



September 20, 2016 "Building Healthier Communities"

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## Executive Update

*Jan Cartwright, Executive Director*

I'm sure we are all expecting a beautiful Wyoming fall season and maybe a little downtime to enjoy some nice days. This has been a busy year so far and at this point on the calendar, it is nice to say that all of the HRSA Operational Site Visits scheduled for 2016 have taken place. The last one at Community Health Centers of Central Wyoming was completed just a week ago. Congratulations to all the Health Center board and staff at Sweetwater, Crossroads, Heritage and Central Wyoming for their work before and during the reviews. Without a doubt, each Health Center can take pride in the results of their review and can continue their work to provide quality healthcare with a sharper focus on program areas. WYPCA also had our first ever Site Visit in mid-August. I want to give PCA staff lots of credit for all of their hard work to prepare and support the HRSA visit. We are also proud of our results and will be sharing more in-depth information about our findings and future work planning during the upcoming WYPCA Board meeting.



As part of the three year Health Center grant cycle, three Wyoming Health Centers are writing competitive grant applications this fall. The WYPCA was able to suggest qualified grant writers to assist with the applications, and we are expecting great results for each Health Center. And mirroring the same timeline, the WYPCA will be writing our competitive cooperative agreement application, with grant guidance expected in September. Based on our OSV and the strategic plan from earlier this year, we expect to submit a more focused work plan with support from staff and board members as part of the application.

All concerned are still waiting to hear an announcement from HRSA on the New Access Point applications. We know there will be 75 awardees to receive Community Health Center funding nationwide with the announcement coming before the end of 2016. Two Wyoming organizations deserve our congratulations for submitting applications during this round. Wendy Ongaro and her staff and board at the Sheridan Health Center, currently a Free Clinic, submitted an application to become a CHC in Sheridan. Dr. Kevin Murray and Dean Steiner and staff at the University of Wyoming submitted an application to serve Albany County as a New Start Health Center in Laramie.

## Star of the Quarter: Melissa Ipsen



The WYPCA is proud to name Melissa Ipsen, Executive Director of Crossroads Healthcare Clinic, as the Star of Quarter. Melissa put in a lot of time and effort to create a Healthcare for the Homeless event for National Health Center Week that made the local news and onto Governor Matt Mead's calendar.

They celebrated the 1-year anniversary of their mobile clinic, put on a free barbecue for the homeless community and recognized their community partners. Governor Mead was also recognized for his contributions to address homelessness in Wyoming and gave a wonderful speech that shared why this issue is so important to him.

## Staff Updates



Brenda Burnett MSN, RN  
Clinical Quality Director



Hannah Wickey  
Communication/O&E Mgr



Kathy Williams  
Office Mgr/Events Coor



Mary Lynne Shickich  
Health Policy/Community  
Integration Director

**Outreach and Enrollment-** The fourth Open Enrollment is rapidly approaching and kicks off on November 1. After a series of meetings with outreach and enrollment staff, the WYPCA has decided it will no longer host a fall summit and a spring debrief for Outreach and Enrollment staff. We will instead transition to one face-to-face meeting a year with an Outreach and Enrollment track added on at our annual conference.

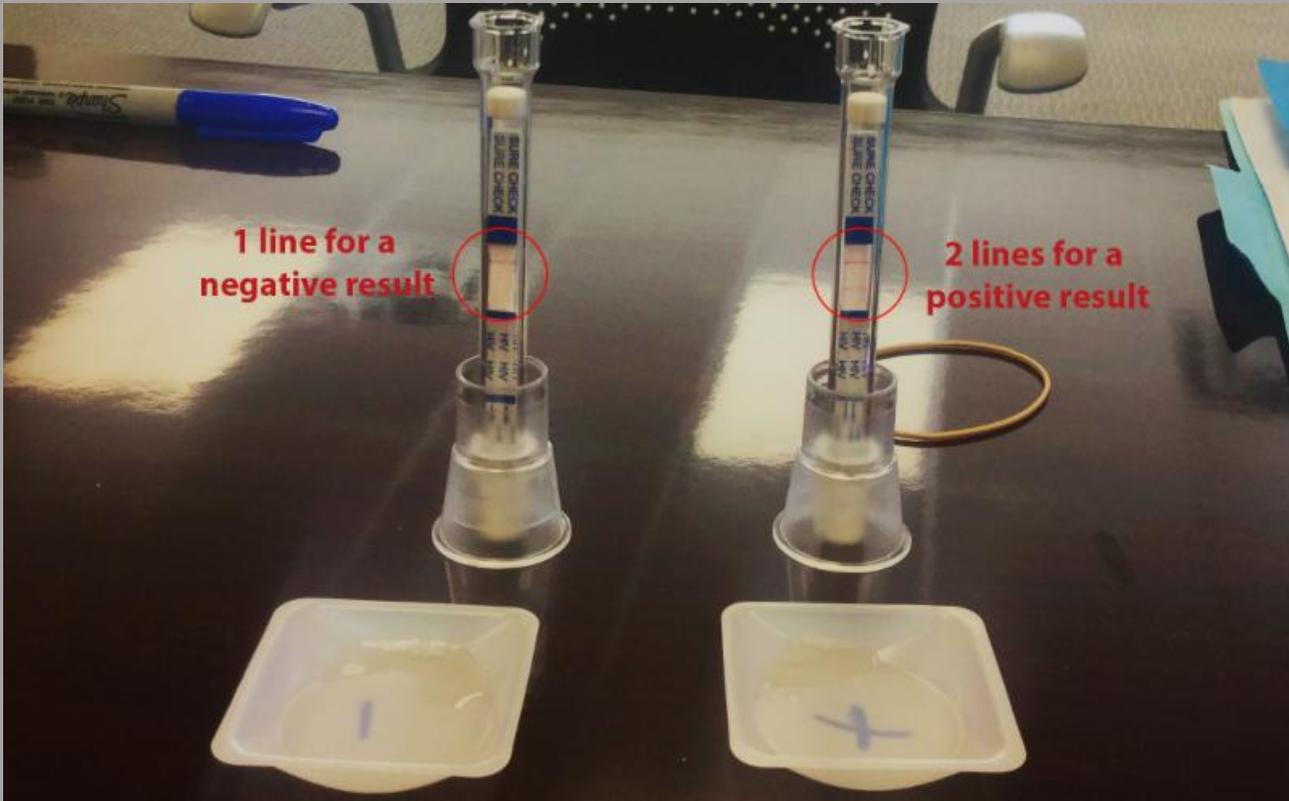


According to the Department of Insurance, Blue Cross Blue Shield has plans to let go of agents that formerly provided plan selection assistance. This means there may be a lot of

agents that formerly provided plan selection assistance. This means there may be a lot of people looking for this type of assistance elsewhere. I would not be surprised if many of the health centers notice an increase in demand for enrollment assistance this year.

The WYPCA plans to support the health centers this year with some new brochures and updated cards for the Outreach and Enrollment Handbook. These cards will feature updated figures using the newest FPL, a new exemptions section and additional details on Native American enrollment. WYPCA will again be offering the online reporting form and online appointment setting feature through their website. The online reporting form will be streamlined and formatted so that assisters can download reports as needed. It is our hope that the online reporting form will produce useful data for health centers and help tell the story of the wonderful enabling services they offer to their communities

-H.W.



Above is an example of one of the rapid HIV tests that are available on the market. This test produces results in about 15 minutes.

**HIV Screening** – You have heard the phrase “Know Your Status”? If health centers routinely provide HIV screenings as a normal part of the services, we can make this a reality within the health center patient population. By adopting the “opt –in” approach recommended by the CDC and using rapid HIV tests, clients will know their status within minutes. For those newly diagnosed with HIV, we can all be instrumental in facilitating timely referral or linkages to care– a shared cornerstone for all health care providers.

The WYPCA is excited to sponsor the webinar: HIV Screening: Are We Doing All We Can? Join us Wednesday, September 21 from 11:30 – 1 pm MT to hear *Dr. Donna Sweet* from the University of Kansas School of Medicine, *Anna Kinder* from the Wyoming AIDSEducation & Training Center and *Molly Adami* from the Wyoming Department of Health’s Communicable Disease Unit to highlight, inform, educate and share Wyoming specific resources related to HIV Screening.

**Adverse Childhood Experiences-** Did you know that there is a scientific link between early experiences and adult health outcomes? Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs Study) analyzed over 17,000 Kaiser patients with a 10 question survey focusing on abuse, neglect and household dysfunction revealing staggering proof of the health, social, and economic risks that result from childhood trauma. Jennifer Davis with the Wyoming Children’s Trust Fund will describe this study and how it pertains to Wyoming families. Join us Wednesday October 5, 2016 from 12 – 1 MST.

You can register [here](#) for the HIV Screening Webinar and [here](#) for the ACES webinar.

**Patient Safety-** Please reserve November 30, 2016 12:00 -1:00 MT for an important webinar sponsored by the ECRI Institute on “Importance of Patient Safety in the EHR Environment.”

This webinar will highlight why errors occur within an EHR that have the potential to cause patient harm. Our presenter will provide recommendations that can be adopted and applied within your organization to minimize your risk of occurrence and exposure.

**-B.B. MSN, RN**

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### **Policy and Issues Update in**

#### **Wyoming-** The Wyoming

Legislature’s Interim Committees were busy considering topics assigned to them, along with state agency budgets during the spring and summer.

In addition, this is an election year in Wyoming with an anticipated major turnover in the Legislature and in leadership. Many legislators, including those in leadership positions, are retiring. There have been numerous upsets in the primary with incumbents like the expected incoming Speaker of the House

Representative Rosie Berger losing their election bids.



At its August meeting in Lovell, the Labor Health Committee requested draft legislation for consideration at the December meeting on insurance parity in telehealth and on the Emergency Medical Services Licensure Compact. In addition, the Committee received many reports including updates on the Wyoming Family Practice Residency programs, the state’s only FQHC Look-Alike.

Other committee work that WYPCA is monitoring includes possible legislation directed at all Wyoming special districts including rural health districts. There is also consideration of an increase in the tobacco tax, which the WYPCA supports to keep young people from starting to smoke and encouraging smokers to quit. The WYPCA will testify in favor and will suggest that some of the tax revenue be earmarked for the recently defunded provider loan repayment program.

On July 1, Governor Matt Mead implemented a nearly \$250 million reduction in the state budget with the largest cuts coming from the Department of Health for a total of a \$90 million reduction. The WDH cuts have meant that some important programs like cancer screening and oral health have been eliminated. These overall cuts reflect the declining revenue

forecast for Wyoming.

-M.L.S.

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## This Just In...



**New Building for HealthWorks-** HealthWorks just added over 1,500 sq feet to its health center! HealthWorks covered 25% of the costs for project with the rest coming from the Primary Care Support Grant award they received in October 2013. The WYPCA is so pleased to see the bill they proposed to the Labor Health Committee back in 2011 put to such great use.

The building will primarily be used to provide mental health services made possible by a Substance Abuse Grant awarded to HealthWorks by HRSA earlier this year. They will move into the building by October 1.





CHCCW staff with Wendy Spencer, CEO of Corporation of National and Community Service. From left to right: Susan Follum, LCSW IMPACT Care Manager; Angela Neff,

Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner; Wendy Spencer; Ryan Bair, LCSW COO; Leslie Curtis, CSW IMPACT Care Manager; Alicja Iznerowicz, LCSW Director of Behavioral Health

**National Recognition for CHCCW-** Community Health Centers of Central Wyoming (CHCCW) received a national recognition for its work on implementing an IMPACT program. IMPACT, which stands for Improving Mood and Promoting Access to Collaborative Treatment, is a grant program that integrates behavioral health with primary care.

CHCCW had a goal of treating 550 patients diagnosed with depression over a three-year project period. They were able to meet and exceeded that goal by 100 patients. In total they have served 650 patients using the IMPACT depression care model.

You can read the full press release about the IMPACT recognition on the WYPCA [website](#).

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## Guest Column

# Wyoming Telehealth Network: Connecting Patients and Providers across Wyoming

By: Canyon Leigh Hardesty



The Wyoming Telehealth Network (WyTN) is accepting new enrollees and will offer cloud-based technology, training, and technical assistance to Wyoming providers. Telehealth is a model of healthcare delivery that moves healthcare closer to patients while ensuring continuity of care in a rural, resource-limited state.

The goal of WyTN is to leverage telecommunication technology to link patients and providers

to deliver positive healthcare outcomes for Wyoming residents. WyTN also brings professional development opportunities to healthcare professionals in their home communities. Professional development topics include chronic disease management, tele-behavioral health, and Medicare payment reform.

James Bush M.D., Director of Medicaid at the Wyoming Department of Health, says the ability to use cloud-based technology to provide HIPAA-compliant telehealth connections between physicians and their patients means it is now easier for providers to not only have their patients see specialists while remaining in their home community, but also for Physicians to see remote patients from their homes, providing better care with greater convenience.”

WyTN provides health care providers and their practices access to free videoconferencing software to support the delivery of telehealth services. Resources for providers interested in telehealth can be found at <http://www.uwyo.edu/wind/wytn/index.html>, and an enrollment form can be found at <http://www.uwyo.edu/wind/wytn/enrollment.html>.

**The WYPCA is excited to partner with WyTN on an upcoming webinar that further elaborates on the telehealth opportunities in Wyoming. The webinar takes place on November 16, but you can register for it now at this [link](#).**

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## Golden Learning Opportunity Partnerships to Promote a Healthy Wyoming

The Wyoming Public Health Association, and the Wyoming Department of Health, Chronic Disease Unit are pleased to announce registration is now OPEN for the 2016 education conference. This Conference is a unique opportunity to gather with colleagues from a variety of settings and professions.

Who should participate?

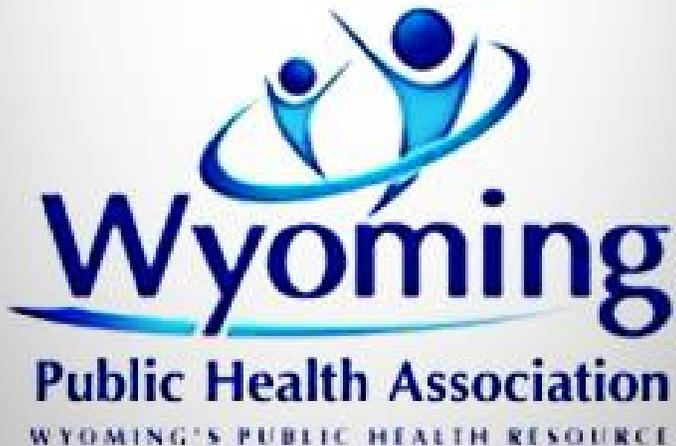
- Environmental health professionals
- Students
- Community-based organization staff
- Community partners
- Community health workers
- Patient Navigators
- Diabetes Educators
- State and County public health agency staff
- Local public health agency staff
- Public health nurses
- Policy professionals
- Public health educators
- Community planners
- Related health professionals
- Physicians
- Program coordinators and admin
- Researchers and faculty
- Mental health and substance abuse professionals





# Wyoming Department of Health

Commit to your health.



The conference takes place at Little America on **September 28-29** and will provide information, tools and best practice concepts in chronic disease prevention as well as in Public Health. For more information on the Conference, please check out the Wyoming Public Health [website](#).

**The History Behind the Name:** A Chuckline Rider was an early source of news for ranchers. It was an unemployed cowboy who would ride from ranch to ranch and exchange information for a meal.

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