



NEWS BRIEFS

Informational Newsletter for Wyoming Hospitals

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February 14, 2014

WHA Calendar:

Healthcare Effective Communication Webinar	3/12
Wyoming Chapter HFMA Casper	3/19-3/21

Other Events:

Wyoming Legislative Session Convenes	2/10
ACHE Congress Chicago, IL	3/24-3/27



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Frontier Community Health Integration Project

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has announced a request for applications for the Frontier Community Health Integration Project.

In collaboration with the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy in the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), this initiative aims to develop and test new models of integrated, coordinated health care in the most sparsely populated rural counties with the goal of improving health outcomes and reducing Medicare expenditures.

The Frontier Community Health Integration Project is authorized under section 123 of the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act of 2008 (MIPPA) and amended by section 3126 of the Affordable Care Act.

The statute authorizes a three year demonstration, "to develop and test new models for the delivery of health care services in eligible counties for the purpose of improving access to, and better integrating the delivery of acute care, extended care, and other essential health care services to Medicare beneficiaries".

CMS has designed a demonstration that will improve access to certain services, the delivery of which is often not feasible at low

volumes under current Medicare reimbursement, but which, if integrated into the local delivery system, would lead to improved outcomes and greater efficiency in health care services delivery.

The objective is to increase the availability and accessibility of services which are often not financially viable given the low patient volumes of remote and sparsely populated areas. This demonstration is projected to be budget neutral, as required by the authorizing legislation.

"We are excited about the possibilities the Frontier Community Health Integration Project has to increase access to essential health services for people in these rural areas who would normally not have access to these services," said Patrick Conway, M.D., deputy administrator for innovation and quality and CMS chief medical officer. "We expect critical access hospitals in these regions to introduce new telemedicine, home health, and ambulance services to improve the care received by Medicare beneficiaries."

In this model, CMS will support critical access hospitals in increasing access to services that are often unavailable in frontier communi-

ties with the goal of providing care in beneficiaries' communities and avoiding expensive transfers to hospitals in larger communities.

CMS will evaluate whether providing these services in frontier communities can improve the quality of care received by Medicare beneficiaries, increase patient satisfaction, and reduce Medicare expenditures.

Eligibility is targeted to critical access hospitals in Alaska, Montana, Nevada, North Dakota, and Wyoming.

Applications will include a plan to meet the community's health needs in the areas of:

- telemedicine,
- nursing facility care,
- home health services, and;
- ambulance services.

For additional information about Frontier Community Health Integration Project, including the Request for Applications, please visit the Innovation Center website at <http://innovation.cms.gov/initiatives/Frontier-Community-Health-Integration-Project-Demonstration>.

You may also contact Sharla Allen, Wyoming Office of Rural Health at sharla.allen@wyo.gov or 307-777-7293.



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



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Iverson Courage

Iverson Memorial Hospital (IMH) has created a wellness program called Iverson Courage.

Each month, Iverson Courage brings in a provider from the hospital or a community expert about certain wellness topics to allow women to ask questions.

Topics this spring include women's heart health, fad diets, stress management through meditation and skin

health.

"It's estimated that 80 percent of health care decisions are made by women, so we have to get those girls healthy," said Dee Bott, vice president of marketing and foundation. "We needed to create something for the younger community. It's a great format and opportunity to ask questions they might not be comfortable asking other people."

The hospital's Community Pride committee organizes each class. The initial target group was women 25-40 years old, but most participants have been women over 40 years old.

Wellness is a topic encompassing more than just health, dealing with psychological, emotional, physical or social issues and the program tries to broaden those horizons.

WYPCA Seeks Executive Director

The Wyoming Primary Care Association (WYPCA) is seeking an Executive Director.

Applications will be accepted until a suitable candidate is selected; applications received by February 28, 2014 will receive priority screening.

The WYPCA was formed in 1995 to expand the availability of high quality, affordable health care services throughout Wyoming.

The Association is a membership organization representing seven not-for-profit community clinics

that provide quality health care services including medical, dental, and behavioral health, particularly for low-to-moderate income, uninsured or underinsured Wyomingites who might otherwise not have access to health care.

The WYPCA supports and represents health centers through training and technical assistance, education, and community development. The WYPCA is designated by the Federal Bureau of Primary Health Care as the state primary care association and receives federal

program support to develop and enhance services for members.

Interested applicants should submit their resume and a cover letter describing how their experiences meet the required/preferred qualifications to Ms. Billie Noble at WYPCA_Exec_Search@cheyennehealth.org

For a copy of the Executive Director job description or to learn more about the Association please visit our website at <http://wypca.org/>.

Wyoming Professional Assistance Program

2013 was a year of rebuilding a strong foundation for the Wyoming Professional Assistance Program (WPAP).

WPAP welcomed an entirely new staff, added two board members, revised policies, evaluated procedures and most importantly continued to serve professionals in Wyoming, the boards that li-

cense them and the organizations that employ them.

The mission of the WPAP speaks of retaining the professional and personal talents of the individual. In 2013, they saw 6 individuals successfully complete their monitoring agreements.

Most have volunteered to be mentors to other professionals struggling with the same disease.

In the coming year, WPAP looks forward to building on their now strong foundation. WPAP will be actively reaching out to partners and potential participants.

If you would like WPAP to visit your workplace, organization or conference, please contact them at (307) 472-1222 or Candice Cochran at candicec@wpap-ro.org