Business Coalition on Health, designed to come to an agreement on a set of quality reporting metrics that would be made available to the public to help them be better informed consumers.

In a May meeting between our two organizations, we agreed to come together through a series of meetings to find common ground on those hospital quality metrics. A major guiding principle emerged, calling for efforts to enable our hospitals to continue to provide high quality healthcare and be as transparent as possible in the process.

We have had two subsequent conference calls and have a third scheduled sometime in late October.

Our last session focused upon the CMS initiative behind value-based purchasing and how the reporting features of that effort dovetails with our objectives. Our next meeting will feature representatives from Wiscon-

sin's CheckPoint program, a public reporting vehicle of quality, safety and service measures.

CheckPoint provides reliable data on interventions that medical experts agree should be taken to treat heart attacks, heart failure and pneumonia, surgical services measures that research indicates will lead to the best outcome for common procedures, and error prevention measure.

I will keep the membership apprised of our progress through Newsbriefs and other forms of communication.

It was good to see so many attendees at the WHA Annual Meeting and Convention in Sheridan a couple of weeks ago.

Around 285 people were present at this year's event and heard some excellent presentations, including our keynote speaker, Quint Studer. Quint's work with hundreds of top healthcare organizations provided terrific insights on how our hospitals can achieve the peak performance they need to survive in this changing environment.

Please mark your calendars for next year's Convention – September 23-25 – at a location to be determined.



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

HEALTHCARE EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION FREE EDUCATIONAL WEBINAR SERIES. Includes a photo of a healthcare worker and text about the webinar series.

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Crook County Upgrades Technology and Facilities

A number of upgrades are underway at Crook County Medical Services District in Sundance that will improve hospital efficiency and provide new opportunities for patient care.

Some of those improvements include the installation of an electronic medical record system at the long-term care facility. Equipped with touchscreens, the system enables caregivers to track activities throughout the day, and to track resident

trends.

The system reduces the amount of time spent on paperwork and increases the amount of time spent delivering care, said CEO Jan Van Beek.

At the same time, approval is pending on a new radiology suite. This upgrade will require a remodel of the existing surgical suite to provide sufficient space for new CT and x-ray equipment.

But CCMSD is reaching even further, strengthening

network connections with its three clinics so that x-ray images can be digitized and data can be shared between the locations.

"Once we get our electronic medical record system, everybody will be able to see what's in any other clinic," Van Beek said.

The hospital also plans capital improvements that include upgrades to windows, flooring, air conditioning and plumbing.

Webinars to Focus on Effective Healthcare Communication

Registration is now open for a series of webinars aimed at improving communication about healthcare issues with those who have sensory disabilities, or who do not read, write, or speak English.

Sponsored by the Wyoming Hospital Association, the Wyoming Institute for Population Health, and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Civil Rights, the webinars are free of charge.

The monthly series is designed to educate participants about their communication obligations, and to offer practical examples and tips.

All sessions are scheduled from noon to 1 p.m., and the first webinar is set for October 16.

To register, email Beth Young at beth.young@crmcwy.org, or call (307) 773-8185.

If you register by email, reference the 'Effective

Communication Webinar' in the subject line and include your name, hospital, telephone number, email address, and which sessions you plan to attend.

Connection information and session materials will be sent to all participants before each webinar.

More information about the schedule is available from the WHA and from the Wyoming Institute for Population Health.

Funding Available For REACH Program Planning

Funding is available for planning and implementation of a program designed to raise awareness, interest, and understanding of health careers available in rural Wyoming.

The Research and Explore Awesome Careers in Healthcare (REACH) program is supported by the Wyoming Office of Rural Health and focuses on rural students in grades five

through eight.

REACH is intended to increase awareness and interest in health careers using creative and interactive activities. Up to \$2,000 per location is available to support planning and implementation efforts. Funding will be provided on a cost-based reimbursement basis.

Rural Wyoming K-12 schools, as well as hospitals, clinics, community health

centers, and public health units are eligible to apply for the funding.

To apply, visit http://www.health.wyo.gov/rfhd/rural/REACH.html for detailed information and grant guidance. Grant proposals are due by 5 p.m. on December 2, 2013.

For more information contact Sharla Allen at (307) 777-7293 or via email at sharla.allen@wyo.gov.