



# NEWS BRIEFS

Informational Newsletter for Wyoming Hospitals

Volume 46, Number 11

March 20, 2015

### WHA Calendar:

WHA Trustee Education  
Riverton 5/21

### Other Events:

AHA Annual Meeting  
Washington, DC 5/3-5/6

National Nurses Week 5/6-5/12

## MPQH Annual Infection Prevention Conference

Registrations are actively now being received for the 5th Annual Wyoming Infection Prevention Conference, set to be held at the Ramkota Hotel in Casper on April 21-22.

The leadership from Mountain-Pacific Quality Health and representation from the partner organizations have assembled an excellent agenda for the 2-day conference that will focus upon key components of effective infection prevention protocols.

Day One will open with a patient-focused perspective delivered by Missy Swanson, RN, Quality Director at Memorial Hospital of Converse County.

Kim Neiman, BSN will also present, as Medical Science Liaison with the West Region of PDI, Inc. – as will Brittany Wardle, providing update and review of hospital preparedness activity with the Wyoming Department of Health (WDH).

The afternoon will feature and excellent “Surveillance Panel Discussion”, led by former state surveyor Russ Forney, PhD, now serving lead with MPQH as prevention infection coordinator.

Day Two carries forward with presentation by Emily

Thorp, as Epidemiologist and HAI Prevention Coordinator with WDH – providing timely insight regarding emerging infectious diseases. Erica Hansen, infection prevention practitioner at CRMC will also deliver update regarding transmission based precautions.



The morning also includes presentation by Janet Conner, Regional Director for Banner Health, based at Northern Colorado Medical Center in Greeley.

Patty Skolnik will bring the agenda back to direct patient-centered focus in her experience at the Executive Director of the Citizens for Patient Safety organization. Patty has been featured on the agenda at previous conferences and will sure to be a key highlight of this year’s program.

The afternoon wraps up very appropriately with a Patient/Family Engagement panel discussion – to be moderated by Campbell County Memorial Hospital’s Veronica Taylor, director of infection prevention for their organization.

This conference is again designed to provide a very engaging agenda for leadership and staff from all healthcare provider environments, including both hospitals and long-term care facilities.

Also be reminded that this program is available for a

total of 15 contact hours of nursing CEUs.

WHA is very pleased to be a co-sponsor of

this event alongside others in support of this important and timely educational offering initiated by Mountain-Pacific in their role at QIO for our state.

For the second year, the Wyoming Infection Prevention Advisory Group and their planning partners will be broadcasting the Infection Prevention Conference live from Casper. This allows for viewing in-person, at a host site or online at your own computer.

For further information regarding registration or to request the detailed program brochure, certainly feel free to contact MPQH or WHA.

Please call (307) 766-2829 with questions



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

### Worland Hospital History

Worland's first hospital was opened by Dr. Foster in 1907 and operated until 1914.

In 1909, Dr. Walter O. Gray moved to Worland from Burlington and opened his practice at 612 Coburn Ave. Shortly after 1910, Dr. Gray, with his wife, developed a three-bed hospital and then expanded to 12 beds.

During the 1920s and 1930s, the upper floor of the

Veile Building served as a hospital and was staffed by a series of doctors.

In 1938, Dr. A.A. Anderson built the hospital at 1019 Coburn Ave., now the Washakie County Library.

Washakie County purchased the building in 1949. In 1962, Washakie County built the current hospital located at the corner of Grace Avenue and 15th Street.

The facility was remodeled in 1977, 1985, and 1999, and is now a 25-bed facility.

The property and the hospital structure is owned by Washakie County and Washakie Medical Center is managed by Banner Health.



Chris Smolik

### Smolik Named CEO at NHLC

Niobrara Health and Life Center (NHLC) has named Chris Smolik as its Chief Executive Officer.

Smolik has more than 25 years experience in health care leadership and management.

Smolik most recently served as CEO of Memorial Hospital of Craig, Colo., a county-owned Critical Access Hospital.

He's also served as CEO for Riverton Memorial Hospital for seven years and prior to that served as the

CEO of Edinburg Regional Medical Center in Texas for seven years.

"On behalf of the board of directors, we are happy to welcome Mr. Smolik to the Niobrara Health and Life Center," said Chairman Mark Groh. "His decades-long career in health care management, financial stewardship and executive leadership make him the right choice to lead our hospital through a changing health care system. His experience in building community rela-

tionships, maximizing efficiencies and improving health care processes will be a great boon to Niobrara County."

"I am honored by the confidence bestowed upon me by Niobrara Health and Life Center and its board of trustees. I look forward to getting to know people in Lusk and the rest of the county. It will be a pleasure working with the skilled health care professionals of this hospital," Smolik said.

### Essential Steps for HIPAA Compliance-March 24

The Health Technology & Training Alliance is inviting everyone to attend a free one-hour educational webinar titled Essential Steps for HIPAA Compliance.

The webinar is scheduled for Tuesday, March 24 from 9 – 10 a.m.

During this one-hour webinar, you will explore critical steps to take to en-

sure that your organization is in compliance with federal HIPAA regulations and is protected from costly and embarrassing HIPAA violations and fines.

The webinar is being hosted by Mark Norby, Certified HIPAA Professional Instructor/HIPAA Consultant of the WCA Regional Training Center in Casper.

He can be reached at

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