

# NEWS BRIEFS

Informational Newsletter for Wyoming Hospitals

Volume 42, Number 33

August 10, 2012

## WHA Calendar:

WCAHN Financial 8/14  
Workshop  
Webinar

WHA PAC Golf 9/25  
Tournament  
Cheyenne

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

## Other Events:

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

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

## Convention to Focus on Meeting Challenges in Healthcare

With the Supreme Court's decision about the Affordable Care Act in June, there is little doubt that hospitals must continue to conform to and operate in a markedly different healthcare environment.

National experts have become more aggressive since the Court's ruling in calling for rural hospitals to develop partnerships that encompass the continuum of care. Meanwhile, payment reforms, improved care transitions, penalties for readmissions, and the potential expansion of Medicaid in Wyoming remain as largely unresolved issues.

There will be no shortage of challenges facing hospitals in this new environment. And in that context, the Wyoming Hospital Association has devoted its 2012 Annual Meeting and Convention to discussing those challenges.

Based on the theme "Moving Ahead, Meeting the Challenge," the convention is scheduled for September 26 and 27 at the Little America Hotel in Cheyenne.

The convention will bring together noted national speakers to discuss critical issues such as quality and patient safety. Alicia Cole, a survivor of necrotizing fasciitis and co-founder of The Alliance for Safety

Awareness for Patients, will speak during a General Session about reducing the spread of preventable hospital-acquired infections.

Diane Kelly, DrPH, RN, will lead another quality-based discussion about creating and leading error-free management systems. Ms. Kelly is an adjunct assistant professor at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

currently underway to develop a statewide health information exchange.

In addition to content-rich sessions and workshops, the convention will also offer something of a lighter side. The meeting kicks off with a keynote address from Brad Montgomery, which will offer healthcare workers specific tactics for maintaining a positive attitude at work, and at home.

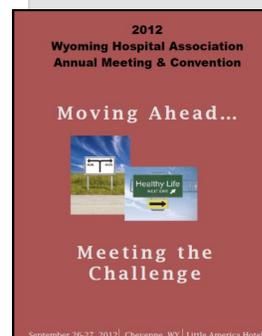
And the Awards Banquet will feature an evening of comedy and magic from entertainer Amazing Arthur.

The WHA will also recognize quality award winners, the Auxiliary of the Year, and the winner of the Norman S. Holt Award during the evening banquet.

Effective advocacy requires funding. The Sixth Annual WHA PAC Golf Tournament at the Cheyenne Country Club offers attendees the opportunity to contribute to the WHA's advocacy efforts during an afternoon of golf on the par 72, 18-hole course.

Attendees may also choose to start their convention experience with a trolley tour of Downtown Cheyenne and the Wyoming State Capitol.

For more information about the WHA convention, visit [www.wyohospitals.com](http://www.wyohospitals.com), or call (307) 632-9344.



To be truly effective in leading these efforts, hospital trustees will need a new level of engagement and a solid understanding of their roles.

The WHA has included a session for trustees as well, providing a deeper look at its Best on Board trustee educational program.

The convention will also feature presentations from Gov. Matt Mead and Department of Health Director Tom Forslund. Additionally, Heather Roe Day, CEO of the e-Health Partnership, will discuss efforts that are cur-



## 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

## MHCC Selects Site for New Medical Office Building

Memorial Hospital of Converse County (MHCC) has selected the building site for a \$5.8 million medical office building to be opened in the fall of 2013.

The 22,000 square-foot building will be erected at the site of the former high school, just north of the Douglas Water Park on Center Street. The hospital board unanimously approved the project.

The hospital has contemplated a standalone medical office building since last

November. A health care real-estate solutions company has been used to examine the needs of the hospital.

The group showed a 5.4 percent increase in Memorial Hospital's primary service area population by 2016, and a 17 percent increase in population growth over age 65.

The hospital board has now entered into a design contract with Erdman, the company that performed the feasibility study. They will make use of models from

across the country to develop the plan for the Douglas hospital.

Earlier this year, the National Rural Health Association included Memorial Hospital of Converse County in a list of the Top 100 Critical Access Hospitals in America.

More than 1,300 hospitals were measured based on preparation performance for the Affordable Care Act in 56 categories measuring hospitals' strengths.

## AHA Mission: Lifeline Wyoming to Host August 21 Call

The American Heart Association recently announced a statewide grant-funded project intended to strengthen patient care in Wyoming for heart attack and sudden cardiac arrest patients.

"Mission: Lifeline Wyoming" advances a community based approach to improving the delivery of heart care to patients throughout the state by closing gaps that separate heart attack and sudden

cardiac arrest patients from timely access to care.

The 3-year initiative, coordinated by Wyoming-based American Heart Association staff, will be a collaborative effort involving and lead by Wyoming physicians, hospitals, EMS providers and community first responders.

The program will use patient data to analyze and provide quality improvement recommendations to improve emergency cardio-

vascular care and system level performance across the state.

The AHA has scheduled a conference call for at 7:30 a.m. and noon on August 21 to provide an overview and background information for all constituents of the project.

The teleconference number is 877-686-1381, and the participant passcode is 2997862852#. Hospitals are encouraged to participate in one of the two teleconferences.

## WCAHN to Present Financial Workshop for CAHs

The Wyoming Critical Access Hospital Network has scheduled a financial workshop for its members on Tuesday, August 14, from 10 a.m. to noon.

The workshop will be delivered as a webinar by Sano Capital Group.

Sano Capital Group conducted a financial workshop at the Western Region Flex conference in Park City, Utah, in June.

Sano specializes in the analysis of financial data in the healthcare industry.

Additionally, Sano works directly with the National Rural Health Association to estimate impact of federal legislation on rural hospitals.

Their session was based on their unique method for analyzing critical access hospitals and using financial benchmarks to determine current levels of perfor-

mance compared to CAHs in the state, in the region, and nationwide.

The firm's approach also provides insights into the top-performing CAHs and how others can elevate their financial performance.

Webinar connection information has been emailed to all members, but please contact Steve Bahmer via email at [steve@wyohospitals.com](mailto:steve@wyohospitals.com) with any questions.