



NEWS BRIEFS

Informational Newsletter for Wyoming Hospitals

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WHA Calendar:

LeadingAge Wyoming Board Meeting	1/19
WHA Board Meeting Cheyenne	2/11
Legislative Reception Cheyenne	2/11

Other Events:

Joint Labor, Health & Social Services Committee Cheyenne	1/7-1/8
Legislature Convenes	2/8

WHA Nurse For The Day Program at Legislative Session

The Wyoming Hospital Association (WHA) is seeking nurses for the WHA's Nurse-For-A-Day program during the upcoming Wyoming Legislative Session, and we hope your nurses will volunteer.

The session convenes on February 8, 2016 and is scheduled to end March 4, 2016.

For more than 30 years, the Nurse-For-A-Day program has provided basic medical care – such as taking blood pressures and treating complaints of cold and flu, headaches, and upset stomachs – to Wyoming's lawmakers at the State Capitol.

In addition to delivering that care, the program has enhanced the image of hospitals and caregivers, and it has provided a terrific opportunity for nurses to spend time with legislators from their home counties.

Nurses wanting to volunteer can contact the WHA at 307-632-9344 or rose@wyohospitals.com

We appreciate your ongoing support of this important program, and we look forward to meeting your nurses.

With the Wyoming State Capitol being renovated, this year's Legislative Session will be held at the Jonah Bank Building in Cheyenne.

WHA has been busy getting ready for the 2016 Legis-

lative Session by following the interim topics.

Interim topics include:

Priority #: 1 Health Care System Problems

Health care access and affordability continue to be the main health related problem. The Committee will study: Primary care, especially for non-Medicaid eligible persons below 100% of poverty level; Various models of hospital organization, governance, administration and funding as they affect market, funding and regulatory difficulties; Funding problems and regulatory issues related to safety net programs such as qualified health centers, rural health clinics and home and community based providers; Methods to encourage medical homes.

Priority #: 2 Response to federal actions/initiatives

The Committee will monitor and respond to federal actions/initiatives, which may include: The decision in King v. Burwell regarding availability of tax subsidies in states with a federally operated exchange; The effect of the Affordable Care Act on small employer groups and the Wyoming Small Employer Health Reinsurance (WISER) program; The Affordable Care Act and the status of the Miner's Hospital as a primary care provider; Other federal requirements

regarding supervised agencies that need immediate action.

Priority #: 3 Medical Education, Retention and Service Gaps

The state's medical education programs directly impact health care provider availability. The Committee will study status and effectiveness regarding: WWAMI; The Wyoming Family Practice Residency program, including potential outreach and service to underserved areas; Nursing education incentive programs, including possible adoption of the Interstate Nurse Licensure Compact.

Priority #: 4 Review of Reports

The Committee currently receives numerous reports from the departments of Health, Workforce Services and Family Services. The Committee will respond as necessary to issues raised by the reports. In particular, the Committee will review a report regarding the worker's compensation experience modification rate and the Governor's report on homelessness in Wyoming.

Priority #: 5 Workforce Safety

Study workforce safety programs and enforcement, including the use of compliance assistance grants.



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



Nathan Hough

SJMC Improves Patient Comfort with Hospital Gowns

New hospital gowns are the latest improvement put into motion by the Patient Experience office at St. John's Medical Center.

Since its creation in 2014, the Patient Experience office has begun making improvements, both small and large, in order to exceed patient and visitor expectations for service, comfort, and safety.

"It's well known that delivering the highest quality care is our top priority. Beyond that, we recognized a

need to expand our focus on the other factors that enhance the patient experience," said patient experience officer Michelle Kren. "We are excited to implement many of the good ideas that have been suggested by our patients, employees, and other visitors."

Whatever the reason for coming to a hospital, one complaint is common: the gown. Patient expectations demand more privacy and more dignity.

The new "Patient Style"

hospital gowns at St. John's Medical Center have an innovative wrap-around design with side ties to assure modesty in the front and back. The signature interlock fabric provides warmth and softness, feeling like sleepwear that one might wear at home. The hospital will next be ordering pants from the same apparel line. The idea for new apparel was piloted last year in the Oncology and Mammography departments.

Hough Named CEO in Sundance

Crook County Medical Services in Sundance has announced that Nathan Hough has been named to take over as the permanent administrator for the hospital district.

"Down on the whiteboard in our meeting room is a statement to be the best critical access hospital in Wyoming. I think that's a good goal – initially, then we can move beyond Wyoming," he grins.

My plan is to ensure healthcare in Sundance and in the county for long into the future. One of the things I think we need to decide is what we do, and do that well, and make sure those services are there for the county now and moving into the future – top quality care."

Originally from Minnesota, Hough brings two decades of healthcare experience to the table as he takes

the reins of the district. He holds a Masters degree in Healthcare Administration. "I've been in healthcare for nearly 20 years."

Hough intends to get together with the Board of Trustees in the near future and address how the district should move forward, its role in the community and what the community needs

"My door is always open – I'm easy to find," he smiles.

AHA Encourages Hospitals to Complete IT Survey

The American Hospital Association (AHA) is encouraging all hospitals to complete the eighth annual Information Technology Supplement to the AHA Annual Survey, which the association began mailing to CEOs Friday.

Recipients should forward the survey to their chief information officer to complete on paper or

online by Dec. 28.

"Even if your hospital has not adopted any or all of the specific technologies in the survey, your answers are helpful as the AHA carefully monitors the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' implementation of incentive programs on meaningful use of electronic health records, which will be followed by penalties in

2015 and later," AHA President and CEO Rick Pollack notes in the survey cover letter.

For more information, contact AHA survey support at 800-530-9092 or survey.support@healthforum.com.



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