



NEWS BRIEFS

Informational Newsletter for Wyoming Hospitals

Volume 44, Number 35

September 6, 2013

WHA Calendar:

WHA PAC Golf Tournament Sheridan	9/17
WHA Annual Meeting & Convention Sheridan	9/18-9/19

Other Events:

Wyoming Patient Safety Summit Casper	11/15
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Healthcare Coalitions to be Discussed at Annual Meeting

The Wyoming Hospital Preparedness Program has planned an entire session relating to Healthcare Coalitions during the WHA Annual Meeting in Sheridan.

Melvin Turner, Preparedness and Response Coordinator, Public Health Emergency Preparedness Unit and Brittany Wardle, Hospital Preparedness Coordinator, Hospital Preparedness Program will discuss community hazard assessments and how they can facilitate deeper analysis of particular incidents and provide a means to share lessons.

They will focus on Wyoming communities and how they can become more sustainable and disaster-resistant by focusing efforts on the hazards, disaster-prone areas, and identifying appropriate mitigation actions through planning and exercising.

Additionally, participants will be asked to engage in a round table to discuss hazards, planning, exercising, real life incidents, and lessons learned.

Community hospitals serve all residents, visitors, and travelers within the community: What are the community and/or regional risks? What injuries is the hospital prepared to handle? How with the hospital handle a medical surge? The need to

evacuate? These issues and more will be discussed during the session.

Leslie Porth, vice president of health planning at the Missouri Hospital Association, will share Missouri's approach and evolving development of health care coalitions for emergency preparedness and disaster response in rural communities and small cities across Missouri.

The successes and challenges will be shared along with specific documents currently used to formalize the five health care coalitions in non-urban Missouri.

Prior to joining MHA in 1999, she worked in a mid-Missouri hospital as a nurse in critical care and emergency care units and in an administrative position. Today at MHA, she is responsible for a wide range of population-based strategies to improve the health and safety of Missourians and the quality of care provided in Missouri hospitals. Currently she administers a sub-contract for the federal Hospital Preparedness Program and leads many of the strategic initiatives to develop a sustainable emergency preparedness program for Missouri's hospitals and health care community.

In addition, Leslie has led hospital- and community-based initiatives to decrease

the incidence of chronic disease and disparity of care, improve the overall health status and increase the supply of qualified health care workforce in Missouri.

If you are wondering about these recent discussions around healthcare coalitions (HCCs), come visit with a group of healthcare folks from Colorado who will share their most recent experiences with HCC development and what it looks like in a rural environment. As preparedness funds continue to shrink, we need to think about working together, smarter.

There are many resources available in each community, come learn how Colorado used a toolkit to ensure they had the right people at the planning table, to guide future discussions, and hear about some of the challenges along the way.

This panel will include members from local public health, hospitals and health care coalitions. This will be a great opportunity for the healthcare partners in Wyoming to share ongoing preparedness efforts, successes, challenges and have a conversation around what HCCs could look like in Wyoming.

To register, go to www.wyohospitals.com



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Evanston Receives Award for Patient Safety

Evanston Regional Hospital (ERH) has been recognized with the Patient Safety Award by Community Health Systems.

The Patient Safety Award recognizes hospitals that have consistently achieved improvements in quality of care and patient safety.

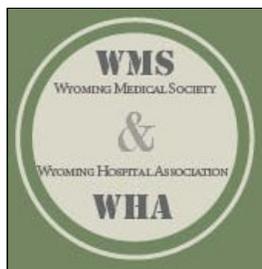
ERH has implemented several safety techniques within the past 18 months to promote and ensure that patient safety is the highest priority in providing care.

Some of those techniques include: daily safety huddles, ensuring safety moments are a priority during

all meetings, regularly monitoring the facility's safety metrics, and having quarterly online education for a employees to complete.

ERH continues to implement further techniques to ensure patient safety. Patient safety and quality are ERH's top priorities.

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



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Wyoming Institute of Population Health

The Wyoming Institute of Population Health has recently been awarded a 12-month cooperative agreement with CMS to support the navigator functions for Wyoming's federally-facilitated health insurance marketplace exchange.

The Institute is very pleased to have begun its formal activity in advancing communications and training navigator representatives statewide.

The Institute has branded these efforts with "Enroll Wyoming" to assure consistent messaging and communications for all parties, in recognition that the navigators' role must be clear

and defined for persons seeking health insurance coverage via the marketplace.

These efforts have been initiated by the Institute in a targeted, collaborative approach designed to raise awareness of the Marketplace as the official, objective source for finding affordable health coverage.

Through Enroll Wyoming, navigators will provide education and counsel for individuals to reinforce the availability of financial assistance for people who qualify. The clear intent is to navigate uninsured Wyomingites to the Market-

place to find, compare and enroll in affordable coverage.

Briefly summarized, the Institute has allied with knowledgeable and trusted messengers to be trained to conduct enrollment events called Health Insurance Marketplace Access Events – to be held in local communities across Wyoming over the 12-month term of the award agreement.

A good number of Wyoming hospitals have made early commitment to engage with the Institute to support navigator functions in their respective community. Contact Tracy Brosius at 307.773.8139.

Patient Safety Summit

The Wyoming Medical Society and Wyoming Hospital Association are excited to present the second annual Wyoming Patient Safety Summit in Casper, Wyoming, November 15, 2013.

"First, do no harm" is the first principle of medicine and the first thought in every health care provider's mind when treating patients. Increasingly, we

are coming to learn that our health care system does not always meet patients' needs in that respect. In Wyoming, this hits even more close to home, because our patients are not anonymous statistics; they are our neighbors, friends, and co-workers. Patient safety is receiving increased attention as the result of federal health care reform and a growing movement among health care

professionals, patients and others to improve patient safety, both as a way of reducing cost and simply because it's the right thing to do.

When agenda details are available they will be posted at www.wyomed.org/patientsafety.

Please check back frequently for more information, including registration details.