

NEWS BRIEFS

Informational Newsletter for Wyoming Hospitals

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WHA Calendar:

WHA Board Meeting Riverton	5/16
Trustee Education Program Riverton	5/17

Other Events:

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

Trustee Education Session to Focus on Legal Issues

The Wyoming Hospital Association's Trustee Education Conference will focus on helping trustees get up to speed on the complexities of a number of legal issues associated with hospital governance.

The conference is set for May 17 at the Holiday Inn in Riverton. Featured presenters at the conference include Bradley Cave and Kim Stanger, of Holland & Hart, LLP.

Following breakfast and Best on Board recognitions, the conference gets underway with a session on compliance and new requirements from the federal government.

The government is trying to recoup some of the costs of healthcare reform by stepping up enforcement activities and putting more responsibility on Hospital Boards to ensure compliance. This session will review some of the key regulations that govern hospital transactions, including:

- Fraud and abuse laws (e.g., Stark, Anti-Kickback, and Civil Monetary Penalties Laws)
- False claims and repayment of overpayments
- EMTALA
- HIPAA

The second session will offer trustees insight into the challenges in complying with

Wyoming's public meetings and public records laws.

Wyoming's Public Records and Public Meetings Acts are based on laudable goals, but they incorporate a variety of vague and sometimes counterintuitive requirements. And the Wyoming media is watching every public entity for any whiff of secrecy or "closed door" communication.

This session will review some common situations of concern for hospital trustees and discuss "best practices" for boards in the area of public meetings and records.

Quality healthcare begins with quality providers, and hospital boards play an essential role in approving medical staff membership and granting privileges. That is the basis for the third session planned for the conference: "Credentialing Challenges for Boards." During this session, the presenters will review:

- Laws and standards governing the credentialing process
- Keys to an effective credentialing program
- The Board's role in the credentialing process

Living in a small Wyoming town is great – except when it's not. And for hospital board members, it's not great when every hospital

employee and every hospital employee's relative wants to bring their complaints to you. Angry physicians advocating for their favorite former nurse can make it even tougher.

In this session, 'What Boards Need to Know About Employment Matters,' the presenters will explore what hospital boards need to know and how best to respond to community concerns when it seems that everyone in the community is offering their opinions on how the hospital should be treating its employees.

The conference's final program will offer trustees insights into physician integration. More and more hospitals are buying physician practices or finding other ways to align hospital and physician interests. Physicians as well are increasingly interested in employment or otherwise deeper relationship with their local hospital.

This program will briefly summarize some of the popular means for integrating physicians as well as issues the Board should consider before doing a physician deal.

For more information about the Trustee Education Conference, contact the Wyoming Hospital Association at (307) 632-9344.



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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Iverson Launches Program Aimed at Women's Health

Iverson Memorial Hospital in Laramie is encouraging women to ask questions about their health.

The hospital launched a new program recently called Iverson Courage, and it's aimed at women living in Laramie.

Hospital spokesperson Jamie Stine said women are often the primary decision-makers in their households when it comes to healthcare.

"But oftentimes, they're

so busy taking care of everybody else in their household that they forget to take care of themselves," she said.

"That's the basis as to why we decided to implement this."

Topics to be covered during the program include colonoscopies, Botox, menopause, breast health, stress and depression, and back to school safety for children.

Organizers are also planning an art class, a cooking

class, and a summer park series featuring different types of fitness classes, such as Zumba, tai chi, and Crossfit.

Although the program is intended for women, men are welcome, too.

"You don't have to be a woman. Men that are interested in coming because they want to encourage the women in their lives to get involved – that's awesome too."

WCAHN Begins Planning for Next Flex Grant Request

Members of the Wyoming Critical Access Hospital Network (WCAHN) met in Casper last week to establish priorities for the next federal Flex grant application.

The Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility Program provides funding for critical access hospitals and their networks to collaborate and provide services that meet the small hospitals' unique needs.

Through a partnership

with the state Office of Rural Health, the Wyoming Hospital Association manages a portion of the grant, which has funded such projects as the WHA Healthcare Leadership Training Program, in-state financial workshops, and community health needs assessments.

The WCAHN Flex planning meeting was facilitated by Rural Health Solutions, a firm engaged by the Office of Rural Health to guide the planning process and ensure

that Wyoming's plan aligns with federal guidelines for participation in the Flex program.

Members of the WCAHN, the state EMS office and Mountain-Pacific Quality Health reviewed each aspect of the Flex program, including emergency medical services concerns, CAH performance and financial improvement, and quality improvement.

Wyoming currently has 16 critical access hospitals.

EMS Office to Host Leadership Academy in Laramie

The Wyoming Office of Emergency Medical Services will host SafeTech Solutions' EMS Leadership Academy at the Hilton Garden Inn in Laramie on August 22 - 25.

The Academy is a joint project of the Wyoming Department of Health, the Office of EMS and the Office of Rural Health. Because of the support through the Office of Rural Health and the Medicare Flex grant,

the conference is free to Wyoming's EMS leaders.

The Academy will consist of two educational tracks, Level I and Level II. The Level I track is required before participants can attend the Level II track. This will be the first of what I hope are many events in Wyoming. We are hoping we can do this on an ongoing basis.

Featured speakers at the Academy will be John Becknell and Aaron Reinert.

Topics will include finance, recruitment, workforce retention, education, and others. Additionally, the Academy will offer EMS leaders an opportunity to network and learn how other areas of the state are addressing issues in their communities.

Class size is limited to 26, so interested EMS leaders should register immediately through SafeTech's website at: <http://safetechsolutions.us/ems-leadership-academy/>