

NEWS BRIEFS

Informational Newsletter for Wyoming Hospitals

Volume 43, Number 10

March 8, 2013

WHA Calendar:

Flex Planning Meeting Casper	4/2
WHA Board Meeting Riverton	5/16
Trustee Education Program Riverton	5/17

Other Events:

HFMA Spring Meeting Casper	3/20-3/22
WSHE Spring Meeting Casper	5/22-5/24
NE Wyoming Skin and Wound Symposium Sheridan	6/7-6/8

Department of Health Offers Primary Care Grants

Encouraging increased access to effective primary care in Wyoming communities is the goal of a new Wyoming Department of Health grant opportunity.

The Primary Care Support Grant Program is designed to help communities fulfill unmet healthcare needs by providing funds to new and existing Community Health Centers and Rural Health Clinics.

The grants can be used for one-time start-up costs for new clinics, or to allow existing clinics to expand, initiate new services, or comply with quality criteria.

“We know that access to quality medical care is not as robust as we would like in

several areas of Wyoming,” said Keri Wagner, program specialist in the Wyoming Department of Health’s Office of Rural Health. “It’s our hope that community leaders will consider this grant as a first step to open more doors to primary care providers and encourage local residents to help take care of their health.”

The Wyoming Primary Care Association will serve as a partner for the grant’s administration.

“Based on our work to improve primary care in Wyoming, we know there are many communities that could benefit from this grant to increase access to healthcare for their residents,” said Pat-

rick Monahan, the association’s executive director.

The grant program has \$1 million in state funds available; funds will be awarded to one or more applicants on a competitive basis. A 25 percent cash or in-kind community match is required, along with a letter of support from the respective county commission.

The request for proposals period will close on May 31. The grant application and guidance can be found online at <http://www.health.wyo.gov/rfhd/rural/PCSP.html>.

For more information, questions or technical assistance, please contact the Wyoming Primary Care Association at (307) 632-5743 ext. 11.

MPQH Annual Infection Prevention Conference

Registrations are actively now being received for the annual Wyoming Infection Prevention Conference, set to be held in Casper on April 17-18.

The leadership from Mountain-Pacific Quality Health has 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 detailed review of MRSA infection protocols. Also

featured will be Wyoming State Health Surveyors will cover the components and format of the new state survey tool.

Other topics include the dynamics surrounding facility construction and remodeling – the challenges that can surface and the importance of an ongoing Infection Control Risk Assessment.

Day Two carries forward with presentations by Baerbel Merrill highlighting the importance and validity of the role of the Infection Preven-

tionist in all health care facilities seeking improved safety and quality outcomes. David Woodward is then featured with an extensive look at all aspects of hospital ecology, to include focus on environmental factors, disinfection, and sterilization.

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 as QIO for our state.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



South Big Horn Sees Plans for Modernization Project

The South Big Horn Hospital board of trustees saw three-dimensional plans for their reconstruction and modernization project at their February board meeting.

The project is being planned in phases, with most of the early work occurring in the back of the building. However, in order to maintain consistency and the aesthetics of the building, some work will be done on the front of the building as well.

Those plans include a covered entrance with room for two vehicles for patient drop-offs.

Phase one of the project was completed last year with radiology and lab additions. Phase two construction will include a new emergency room and a mechanical plant addition.

The third phase of the project will include inpatient services additions. The fourth and final phase will impact the dietary functions and the central warehouse.

The existing nursing home will remain unaffected by the construction.

Beyond these plans, the board hopes to include a new outpatient clinic, as well as administration and physical therapy additions.

Requests for bids on the reconstruction and modernization project will go out in April or May. The total cost of the project is estimated at \$6.5 million, and it will add 17,000 square feet of new construction.

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

CMS Accelerates Information Exchange Efforts

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced last week HHS's plan to accelerate health information exchange (HIE) and build a seamless and secure flow of information essential to transforming the health care system.

"Thanks to the Affordable Care Act, we are improving the way care is delivered while lowering costs," said Acting Administrator Marilyn Tavenner.

"We are already seeing benefits, such as a reduc-

tion in hospital readmissions due to these reforms. Health IT and the secure exchange of information across providers are crucial to reforming the system, and must be a routine part of care delivery."

This year, HHS will set aggressive goals for 2013, increase the emphasis on interoperability, Enhance the effective use of electronic health records, implement Meaningful Use Stage 2, and underscoring program integrity to ensure the integrity of the program is sound

and technology is not being used to game the system.

The goals build on the significant progress HHS and its partners have already made on expanding health information technology use.

EHR adoption has tripled since 2010, increasing to 44 percent in 2012 and computerized physician order entry has more than doubled (increased 168 percent) since 2008.

For more information, visit http://www.ofr.gov/OFRUpload/OFRData/2013-05266_PI.pdf.

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Save the Date/NE Wyoming Skin & Wound Symposium

The 2013 NE Wyoming Skin and Wound Symposium is scheduled for June 7 & 8, 2013 with preconference activities scheduled for June 6.

Confirmed national speakers include: Dr. Thomas Serena, Dr. Gregory Bohn, Dr. Brock Liden, Dr.

Jeffrey Niezgod, Dr. Karen Zulkowski and Dr. Jeffrey Robbins

A post conference wound debridement workshop will occur on June 8.

Please go to the Events Page at www.sheridanhospital.org for more information.

This event is being planned and hosted by Sheridan Memorial Hospital and the Sheridan Veteran's Administration hospital.