



## Wyoming Hospital Association

# NEWS BRIEFS

Informational Newsletter for Wyoming Hospitals

Volume 50, Number 19

May 31, 2019

### WHA Calendar

WHA Golf Tournament Cheyenne	9/3
WHA Annual Meeting & Convention Little America, Cheyenne	9/4-9/5

### 2019 PAC Contributions

Barry Burkart  
Bren Lowe  
Margie Molitor  
Doug Faus  
Andy Fitzgerald  
Maureen Cadwell

## “The Power of Rural” Conference

A team of Wyoming organizations is inviting everyone involved in safety-net healthcare to attend “The Power of Rural” conference, which will focus on the challenges of healthcare in rural communities. The event will be held in Laramie at the University of Wyoming Conference Center June 5-7.

The conference is designed for all levels of healthcare professionals, volunteers and interested community members to provide information and resources on meeting the needs of rural and frontier communities through evidence, partnership and quality.

The Wyoming Department of Health (WDH) Office of Rural Health, Wyoming Health Resources Network, Wyoming Center on Aging, Mountain-Pacific Quality Health, Wyoming Hospital Association, Wyoming Primary Care Association and Wyoming Health Council are sponsors.

“This marks the second year we have had the pleasure of collaborating on this conference. It is great to learn from subject matter

experts and each other so attendees can take back best practices to their communities.

It is easy to become isolated when you work in a rural setting,” said Hannah Wickey, Wyoming Primary Care Association director of operations.

Kyle Cameron, WDH Office of Rural Health FLEX/SHIP grant program manager said, “I am pleased to provide a presentation from the Studer Group, a national organization that works to create a culture of excellence through healthcare coaching and cultural transformation.”

Half-day pre-conference workshops on Conflict Resolution and the Role Personality Play: True Colors along with Screening and Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) are available on June 5 from 1-4:30. Anyone can attend these workshops.

The conference will feature a keynote by Mary Otto, a Washington Post journalist and author of the book “Teeth.” Otto will highlight the gap between medicine and dentistry. Other session

subjects include recognizing intimate partner violence in a healthcare setting, ensuring an AIDS-friendly healthcare environment, HPV vaccine cancer prevention and community par-medicine and behavioral health.

The registration cost for the two pre-conference workshops is \$35 each. Registration fees for the conference rate is \$110. Breakfast and lunch are included on June 6 and 7 plus a speaker reception the evening of June 5.

For more information and to register, visit [www.wypca.org](http://www.wypca.org).



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## THE POWER OF RURAL

Meeting the Needs of Rural and Frontier Communities through Evidence, Partnership and Quality

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**MEMBER  
SPOTLIGHT**

## Powell Valley Healthcare receives 4-star hospital rating

Powell Valley Healthcare recently earned a 4-star hospital rating from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS).

Various quality measures determine hospital ratings, including timeliness of care, effectiveness of care, hospital readmission rates and patient satisfaction. According to CMS, hospitals that receive the 4-star rating are among the top 20 percent of hospitals in the nation.

“This 4-star rating is a reflection of the efforts of our staff and providers to ensure that PVHC is continuously improving the quality of care we provide to patients,” said Sara Welling, Director of Quality Improvement. “We focus on evidence-based care and are paying close attention to the elements of providing safe, effective care. We want the best for our community and are committed to continuous improvement,” said Well-

ing.

For more information about hospital ratings, please visit [www.medicare.gov/hospitalcompare](http://www.medicare.gov/hospitalcompare).

Anyone interested in Powell Valley Healthcare’s Quality Improvement Program is welcome to call Sara Welling at 754-1201 or you can visit the “patient satisfaction” page at [www.pvhc.org](http://www.pvhc.org)

## Legislation Introduced to Boost Rural Hospitals

Reps. Mark Green (R-TN) and Bennie Thompson (D-MS) have introduced a new bipartisan piece of legislation designed to boost rural hospitals called the Rural Health Care Access Act of 2019.

The legislation would repeal an arcane rule called “the 35-mile rule” that bars hospitals from pursuing a Critical Access Hospital (CAH) designation. Currently, a rural hospital must be at least 35 miles away from another hospital to receive the CAH designation. If passed into law,

this bill would allow states to designate a facility a CAH if it meets all the other requirements.

This important bill will go far in stabilizing the rural hospital closure crisis, by allowing rural hospitals to convert to Critical Access Hospital safety net providers. NRHA applauds Representatives Green and Thompson for fighting to save rural patients’ access to care,” said Alan Morgan, CEO, NRHA. The CAH designation reduces the financial vulnerability of rural

hospitals and improves access to healthcare by keeping essential services in rural communities. Specifically, Critical Access Hospitals receive cost-based reimbursement from Medicare; flexible staffing and services; access to Flex Program educational resources, technical assistance and/or grants; and the ability to include capital improvement costs in allowable costs for determining Medicare reimbursement.

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## Clubhouse Services Subject of Upcoming Meeting

The Wyoming Department of Health (WDH) invites residents and stakeholders interested in clubhouse-based rehabilitation services to an upcoming June 11 forum in Casper.

Legislation passed during the Wyoming Legislature’s most recent session directed Wyoming Medicaid, part of WDH, to prepare a coverage and reimbursement program for clubhouse-based services

provided to qualifying Medicaid beneficiaries.

“Clubhouse efforts can be described as community based psychosocial rehabilitation programs where members work to operate the clubhouse,” said Lindsey Schilling, provider operations administrator with Wyoming Medicaid. “Members also receive services such as such as employment training, housing assistance and educational

support.”

The Wyoming Medicaid Clubhouse Stakeholder Forum will be held June 11 from 9 a.m. - noon at Casper College, Strausner Hall 217, 125 College Drive, Casper.

More information is also available from Kassi.Miller@cedarbridgegroup.com or Lindsey.Schilling@wyo.gov.

