

NEWS BRIEFS

Informational Newsletter for Wyoming Hospitals

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WHA Calendar:

Healthcare Effective Communication Webinar	3/12
Wyoming Chap- ter 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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Two Wyoming CEOs Chosen as Rural CEOs to Know

Late in January, Becker's Hospital Review released a new list titled "50 Rural Hospital CEOs to Know" that included two Wyoming CEOs.

The two Wyoming CEOs are Wyoming Medical Center CEO Vickie Diamond and Rick Schroeder, CEO of North Big Horn Hospital in Lovell.

Becker's released its inaugural list of the rural hospital CEOs noting in a press release that "rural healthcare leaders face certain challenges that are not present in more urban environments."

"For instance, only about 10 percent of physicians practice in rural areas, according to a 2010 report prepared by the Southwest Rural Health Research Center, which can lead to physician shortages," said Heather Punke, assistant editor of Becker's Hospital Review.

According to Becker, the list recognizes rural hospital health system presidents and CEOs who have shown commitment to providing high quality, accessible care to their patient populations in the face of these and other rural health challenges.

Becker's selected the group based on a number of factors, including awards received; local, regional and national leadership positions held; and their organization's

recent performance, though nominations were also considered.

Schroeder's North Big Horn Hospital is a 15-bed critical access hospital in Lovell.

Schroeder is chairman of the Wyoming Hospital Association Board of Directors, and also chairman of the board of the Wyoming Critical Access Hospital Network.

In May of 2013, he was honored in Washington DC by the American Hospital Association with the Grass Roots Champion Award for engaging federal and state lawmakers in issues important to the healthcare field.

He was in Washington recently attending the National Rural Hospital Association Policy Institute.

Vickie Diamond, in the release, said she was honored to be part of the list, but said it was more a reflection of Wyoming Medical Center's outcomes.

"What it means is Wyoming Medical Center is getting out in the public and national press for the accomplishments that we've achieved with our physicians and staff and caring for patients," she said. "That's really what it means."

Last year Diamond was chosen as Wyoming Business Report's first Woman of In-

fluence for health care which focuses on the business and legal side of hospitals and health systems.

Vickie is past Chairwoman of the Wyoming Hospital Association and still currently holds a seat on the Board of Directors.

Diamond is also a board member of the American Hospital Association (AHA) and chairwoman of the (AHA) Region 8 Policy Board, representing seven states – Wyoming, Montana, Idaho, Utah, Arizona, New Mexico and Colorado.



Vickie Diamond



Rick Schroeder

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



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

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Hospital Finishes Healthy-opolis Program

Hot Springs County Memorial Hospital's Healthy-opolis program wrapped up in December with six participants completing the 15-week program.

The goal of Healthy-opolis was to assess health habits of Hot Spring County residents and identify areas that participants could improve.

CEO Robin Roling said nearly two-thirds of the county's residents are overweight or obese, a statistic that prompted the hospital to initiate the program.

Healthy-opolis participants took Blue Zones tests to measure their vitality, longevity and happiness before the Healthy-opolis program began and after it ended.

Part of the program's goals was lowering the participant's "biological age," and indication of how far along a person is with regard to an average lifespan as opposed to their chronological age.

Roling hopes to begin another Healthy-opolis program in March, possibly with a focus on smoking cessation.

vHealth Linc Consortium

In cooperation with WHA, Virtual Health Linc Consortium would like to extend an open invitation to all WHA members to participate in a nationally recognized healthcare consortium.

As of January 1, 2014 USAC officially launched a follow-up to the FCC Rural Health Care Pilot Project named the Healthcare Connect Fund. USAC encourages all interested entities to join a consortium in order to benefit from group purchasing power that is leveraged in the RFP development.

Though entities may par-

ticipate individually, they will not experience the depth of discounts on monthly broadband connectivity and hardware as those entities participating within a consortium.

There is NO cost to join and the consortium will handle all administrative filings on your health system's behalf.

Additionally, all consortium members will experience discounted rates on monthly broadband connections and (not-for-profit and/or public entity) members are eligible for an additional 65% subsi-

dize on services/equipment such as Cloud-based connectivity services and point-to-multipoint; Reoccurring monthly broadband expenses; Last mile, middle mile, backbone services; Dark fiber, fiber maintenance costs; Network equipment necessary to make broadband service functional; Connections to, and equipment located at, data centers and off-site administrative offices.

For more information or to participate in the consortium, please visit www.vhealthlinc.com.

Webinar to focus on Clinical Quality Measures

To help clarify what the 2014 CQM changes are and how these changes can be reported using the Physician Quality Reporting System and/or Quality Net there will be a webinar titled "Understanding and Reporting 2014 Clinical Quality Measures" on Wednesday, March 19 from 1-2 PM (MST).

Topics will include

- Eligible Professional

- CQM Overview
- Eligible Professional CQM – How to Choose the Right Measure?
- Eligible Professional CQM Reporting – via EHR Incentive Program or other CMS System
- Eligible Hospital CQM Overview
- Eligible Hospital CQM – How to Choose the Right Measure?
- Eligible Hospital CQM

Reporting – via EHR Incentive Program or other CMS System.

The presenter will be Mary Erickson, Health Technology Consultant, for the Montana-Wyoming Regional Extension Center.

To register, please visit the following link:
<http://mpqhf.adobeconnect.com/r8v2f0w2l3t/>