



# NEWS BRIEFS

Informational Newsletter for Wyoming Hospitals

Volume 47, Number 9

March 18, 2016

## WHA Calendar:

WHA Board of  
Directors  
Meeting  
Cody, WY

5/18

WHA CEO/  
Trustee  
Educational  
Program  
Cody, WY

5/19

## Other Events:

LeadingAge  
Wyoming  
Spring Meeting  
Cody, WY

5/17-  
5/18

## Erixon Announces Retirement from SageWest



Steve Erixon has announced that he will retire from his position as chief

executive officer (CEO) of SageWest Health Care. His last day will be April 1, 2016.

“We are grateful to Steve for his contributions to SageWest and the Riverton and Lander communities during his tenure,” said Victor Giovanetti, western group president of LifePoint Health. “We wish him the very best in his retirement.”

Giovanetti continued, “We are launching a national search to find the right person to fill this important leadership posi-

tion on a long-term basis. We will keep you informed when a new leader is identified to lead both hospital campuses into the future.”

Erixon said, “It has been a pleasure to lead SageWest in serving the healthcare needs of our communities. My wife and I look forward to the opportunity to focus on travel, spending time with our family, and enjoying our beautiful community and its surroundings.”

Erixon first came to SageWest in January 2013 as its interim CEO. He was appointed acting CEO in April of that same year. He had several notable accomplishments during his leadership tenure, including earning LifePoint’s High Five Award 2012. Erixon

also was integral in the bringing the Lander and Riverton hospitals together as SageWest.

Erixon has served as the head of both hospitals since 2013; originally serving as the CEO for Lander Regional Hospital beginning in 2012. Prior to joining Lander Regional Hospital, Erixon had served in executive hospital leadership roles across the nation since 1987.

Steve was also on the board of directors for the Wyoming Hospital Association working his way through the Chairs.

We all wish Steve good luck in his retirement. He will be truly missed by his peers in Wyoming.

## New Strategic Wyoming Cancer Plan Released

A new plan intended as a guide for Wyoming’s efforts to help reduce cancer’s burden across the state for the next several years is available from the Wyoming Cancer Coalition (WYCC) and the Wyoming Department of Health.

“The Wyoming Cancer Plan for 2016-20 is intended as a strategic, comprehensive and integrated action plan with focus areas including cancer

prevention, early detection, diagnosis and treatment, quality of life, childhood cancer and advocacy,” said Jessica Perez, Wyoming Comprehensive Cancer Control Program outreach coordinator with the Wyoming Department of Health.

The plan can be viewed on the WYCC website at [www.fightcancerwy.com](http://www.fightcancerwy.com).

“To create this plan,

WYCC members evaluated the work of the past five years and recommended changes in direction and focus to strengthen the impact of Wyoming’s cancer-fighting efforts,” Perez said. “All Wyoming residents are affected one way or the other by cancer and can have a role in the fight against cancer.”



## Black Light, Art Make Surgical Rooms Magical

Kamaryn Record was quiet and shy in her bed in the CCMH Surgical Services department, waiting to have her tonsils removed by Dr. Ian Swift, Campbell County Medical Group Ear, Nose & Throat.

Then a nurse turned off the lights and magical sea creatures appeared on the walls. The painting are by local artist Heather Rodriguez.

Surgery Director Sheryl James had two of the 14 pre-operative rooms painted

with special paint that reacts to black light. She got the idea from the black light blood draw rooms in the CCMH Lab.

In the Surgery department, one room has an underwater theme and the other is adorned with Super Heroes.

Just like the rooms in the Lab, the nurses can attest to a complete change of mood in both patients and family members when the black lights are turned on.

“They relax and look

around them,” said Sheryl. It instantly calms everyone down. The nurses have definitely noticed it, too.”

The Surgery department is always looking for ways to make patients feel more comfortable before, during and after their procedure.

Children receive a certificate of bravery and a teddy bear following their visit, and all family members are provided with a free drink and pastry from the Coffee Shoppe while waiting.

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



## WSHE Spring Meeting

The Wyoming Society of Healthcare Engineering (WSHE) will hold their spring meeting/seminar May 18 & 19; at the Holiday Inn @ the Buffalo Bill Village, Cody Wyoming.

This is an opportunity for anyone involved with healthcare engineering to get valuable education and training. The seminar is free to all members of WSHE.

This is the first year the training will be held in Cody, and to promote the meet-

ing, annual WSHE membership fees are waived for anyone attending the meeting.

The education to be provided includes segments on healthcare HVAC, med-gas codes, healthcare design, life safety code, boiler chemistry/maintenance, legionella treatment, and many other topics. Besides education, there is a vendor booth area.

In addition to the scheduled classes, and vendor booths, the ability to network with your peers is in-

valuable.

There will be a change in the agenda for the education sessions this year. Past years have spread the education over 3 days. This year, we will fit all the education classes in two days (to save travel dollars). If you are a maintenance technician, facility manager or healthcare engineer, you should attend the seminar. Information about the seminar can be located at <http://www.wyoshe.us/>

## ICD-10 to Add Thousands of New Codes in FY 2017

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will add about 1,900 diagnosis codes and 3,651 hospital inpatient procedure codes to the ICD-10 coding system for health care claims in fiscal year 2017, the agencies announced this week.

The large number of new codes is due to a partial freeze on updates to the ICD-10-CM and ICD-10 PCS codes prior to implementation of ICD-10 on Oct. 1, 2015.

Both new and revised PCS codes are available at [www.cms.gov](http://www.cms.gov).

The new diagnosis codes will be included in the

hospital inpatient prospective payment system proposed rule for FY 2017, expected next month.

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