



Wyoming Hospital Association

NEWS BRIEFS

Informational Newsletter for Wyoming

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CARES Funding To Bring Medical Personnel to State

Wyoming hospitals are seeing a drastic spike in COVID-19 cases and report that the main concern at this time is having adequate staffing. In response, Governor Mark Gordon is utilizing \$10 million in CARES Act funds to bring additional medical personnel to the state to alleviate the strain on hospitals and Wyoming health care professionals.

President of the Wyoming Hospital Association.

“Medical staff across the state are strained and exhausted. There is an immediate need to bring in additional help to ease the burden shouldered by our healthcare professionals. This move by the Governor is important and is giving us critical resources allowing us to find and retain medical personnel to support our hospitals in their fight against COVID.”

ate medical staff shortages and consult with the WDH on each facilities’ needs.

The temporary medical personnel will allow hospitals to treat additional patients, offset staff shortages that may occur due to illness and provide relief to hospital staff dealing with heavy workloads and long stretches of overtime.

The Wyoming Department of Health (WDH) has partnered with the Wyoming Hospital Association to bring in temporary medical personnel to address the surge in hospitalizations that has occurred around the state, and to prepare for additional staffing needs that are likely to arise. As of November 10, Wyoming hospitals were reporting a record 178 COVID-19 current hospitalizations. One month ago there were only 56.

“This funding will help ease the strain on our hospitals and healthcare workers, who have been working tirelessly to provide care to increasing numbers of COVID-19 patients,” Governor Gordon said.

As hospitals around the region face the same issues, our hospitals cannot plan on transferring patients out of state. I want to ensure Wyoming maintains its ability to provide our residents access to the treatments and care they need.”

“We are grateful to the Governor for recognizing the imminent need for additional staffing around the state,” said Eric Boley,

The Wyoming Hospital Association will work with the state’s hospitals to evalu-



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



Wyoming Hospital Association

Member Spotlight

WMC Names Porter CEO

Lance Porter has been named chief executive officer (CEO) at Wyoming Medical Center (WMC) in Casper, Wyoming. The announcement was made by Margo Karsten, Banner’s Western Region president.

Porter will relocate to Casper from Arizona, where has served as the CEO at Banner Payson Medical Center.

Karsten said Porter has been working in Casper for a couple of weeks to support operations since Wyoming Medical Center joined Banner on October 1. Also in October, WMC began to see growing numbers of patients seeking care for COVID-19. “I can’t imagine an individual

better suited for this role,” Karsten said.

Porter brings more than 15 years in healthcare leadership to WMC including unique experience with hospital integrations. He became CEO in Payson in 2014 and was there before, during and after that hospital’s successful integration into Banner. Prior to working in Payson, he held leadership roles in large and academic hospitals in Illinois and New York. Porter is originally from Northern Colorado and excited to return to the Mountain West. He will move to Casper with his wife and daughter.

He replaces interim CEO James Bleicher, M.D., who is also the hospital’s chief clinical officer.

“I want to thank Dr. Bleicher for stepping up to the challenge of leading WMC during this interim period for the past month. His leadership and dedication provided continuity for the staff as they bravely battled the COVID-19 spread,” Karsten said.



WHA PAC Auction



The WHA PAC silent auction has been a huge success! The auction raised \$5,782. A big thank you to everyone who participated in the bidding and to the following who donated items for the auction:

Powell Valley Healthcare

WHA PAC Silent Auction A Success

Cheyenne Regional Medical Center

Sheridan Memorial Hospital

Wyoming Behavioral Institute

Star Valley Medical Center

WHA Resources

Campbell County Health

Wyoming Medical Center

Community Hospital

South Lincoln Medical Center

Iverson Memorial Hospital

Margie Molitor

SageWest Health Care

Memorial Hospital of Sweetwater County

Eileen Dinneen

Weston County Health Services

WY Hfma Conference

WY HFMA Virtual Conference

The Wyoming HFMA chapter invites you to register for the fourth and final virtual meeting of the 2020 fall conference.

The meeting will be held November 19th from 9:00 a.m. until 12:30 p.m.

Walt Stasinski will be presenting “Associate Yourself With Hope.” Did you ever have the feeling of hopelessness? YOU are not alone. It’s natural to feel this way when a crisis hits. The good news

is you can transform your feelings of despair and negativity with a powerful cure called: HOPE Hope provides you with optimism, confidence and a feeling of “I can overcome this”. You will be provided with practical strategies to adapt to setbacks, failures, crises. You can create a hopeful future. You will discover that the HOPE remedy is within YOU.

Danielle Cade will be presenting Increasing Productivity and Combating Burnout: Adjusting to the New Normal of Today’s Virtual Workforce Some tips for adjusting to the changing times of today’s virtual workforce. This presentation is targeted toward Patient Financial Services providers, but there are pointers for anyone who has transitioned to working from home. Hfmawy.org