



# NEWS BRIEFS

Informational Newsletter for Wyoming Hospitals

Volume 42, Number 28

July 6, 2012

## WHA Calendar:

WHA Board of Directors Meeting  
Casper, WY **7/16**

WCAHN Meeting  
Casper, WY **7/16**

Annual Meeting & Convention  
Little America  
Cheyenne **9/26-9/27**

## Other Events:

Wyoming Quality Conference  
Lander, WY **8/22-8/23**

Mid America Summit  
Des Moines, IA **9/5-9/7**

## Health Department Seeks Input for Medicaid Options Study

The Wyoming Department of Health (WDH) is inviting interested citizens including Medicaid clients, providers and social service agency representatives to attend one of five public forums scheduled in July to seek ideas on Wyoming's Medicaid program.

During its 2012 session, the Wyoming Legislature approved legislation requiring WDH to conduct a study of Wyoming Medicaid. This legislation requires WDH to analyze the program's cost drivers, identify areas within Wyoming Medicaid that may benefit from redesign and evaluate design options for Medicaid programs.

"We see this study as a valuable opportunity to look at ways Medicaid can be strengthened while we also examine how we can be as responsible as possible with the financial resources available for the program," said Tom Forslund, Wyoming Department of Health director. "Input from those affected by Wyoming Medicaid is necessary for us to complete a balanced and useful study."

Community Builders, Inc, a consulting firm from Douglas, will facilitate the forums on the department's behalf in the following locations:

**Cheyenne - Tuesday, July 10, 5-7 p.m.**

Laramie County Community College - Conferences and Institutes (CCI) Centennial Room  
1400 East College Drive

**Casper - Thursday, July 12, 5-7 p.m.**

Casper City Hall Chambers  
200 North David

**Gillette - Monday, July 16, 5-7 p.m.**

Gillette City Hall Community Room  
201 East 5th Street

**Riverton - Tuesday, July 24, 5-7 p.m.**

Central Wyoming College - RAP Theater (Arts Center Building)  
2660 Peck Avenue

**Rock Springs - Wednesday, July 25, 5-7 p.m.**

Rock Springs City Hall Council Chambers  
212 "D" Street

Medicaid is a joint federal and state government program that pays for medical care for some low-income and medically needy individuals and families. Nearly 90,000 residents were enrolled in Wyoming Medicaid at some time during 2011 with about 77,000 receiving

services. There are currently four primary categories of Medicaid eligibility in Wyoming: Children, Pregnant Women, Family Care Adults, and individuals who are Aged, Blind or Disabled.

In addition to the public forums, the Department is also conducting interviews with providers to gather suggestions for improving the Medicaid program. For hospitals, the first of those interviews will take place in a focus-group style format during the Hospital Advisory Group meeting on July 12.

The Department has also created a web-based survey tool that will be used to gather input from providers, lawmakers, patients, and the general public. The survey should be available this week, and will close on July 31.

The Wyoming Hospital Association will provide the link to the survey to WHA members when it becomes available.

**Last chance to register for ICD-10 Training**

**Must register by: July 11, 2012**

**Contact WHA at 307-632-9344 or jody@wyohospitals.**

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



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



### Wyoming Hospital Association

2005 Warren Ave.  
Cheyenne, WY  
82001

[www.wyohospitals.com](http://www.wyohospitals.com)

307.632.9344

## WPH Nurse Earns Specialized Infusion Certification

West Park Hospital RN Sara Bailey was among 138 nurses who recently passed the Certified Registered Nurse Infusion examination.

She was the only nurse from the Wyoming, Montana or Colorado region of the 138 who passed.

Exam content is based on nine core areas: technology and clinical applications, fluid and electrolyte imbalance, pharmacology, infection prevention, antineoplastic/biologic therapy, parenteral nutrition, quality improvement, transfusion therapy and pediatrics.

In order to sit for the test, candidates must have a current, active, unrestricted U.S. or Canadian nursing license and at least 1,600 hours of infusion therapy experience in the prior two years.

"This certification helps me provide top quality patient care by ensuring I am trained and up to date with the most current techniques and knowledge about infusion therapy," Bailey said.

She estimates she spent about 100 hours outside of work studying and preparing for the exam.

According to the National Home Infusion Association, drugs and therapies commonly administered via infusion include antibiotics, antifungal medications, antiviral medications, chemotherapy, hydration fluids, pain management medications and parenteral nutrition.

"Infusion therapy is also provided to patients for treating a wide assortment of often chronic and sometimes rare diseases for which 'specialty' infusion medications are effective," according to the NHIA website.

## Helmsley Funds Program to Help Heart Attack Victims

A new \$7.1 million statewide project is designed to get proper care to rural heart attack victims faster.

Gov. Matt Mead thanked both the Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust and the American Heart Association. The two organizations are respectively responsible for funding and implementing the bulk of the program, dubbed "Mission: Lifeline Wyoming."

"Thanks to this \$7.1

million fund, the American Heart Association will be able to get right to work putting into place the elements needed to address a heart attack and appropriate response in a rural area," Mead said.

The key component of the new program will be the incorporation of 12 lead electrocardiograms. They are equipped with Bluetooth technology that makes them capable of taking a detailed snapshot of a patient's vital signs, then wirelessly trans-

mitting them to hospitals dozens of miles away.

The improved information exchange between emergency medical service agencies and doctors will also make it easier for the ambulance drivers to determine which hospital to take a patient to, or whether they should request a helicopter for more immediate transport.

Other funding sources include First Interstate Bank and the Wyoming Community Foundation's Working for Wyoming Fund.

## State Partners to Provide Mobile Mammography Screenings

The Wyoming Department of Health and Susan G. Komen Foundation have partnered with General Electric to unveil a new mobile mammography screening unit that will help get more women screened and begin saving lives.

Nationally 25 percent of women aren't getting

screened for breast cancer, but in Wyoming that figure is 33 percent. The state is trying to reverse that with its new partnership.

"We are partnering with GE and Komen to both increase awareness and then increase access," said Dr. Wendy Braund with the Wyoming Department of

Health.

The result of this partnership is a mobile unit that will provide mammograms for women in every part of the state.

The GE Mobile Mammography unit will begin operating on August 6 with its first stop in Rock Springs.