

NEWS BRIEFS

Informational Newsletter for Wyoming Hospitals

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August 1, 2014

WHA Calendar:

WHA PAC Golf 9/23
Tournament

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

Other Events:

WyAMSS 8/21-
Education 8/22
Conference
Jackson



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President's Corner



The WHA Board met in Casper at the Wyoming Medical Center on July 22 for their regularly scheduled meeting and to also interview the two finalists for the WHA President position.

My suspicions of not being irreplaceable were confirmed when the board extended an offer to one of the finalists.

Due to contractual details still being worked out, it is premature to announce who the new president will be.

Look for a formal announcement to come out within the next couple of weeks.

Issues surrounding the Wyoming Department of Health's construction plan review process generated considerable discussion. Over the years, problems with timely review and approval of hospital construction projects have ebbed and flowed. Currently, the Office

of Healthcare Licensing and Surveys (OHLS) is experiencing staff turnover, resulting in some significant delays.

Some hospitals have exercised their option to hire private firms to do their plan reviews and any interim inspections. However, the OHLS still has the final inspection authority and in some cases they have disallowed decisions made by the private firms.

To their credit, the OHLS is acutely aware of the problems and are taking steps to improve the process. According to Director Tom Forslund, in the near term they are trying to find qualified individuals or firms to contract with for temporary services and are attempting to seek authorization to transfer additional positions within the agency.

A mid-August meeting has been arranged with Director Forslund and members of the WHA Board to pursue solutions to this critical problem.

We have long recognized that we need to create policies and procedures for the WHA PAC, which has been in place for about eight years. The Board looked at bylaws from the Michigan Hospital Association as a sample. Vickie Diamond has volunteered to head up a PAC

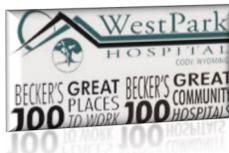
Committee designed to establish structure to this effort, as well as come up with different ways to collect more money and generate interest from a greater number of potential contributors.

The Board reviewed a draft of the proposed 2015 WHA Budget. The budget will be sent out to the membership in advance of the WHA Annual Meeting and Convention. After the new association president is in place, the board will meet to set priorities for the upcoming year and finalize the budget.

Speaking of the Convention, we are in the process of preparing the lineup for this year's event. Kicking off the program will be Patrick Henry, who will provide an entertaining program that stresses attracting loyalty. He will be followed up by Memorial Hospital of Converse County CEO, Ryan Smith, who will share his personal experiences involving a horrific active shooter incident he was involved in where he was the CEO at an Alaska hospital.

The WHA Nominating Committee will be meeting towards the end of the month to come up with a slate of candidates for the upcoming year to be voted on by the membership at the Annual Meeting.

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

307.632.9344

New Stereotactic Breast Biopsy Coming to Cody

West Park Hospital's Radiology Department will be providing the latest in Stereotactic Technology allowing women a more convenient option for having breast biopsies.

West Park Hospital's new state-of-the-art systems are designed to improve the quality, accuracy and ease of breast biopsies.

The process utilizes advanced computer-assisted

technology, known as digital stereotactic localization, to map the precise site of a breast abnormality before a tissue sample is taken for analysis.

The unique design of the stereotactic table allows a woman to lay on her stomach while the biopsy is being performed, accomplishing maximum comfort. The ATEC is a fully closed system that uses vacuum-

assisted technology to perform a true one-minute breast biopsy.

These benefits allow most patients to return to daily activities immediately following the procedure.

Each patient receives personalized care designed to meet her individual needs and will be sent to her referring provider for the biopsy results and follow-up.

Nurse Refresher Course Offered at Casper College

A self-study nursing refresher course for nurses who have been out of the field for a while or whose license is inactive or has lapsed is being offered for the first time in Wyoming at Casper College.

The online course will run through Monday, Sept. 15, 2014, and is open to anyone in the state of Wyoming.

"We worked hard to get this course approved by the Wyoming State Board of Nursing," said Jenn Pepple, workforce-training specialist at Casper College. The

course, "Nursing Refresher" (CEU 0307 01), "is a self-study refresher class developed to help registered nurses review and update their nursing knowledge and skills," Pepple said.

The class, which consists of 120 online class hours, is taught by Davina Drazick, nurse educator, and includes 80 hours of supervised clinical experience.

The cost for the class, which is limited to 10 students, is \$925 person and includes the seventh edi-

tion of "Fundamentals of Nursing" textbook.

According to Pepple grant funding is available for the class to "the long-term unemployed, veterans, and the underemployed thanks to a recently received H1-B Wyoming Health Care Solutions Grant provided by the Department of Labor and the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services."

For more information on "Nursing Refresher" contact Pepple at 307-268-3060, or jenniferpepple@caspercollege.edu.

Wyoming's Biggest Loser RunWalk

Wyoming's First Lady is encouraging state residents to register for the upcoming Biggest Loser RunWalk event planned for August 17 in Casper.

The Wyoming Department of Health, along with the Prevention Management Organization of Wyoming, is helping to bring The Biggest Loser RunWalk to Wy-

oming.

Dan and Jackie Evans, season 5 contestants from "The Biggest Loser" television program, will be in Casper to help host the Wyoming event. "As a son and mother, Dan and Jackie took a family-oriented approach to weight loss and health and have an inspiring story to tell," Mead said.

The Biggest Loser Run-

Walk includes a half marathon, a 5K race and a kids' one-mile fun run for ages 4-12. People of all fitness levels are encouraged to participate.

For more information on The Biggest Loser RunWalk or to register for the race, please visit www.BiggestLoserRunWalk.com.