



NEWSBRIEFS

Informational Newsletter for Wyoming Hospitals

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WHA Nurse of the Day Program

The Wyoming Hospital Association is seeking nurses for the WHA's Nurse-For-A-Day program during the upcoming Wyoming Legislative Session, and we hope your nurses will volunteer. The session convenes on January 8, 2019 and is scheduled to end March 5, 2019.

For more than 30 years, the Nurse-For-A-Day program has provided basic medical care – such as taking blood pressures and treating complaints of cold and flu, headaches, and upset stomachs – to Wyoming's lawmakers during the Legislative Session.

In addition to delivering care, the program has enhanced the image of hospitals and caregivers, while providing a chance for nurses to meet legislators from their home communities and from across the state.

The Nurse of the Day program affords an ideal opportunity for the volunteers to spend a day at the Jonah building and, if they so choose, speak one-on-one with policy makers to share their thoughts on healthcare including what is working well and, perhaps, what could be improved to advance the highest quality care to residents of our state.

Participating nurses will report to Suite 120 of the Jonah Bank Building in Cheyenne by 9 a.m. on their scheduled day. Staff from the WHA or the Wyoming Medical Society will meet the

volunteers, provide a brief orientation, and escort them to the Senate and House chambers so they may be introduced.

The WHA Nurse of the Day program provides basic volunteer medical services, consultations and referrals on a limited, as-needed basis for legislators, staff and lobbyists -- and occasionally visitors -- in the Jonah Building during the legislative session.

Services at Medical Aid Station are provided as a courtesy by the Wyoming Hospital Association and the Wyoming Medical Society, and operate on a volunteer basis. WHA & WMS administer the program and coordinate the placement of volunteer doctors and nurses. For many years WHA & WMS donated the equipment, supplies and medications for the Medical Aid Station, but now the Legislative Service Office will help cover those costs.

The Nurse of the Day is generally asked to report to the Jonah Building before the morning session convenes, is free to leave the building for lunch, and usually ends the day around mid-afternoon. When in the Jonah Building, the nurse is given a cell phone and the Medical Aid Station is equipped with a direct phone line. These numbers are distributed to all areas of the building, along with instructions to dial 911 in case of an emer-

gency.

If the Nurse of the Day is not available, people can leave a message in the Medical Aid Station and someone will get in touch with them upon his/her return.

Services provided by the Nurse of the Day program are very limited and given only on a voluntary basis. Therefore, the Medical Aid Station does not qualify -- nor should it be considered -- as the "first responder" option in medical emergency situations. Always dial 911 in case of an emergency.

Health care services in the Medical Aid Station are provided primarily as a convenience for people who experience non-emergency health care concerns during the Legislature, especially people who are away from home.

The Medical Aid Station is stocked with over-the-counter medications for colds, coughs, stomach ailments and pain relief, as well as bandages for minor cuts and scrapes.

Anyone who would like to volunteer should call Rose Fishback at the WHA at (307) 632-9344, or email rose@wyohospitals.com.

PAC CONTRIBUTORS 2018

Irene Richardson
Heidi Baskfield
Barry Burkart
Wyo Behavioral
Institute
Eric Boley
Doug Faus
Shelby Olind
Doug McMillan
Andy Fitzgerald
Margie Molitor
Ryan Smith
Mike McCafferty
Maureen Cadwell
Cheyenne
Regional Medical
Center
Patrick Madigan
Bren Lowe
Carol Solie, MD
Michele Chulick
Paul Beaupre, MD
Yvonne
Wigington
Dalton Huber
Rick Schroeder

Total to Date
\$7,800

Annual Goal
\$8,500

Kody Nelson Named Director of Operations in Lusk



Kody Nelson has been named the new Director of Operations at Niobrara Community Hospital.

Nelson and his wife Kristie have three boys Kolsen 6, Braxton 4, Konnor 2.

He completed his Bachelors in Healthcare

Administration in 2012 and then finished his Master's Degree in Health Policy and Administration in 2014.

Over the last 9 years he has moved quite a bit. He worked at Sacred Heart Medical Center in Spokane, WA, St. John's Medical in Jackson, WY, Kearny County

Hospital in Lakin, KS and now Niobrara Community Hospital in Lusk, WY.

Kody can be reached by cell phone (208)821-2554, office number (307)334-4000 ext. 224 or email knelson@niobrarahospital.org.

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

Congress Urged to Reauthorize Preparedness Programs

A coalition of 29 health care and public health organizations, including the AHA, urged Congress to pass the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness & Advancing Innovation Act (S. 2852/H.R. 6378) before Congress adjourns for 2018.

"The Energy & Commerce and Health Education, Labor & Pensions Committees have made tremendous, bipartisan progress on this important legislation, and it would be a setback for our national health security to delay reauthorization until

2019," the organizations told congressional leaders. "...We are particularly concerned that several authorities have already expired, including temporary reassignment of state and local personnel and the National Advisory Committee on Children and Disasters. Other authorities will expire in December, including limited antitrust exemption and other provisions critical to HHS contracting. We believe that time is of the essence in reauthorizing these important authorities."

Among other provisions, the bill includes AHA-supported provisions chang-

ing financing and uses for the Public Health Emergency Fund; reauthorizing the Hospital Preparedness Program at an increased amount, including reserving a percentage of HPP funds for the purpose of developing regional health care emergency preparedness and response systems; and formally keeping the HPP and the Public Health Emergency Preparedness Program separate under their respective agencies.



Dr. Solie Named to AHA Board

Carol Solie, MD, has been elected as the Regional Physician alternate delegate to the American Hospital Association Regional Policy Board 8. The term runs from January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2021.

Dr. Solie is currently the Chief Medical Officer at Wyoming Medical Center in Casper.

The American Hospital Association Regional Policy Boards meet three times a year to discuss policy issues and alternatives. Their recommendations and analyses are used by the AHA board in its policy deliberations.

