



## CMS New Innovation Center Model to Improve Rural Health Care

Pursuant to the administration's recent [Executive Order](#) (EO) to improve rural health, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Innovation Center [announced](#) a new model to expand value-based purchasing in rural health care.

Called the Community Health Access and Rural Transformation (CHART) model, the initiative will offer rural communities and provider groups options to implement new care delivery and payment models for serving rural beneficiaries. Broadly, the model will leverage the use of upfront seed funding, capitated payment arrangements, and programmatic flexibilities to support providers in these care transformation efforts.

**Community Transformation Track** – The Community Transformation Track will solicit participation from up to 15 “Lead Organizations” in federally-designated rural areas to manage health care reform efforts in their respective regions. This track includes the following features:

- **Lead Organizations:** Lead Organizations will consist of entities that are involved in supporting the public health of a rural community, including organizations such as a state Medicaid agency, state office of rural health, local public health departments, independent practice associations, and academic medical centers. The Lead Organization will work with model participants – including both providers and the state Medicaid agency – to implement the model.
- **Funding and Flexibilities:** To support model implementation, model participants will have access to
  - \* Upfront funding of up to \$5 million;
  - \* Predictable capitated payment amounts (CPAs), which will flow to participant hospitals to manage patient care on a value-driven basis;
  - \* An array of programmatic flexibilities to support innovative care delivery, including telehealth flexibilities resembling those furnished during the COVID-19 pandemic; home visits; waiver of the 3-day requirement for a Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) admission, and more.

### Requirements:

- **Lead Organizations:** Lead Organizations will be responsible for managing the overall cooperative agreement with CMS, as well as recruiting model participants and ensuring compliance with the model requirements;
- **Participant Hospitals:** Participant Hospitals must be an acute care hospital, Critical Access Hospital, or a special rural designation hospital;
- **State Medicaid Agencies:** Medicaid agencies are required to partner with the model to ensure alignment with the Medicaid program (e.g., ensuring payment alignment with Medicaid fee-for-service and/or managed care plans); and
- **Advisory Councils:** Each model must include an Advisory Council that will advise on a range of model reform initiatives.

**Timeline:** CMS states it expects to release a Notice of Funding Opportunity in September 2020 for the Community Transformation Track, with an anticipated model launch in Summer 2021.

### 2020 PAC Contributions

Barry Burkart  
Eric Boley  
Carol Solie  
Doug Faus  
Heidi Baskfield  
Doug McMillan  
Tim Thornell  
Maureen Cadwell  
Margie Molitor  
Bren Lowe

## SageWest Agreement with Community Health Center of Central Wyoming

SageWest Health Care announces the completion of a lease agreement of over 10,000 square feet of remodeled office space at 1035 Rose Lane in Riverton with Community Health Center of Central Wyoming (CHCCW). The agreement allows CHCCW to consolidate its Riverton offices into one location.

“This new lease agreement will bring together into one convenient office location all of our Riverton services; Family Medicine, Women’s Health – to include Obstetrics, Behavioral Health, Pediatrics, and some remote Pharmacy services” said

Carl J. Harris, Chief Executive Officer of Community Health Center of Central Wyoming. “By eliminating the inefficiencies of having staff in multiple sites, we will strengthen the work environment and build a stronger operation to focus on our mission in providing affordable and high-quality patient care with a comprehensive range of health care services to the residents of the greater Riverton area.”

The large medical office building is located on the SageWest Riverton campus and allows for easy access for CHCCW patients and visitors.

“We are proud to welcome Community Health Center of Central Wyoming to our Riverton campus,” said John Ferrelli, Chief Executive Officer of SageWest Health Care. “We look forward to continue working together with a shared focus of excellence in patient care and service.”



## HFMA Virtual Meeting

The Wyoming Chapter of HFMA will be offering their traditional in-person fall conference through a series of short webinars due to the current pandemic.

The first in a series of four webinars is August 20th from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The hope is to provide the same quality education expected from the fall conference through these virtual meetings.

There will be three additional webinars offered; the dates for the additional sessions will be

September 17th, October 15th and November 19th.

The virtual meeting on August 20th will include topics on

- COVID-19 Stimulus Funding: Strategies, Accounting, and Single Audit Considerations—Presented by Shaun Johnson, CPA and Kami Matzek, CPA of Dingus, Zarecor & Associates

- Past Legislative Session, COVID-19 Measures and Upcoming Legislative Session—Presented by Eric Boley President, Wyoming Hospital Association
- Discussion on How Facilities are Using Their Provider Relief Fund Payments

You must register online at <https://www.event.com/d/17q07n/6X?RefID=agenda18>



<https://hfmawy.org/>

## Wyoming-Based Suicide Prevention Hotline Now Available

Lifeline Number Remains 1-800-273-TALK (8255)

A new Wyoming-based suicide prevention lifeline will strengthen the response available for state residents who find themselves in crisis, according to the Wyoming Department of Health (WDH).

“We know talking with someone about your thoughts and feelings can help save your life,” said Lindsay Martin, Injury and Violence Prevention Program manager with WDH. “With lifeline op-

tions, people call or text to discuss lots of things: financial troubles, relationships, sexual identity, depression, illness and loneliness are a few examples.”

“We want anyone who is experiencing feelings of crisis or potentially suicidal thoughts to reach out. There are people willing to listen and help, and resources available,” Martin said.

For now, the Wyoming Lifeline call center will answer calls 8 hours a day, 5 days a week. At other times, calls will be directed to backup call centers located

across the country through the U.S. National Suicide Prevention Lifeline.

Martin said another option for residents looking for help and support is to text “WYO” to 741-741 for the Crisis Text Line.

The Wyoming Lifeline call center will be able to knowledgeably refer callers to local community mental health resources. There is no charge for anyone who calls the lifeline number or sends a text to the Crisis Text Line.