

NEWS BRIEFS

Informational Newsletter for Wyoming Hospitals

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WHA Calendar:

WHA Board Meeting
Casper, WY **3/16**

Other Events:

Wyoming Legislature
Convenes **2/13**

HFMA Spring Meeting
Casper, WY **3/21 - 3/23**

Every Wyoming Hospital Commits to Patient Safety From the Mountain Pacific Quality Health News

Despite the many reasons Wyoming hospitals could have opted out of an ambitious patient safety initiative that takes aim at reducing preventable health care-associated infections nationwide, they didn't.

Instead, 100% of the hospitals in Wyoming are partnering with Mountain-Pacific Quality Health and other health care stakeholders to help better protect their patients . . . and their family and friends.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that approximately one in every 20 hospitalized patients will contract a health care-associated infection (HAI).

The majority of these infections are preventable.

Recognizing this fact, Mountain-Pacific Quality Health—Wyoming joined hands with the state health department to successfully recruit 100% of the prospective payment system (PPS) and critical access hospitals (CAHs) in the state to work on a patient safety initiative to reduce these costly and preventable infections.

Unlike many states, Wyoming does not have an Association for Professionals in

Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC) chapter for infection prevention.

The Cowboy State is also the only state to not receive American Recovery and Reinvestment Act HAI prevention funds.

Wyoming hospitals are not mandated to report HAI data. Yet, despite the many reasons physicians and staff could have opted out of this ambitious patient safety initiative, they didn't.



“Because of the relationships we already had established with our hospitals, I knew they would be interested in taking on this project,” explains Ellen Williams, Aim lead for HAI prevention at Mountain-Pacific—Wyoming.

“It's personal. We all know each other. The people we work to protect are not just our patients—they're our family and friends.”

Williams says what is happening in Wyoming is only the beginning.

Staff from every PPS facility and CAH, along with other health care stakeholders, will join together in a

learning and action network to assist each other in an “all-teach, all-learn” environment.

Williams is also working to recruit patients into this group, so they can share their health care stories and offer input from a personal perspective.

In the coming three years, this group will be working to reduce a number of preventable infections. The national goal is to decrease HAIs by 40%, but Williams says Wyoming's ultimate goal is to achieve zero

HAIs.

Mountain-Pacific will provide resources and education to help spread evidence-based practices that target this bold goal.

“Sometimes we serve as a spark,” Williams says.

“Sometimes the hospitals are the spark, and we support what they're already excited about. Our hospitals are excited about patient safety.”

Are you a Wyoming health care provider who would like to learn more about this patient safety initiative?

Visit the Mountain-Pacific Quality Health new website at www.mpqhf.org or contact Ellen Williams from Mountain-Pacific Quality Health—Wyoming at ewilliams2@wyqio.sdps.org.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Bill Patten

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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Powell Valley Health Care Names New CEO

Powell Valley Health Care has hired Bill Patten as the hospital's new CEO.

Mr. Patten has 25 years of healthcare experience, including the past 15 years as CEO at small, rural hospitals in the western United States.

Most recently, he served as CEO of St. John's Lutheran Hospital, a 25-bed medical facility in Libby, Montana.

Prior to that, Mr. Patten was CEO of Sitka Community Hospital, a 27-bed critical access hospital located in Sitka, Alaska. He has also served as CEO of Sedgwick County Health Center in Julesburg, Colorado.

Mr. Patten has a Bachelor of Science in Medical Technology from Walla Walla College in College Place, Washington, and a Master of Arts in Business with an emphasis on Healthcare

Management from Webster University in St. Louis, Missouri.

He is a Fellow in the American College of Healthcare Executives and has served on many healthcare and community boards including the Western Montana Area Health Education Center Advisory Board and the Health Information Exchange of Montana Board of Directors.

Ambulance Simulator Available for Training in Casper

Casper College hosted a free open house earlier this month in its Paramedic Technology Program labs.

A highlight of the open house was the newly completed ambulance simulator.

The simulator, built at a cost of nearly \$40,000, is completely equipped to simulate the majority of ambulances in the country.

"The ambulance is equipped for both basic and advanced life-support situations," said Russ Christiansen, paramedic

technology instructor. The simulator "affords instructors the opportunity to put the students in stressful but controlled environments, especially important when it comes to managing patients who are in critical condition. We can direct all the variables and scenarios," noted Christiansen.

Students can randomly receive a call while in class and are required to access the situation, physically load the "patient" onto the ambulance and decide what he or she is going to do during the

"transport" to the hospital.

The decision-making process includes reports to the emergency room, questions to and from emergency room doctors, and requests for specific medicines and interventions.

The whole training session is recorded and documented, and students are able to see in real time what they did right and wrong.

A total of 70 simulators are in use in the U.S., with two, one at Casper College and one at Laramie County Community College.

AHEC to Host Second Annual Health Careers Camp

The Wyoming Area Health Education Center (AHEC) has announced its second annual Healthcare Careers Summer Camp at the University of Wyoming, July 8-13, 2012.

This career exploration camp is open to 9th and 10th graders (academic year 2011-12) who have an interest in a career in healthcare.

The camp is part of the AHEC's mission to improve

the supply and distribution of the Wyoming healthcare workforce by providing an opportunity for high school students to learn about the numerous career options available in the healthcare field.

Current need and predicted shortages in medicine, nursing, dentistry, pharmacy, and a wide variety of ancillary medical positions require early identification

and support for students interested in healthcare careers.

The purpose of the camp, according to AHEC Director Marivern Easton, is to provide students with an opportunity to explore healthcare careers through interactive activities and observation.

The application are available on the web <http://www.uwyo.edu/ahec/health-careers-summer-camp.html>.