



NEWS BRIEFS

Informational Newsletter for Wyoming Hospitals

WHA Calendar:

WHA Trustee Education Casper	5/10
WHA Board Meeting Casper	5/10
WCAHN Coding Workshop	5/13
WCAHN Meeting Casper	5/26

Other Events

NRHA Meeting	5/18-5/21
Joint Labor, Health and Social Services Committee Basin	5/24
Joint Labor, Health and Social Services Committee Thermopolis	5/25
Western Regional Trustee Symposium Denver, CO	6/9-6/11

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Summit Addresses Future of Telehealth Technology in Wyo

Wyoming is surrounded by states that are using telehealth and telemedicine solutions to deliver healthcare to the farthest reaches of their states.

“Every state around Wyoming does this, and we don’t yet,” said Dr. Tom Richards of Apollo Telemedicine in Sheridan.

Dr. Richards was one of a number of regional and Wyoming-based speakers who participated in the Telehealth Summit in Laramie last week.

The summit was organized to drive discussion about the use of telemedicine in Wyoming, as well as the barriers the state continues to face in adoption and use of telemedicine technologies.

Dr. Richards is working to organize a telepsychiatry network in Wyoming, be-

cause it is a reasonable starting point for implementing a more far-reaching telehealth network, he said.

“Videoconferencing is very adept to work for meeting between a psychiatrist and a patient,” he said. “You just need face-to-face time, no physical exam.”

This approach allows a psychiatrist in Cheyenne to meet with patients from rural parts of the state online and help them with depression or other issues, he said.

A telepsychiatry pilot project is scheduled to begin in June and operate for two years, said Dr. Richards. The goal, ultimately, is to expand across the state and into other branches of healthcare.

Throughout the summit, speakers addressed questions about how to build and sustain a successful telehealth

network, how to collaborate and use the available resources, how telehealth is reimbursed, and the status of telehealth development and adoption in Wyoming.

Sustainability is the critical element, said Mark Smith, director of the Wyoming Neuroscience and Spine Center in Casper. Planning and building the network requires careful thought about how to continue funding it once initial funds have been spent and the system is up and running, he said.

Doris Barta, a board member of the Northwest Regional Telehealth Resource Center, compared current telehealth efforts to a famous line from Star Trek: it’s like the final frontier, where no man has gone before, she said.

Wyoming is a natural location for the use of telehealth technologies because of its size.

Hospital Input Sought in HIT Environmental Scan

Significant federal funding is available to the states to speed up adoption of health information technology (HIT).

To access the money, however, the state must develop a formal Health Information Exchange (HIE) strategic plan, a Medicaid HIT strategic plan, and an overall HIT strategic plan for the

state.

CSI Solutions, LLC, has been retained by the state of Wyoming to help develop these plans, and they are seeking input from all Wyoming hospitals in the process.

In the coming month, CSI expects to contact every hospital to set up a call or a site visit to discuss each

facility’s current HIT status, future plans, and key challenges and concerns.

Hospital input is critical to the planning process, so please consider taking the opportunity to meet with or talk to consultants from CSI to make your voice and concerns heard as the state moves forward with its HIT/HIE plans.



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

CCMH Program Teaches Kids About Nutrition, Exercise

It's tough to compete with video games. And fast food. And soda pop.

But Campbell County Memorial Hospital (CCMH) has figured out a way to capture kids' attention and help them understand basic nutrition, and to get them excited about healthy activities.

It's called Individuals Combining Activity and Nutrition, or ICAN, and it's a new program from CCMH's functional health department, a division of rehabilitation services.

The six-week course teaches kids the basics of nutrition and the benefits of healthy activities, including

meal planning and portion control. It does that by bringing the subject down to a kid's level, and, most importantly, by making it fun, Abby Rux, instructor and health coach told the Gillette News-Record.

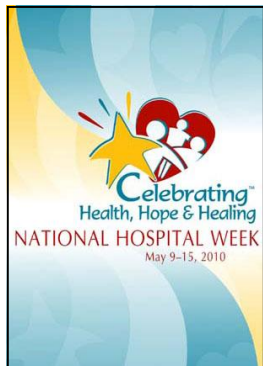
"I really want it to just be kind of fun for kids," she said.

Students read stories about nutrients from the five food groups, and they're given homework assignments that require them to identify foods with the nutrients they've learned about.

When in-class lessons are complete, it's off to an activity, which is the boys' favorite part of the program. Rux

helped them create multiple obstacle courses that they time themselves to complete.

"The main focus would be for those children that have a hard time getting up and finding activities, kids who may think there's nothing out there for them," she said. "I feel there's not enough for kids in Gillette to do if they're not into sports."



Hospital Week Celebrates 'Health, Hope & Healing'

A hospital is more than a place where people go to heal. It is part of a community that fosters health and represents hope.

From providing treatment and comfort to the sick, to welcoming new life into the world, hospitals are central to a health and optimistic community.

That's the key message

organizers are sending with the 2010 National Hospital Week theme "Health, Hope & Healing."

The event theme is the centerpiece of a promotional campaign aimed at uniting health care facilities across the country during the celebration from May 9 through May 15.

National Hospital Week dates back to 1921, when it was suggested by a magazine editor who hoped a community-wide celebration would alleviate fears about public hospitals. That celebration succeeded in promoting trust and goodwill among members of the public.

State Offers Free First Receiver Training Program

The Wyoming Department of Health's Hospital Preparedness Program has announced that it is sponsoring a Hospital First Receiver course for all Wyoming hospitals.

This Hazardous Materials Training course is free and satisfies OSHA and JACHO requirements.

First receivers typically include clinicians and other hospital staff who have a role in receiving and treating contaminated victims, such as triage, decontamination, medical treatment and security. Also included are those whose roles support these functions, such as set up and patient tracking.

Interested hospitals should contact Kipp Sanders, course instructors, to schedule the training. Sanders can be reached via email at kipp@ready-response-training.com.

Wyoming Hospital Association

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