



# NEWS BRIEFS

Informational Newsletter for Wyoming Hospitals

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## WHA Calendar:

HFMA Meeting Cody	11/16- 11-18

## Other Events:

Special District Task Force Casper	10/14
Title 25 Special Committee Meeting Cheyenne	10/17
Joint Corporations Committee Cheyenne	11/21- 11/22
Joint Labor Health & Social Services Committee Cheyenne	12/12- 12-13

## President's Message

As I sat spellbound and listened to Auditor Cynthia Cloud, my heart race quickened. As I looked at the pictures of her and her family and listened to her story, my heart broke. As she shared the story of how her 17 year old son Conner took his own life I had tears in my eyes and I thought of my own children and how I would react to losing one of them, especially if it was preventable. My heart goes out to Cynthia Cloud and her family and I applaud their bravery, as they try to turn the tragedy in their lives into a mission to save others.

I have been asked by the PMO (Prevention Management Organization) to help spread the word and to enlist your help.

Every year, Wyoming suicide rates climb. We have been the highest suicide rate per 100,000 people for years until just recently when we dropped to 2nd. Every three days, on the average, a citizen of Wyoming takes their own life.

We have 7 times more suicides in our state than we do murders. We can do better and I am challenging all of you to make it a priority in your facilities and in your communities to help battle mental illness and to eliminate suicides.

I know it is easier said than done and we can all say to ourselves that suicide is just part of life. We may wonder what we can do individually and collectively to combat this problem. We may think that we really can't make a difference and many of you may not even finish reading this plea from me to do something about this in you facilities.

The Governor held his first annual Suicide Prevention Symposium this past week and I know that we can do better. The following organizations received special recognition from the Governor during the symposium.

**Pioneer Award:** This hospital was the first one in Wyoming to mandate suicide prevention training for their clinical staff. They blazed the trail for other hospitals to follow and continue to be active in community based suicide prevention. The award goes to: **West Park Hospital.**

**Pacesetter Award:** This mental health and substance abuse healthcare provider recognized the need for all staff to be trained in suicide prevention and incorporated suicide prevention training into their on-boarding and annual training require-

ments. They set the pace for all Wyoming mental health and substance abuse healthcare organizations. The award goes to: **Wyoming State Hospital.**

**Champion in Medicine and Suicide Prevention:** This hospital was the first to step up and respond to the statewide suicide prevention challenge of 10 hospitals in 10 weeks. This hospital accomplished training over 200 medical staff members in suicide screening, triage, and prevention response in less than 10 weeks. The award goes to: **Iverson Memorial Hospital.**

I was so impressed with the stories from around the state of hospitals that are fighting this problem and are doing all they can to prevent the senseless and unnecessary loss of life due to suicide. We conduct our community needs assessments and we all see that suicide is a problem in every corner of our state. Each of us should make it a priority to provide education and training to all of our employees on detecting and helping prevent suicide. Not everyone needs to be a clinician, but rather a friend or an acquaintance that knows the signs to look for and gets the person the help they need.



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

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## Wyoming Medical Center Hosts P.A.R.T.Y.

Wyoming Medical Center's Trauma Program hosted P.A.R.T.Y. Casper on Saturday, Oct. 1, for teens ages 13 to 18.

P.A.R.T.Y. — Prevent Alcohol and Risk-Related Trauma in Youth — offers an approach to education geared toward the unique needs of teenagers.

This one-day, in-hospital program is internationally recognized as

an injury prevention strategy to help reduce the incidence of risk-related trauma in youth.

Risk-taking can sometimes lead to tragic consequences, and this program was designed to show teens the consequences of activities such as:

- Drinking and driving
- Dangerous/distracting driving
- Not wearing a seatbelt
- Not wearing protective

gear during recreational activities

"This is a great opportunity to educate our teens on the consequences of risky behaviors. There was hands-on games as well as demonstrations," said Cari Hacking, trauma coordinator at Wyoming Medical Center.

## New Toolkit Can Support Employee Health and Wellness

A new toolkit designed to help local businesses support the health and wellness of employees is now available from the Prevention Management Organization of Wyoming (PMO).

"This toolkit can help employers improve their bottom line by showing ways they can support employees in making healthy lifestyle choices," said Keith Hotle, PMO chief executive officer.

Hotle explained chronic conditions such as heart disease and dia-

betes and unhealthy behaviors like alcohol and tobacco use cost the state more than \$1 billion a year. "The fact is employers bear the brunt of unhealthy behaviors through insurance costs and lost productivity," Hotle said.

The toolkit offers recommendations to address everything from alcohol, drugs, tobacco, and mental health and suicide to exercise, sensible eating, and breastfeeding-friendly environments. The toolkit takes into account differences in business types and size.

The PMO-developed toolkit was supported by the Wyoming Department of Health using state and federal funds.

Businesses may download a toolkit by going to the PMO website at [www.pmowyo.org](http://www.pmowyo.org).

A limited number of hard copies are available upon request by contacting local community prevention specialist; local contact information is available at [www.pmowyo.org/contact](http://www.pmowyo.org/contact)

## HHS Funds Center to Share Cybersecurity

The Department of Health and Human Services has awarded \$350,000 to the National Health Information Sharing and Analysis Center to provide cybersecurity information and education on cyber threats to the health care sector. The cooperative agreements

also will build the center's capacity to receive cyber threat information from member health care entities, HHS said. "These agreements mark a critical first step toward addressing the growing threat cybersecurity poses to the health care and public health sector," said Nicole Lurie, M.D., HHS

assistant secretary for preparedness and response.

"Creating a more robust exchange about cybersecurity threats will help the industry prevent, detect and respond to these threats and better protect patients' privacy and personally identifiable information."