



NEWS BRIEFS

Informational Newsletter for Wyoming Hospitals

Volume 45, Number 24

June 13, 2014

WHA Calendar:

WHA PAC Golf 9/23
Tournament

WHA Annual 9/24-
Meeting & 9/25
Convention
Cheyenne

Other Events:

Wyoming Safety 6/25-
and Workforce 6/26
Summit
Cheyenne



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July WCAHN to Offer Financial, Executive Education

The July meeting of the Wyoming Critical Access Hospital Network will provide CAH chief executives and their senior teams with timely financial and operational education programs.

The meeting is scheduled for 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. on July 10, 2014, at Elkhorn Valley Rehabilitation Hospital in Casper.

Following its regular quarterly business meeting, the WCAHN will host Eric Shell, a principal at Stroudwater Associates, for a discussion of key financial issues facing critical access hospitals. Mr. Shell has presented financial workshops for the WCAHN in the past, and is a featured speaker on critical access hospital finance issues across the country.

Based on his latest work, 'Evolving Rural Healthcare Environment – Surviving the Crossing of the Shaky Bridge,' Mr. Shell will help critical access executives consider and work through a litany of issues that are well known across Wyoming, including:

- Rural/urban hospital affiliations
- Physician employment
- Flattening patient volumes
- The impact of federal healthcare reform

- Increasing competition for limited revenue opportunities
- Access to capital

The most recent set of challenges facing Wyoming's smallest hospitals center on three key themes: payment systems that are transitioning from volume-based to value-based, increased emphasis on quality as a payment and market differentiator, and payment reductions that are "real this time."



Among the strategies Mr. Shell will discuss to help small hospitals navigate the new environment are a focus on operating efficiencies, patient safety and quality; primary care alignment; and rationalized service networks.

In the end, navigating the shaky bridge will require a planned, proactive approach on the part of critical access hospitals.

In addition to a financial workshop, the July 10 meeting will also feature an Executive Education Session which is open to all Wyoming hospitals, including both critical access and PPS hospitals.

The Executive Education Session will be presented by Nick Healey, partner at the Cheyenne law firm Dray, Dyekman, Reed & Healey. Following Mr. Shell's discussion of emerging rural/urban hospital affiliations, Mr. Healey's session will focus on how to effectively structure affiliation agreements between critical access hospitals and general acute care hospitals.

The Executive Education topic is timely as Wyoming's smallest hospitals consider long-term strategies for continuing to deliver high-quality healthcare in a challenging and continuously changing environment.

Mr. Healey's presentation is part of a seven-part executive webinar series that is presented in partnership with the Office of Rural Health and is funded through federal Flex grant dollars.

As a result of federal Flex funding, both the financial workshop and the executive education session are offered at no charge to participants.

To reserve your seat, to assist with an accurate meal count, and to ensure that you receive all materials for these timely sessions, please email your RSVP to Steve Bahmer at steve@wyohospitals.com.

Seating will be limited, so RSVP today.



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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Jackson Hospital Hosts Walk With a Doc

St. John's Medical Center Wellness, in partnership with Teton County/Jackson Parks and Recreation, will launch Wyoming's first "JustWalk™" Walk with a Doc program in June.

Participants are invited to join local healthcare providers for a brief health education session followed by a 45-minute walk with the provider.

"Walk with a Doc has had tremendous participation and success in many

other communities around the country," said Dr. Hochheiser. "I'm pleased to be part of this exciting and simple program that has the potential to positively impact so many people."

Walk with a Doc is a national non-profit organization with walking programs in 38 states and three foreign countries.

The new Teton County program will be the 144th site in the United States.

By incorporating Walk

with a Doc, these organizations are demonstrating an exceptional level of caring and commitment to their community," said Dr. David Sabgir, cardiologist and founder of Walk with a Doc.

"This is a great opportunity to bring health care out of the hospital or office and into the community where we live and play," added Steve Ashworth, director of Teton County/Jackson Parks and Recreation.

Norman S. Holt Award for Nursing Excellence

In 1983, the Wyoming Hospital Association Board of Directors, in honor and memory of Norm Holt, established the Norman S. Holt Award for Nursing Excellence due to his tremendous understanding and active involvement with the nursing profession.

The award is presented annually at the Wyoming Hospital Association Annual Meeting and Convention to honor one outstanding nurse in Wyoming.

Each Wyoming hospital

is allowed to submit one candidate per year.

The individual institution is responsible for determining its own method of nominating and selecting the candidate who will be submitted for further consideration.

Final selection is determined by the WONE Board, and the WHA Board of Directors.

It is imperative to remember that every R.N. and L.P.N., regardless of position, should be considered an eligible candidate

provided he/she meets the award criteria as shown on the application form.

The recipient of the award will receive a complimentary registration to the 2014 WHA Annual Meeting and Convention, including travel expenses, a recognition plaque and a monetary award.

All applications for this year's award must be received no later than July 1, 2014.

For more information, contact WHA at 307-632-9344.

Senate Bill Would Extend CHIP for Four More Years

Senator Jay Rockefeller (D-WV), chairman of the Senate Finance Subcommittee on Health Care, has introduced legislation to extend funding for the Children's Health Insurance Program through September 2019, consistent with current requirements that states maintain their CHIP ef-

forts through that date.

Without an extension, funding for the program will expire Sept. 30, 2015.

Among other provisions, the Children's Health Insurance Program Extension Act would cover former foster children to age 26; enroll newborns automatically; and make Express Lane Eligi-

bility for children and pregnant women permanent.

"This bill will extend CHIP for four more years and give states the opportunity to increase coverage and enrollments," said Rockefeller, a key architect of the program.