



June 14, 2016 "Building Healthier Communities"

Executive Update

Jan Cartwright, Executive Director

Thanks for taking a few minutes to read through the second edition of the Chuckline Rider newsletter from Wyoming Primary Care Association.

It is only June and it's already been a busy year! In February, all of the Health Centers had representatives attend a WYPCA Strategic Planning Retreat in Cheyenne. We are so grateful for their wisdom and guidance. With facilitation from Integrated Work Solutions of Boulder, CO, the group was able to chart our course in five strategic areas for the next three years.



Veterans Choice Program- In the April bi-weekly, updates to the Veterans Choice Program were shared to emphasize the improvements to their payment system. The overall goal is to shorten the time that Veterans Choice providers receive payment. The PCA recently came across a PowerPoint that really highlights the opportunities this program presents for FQHCs and we hope that you will review it on the [WYPCA website](#).

New Access Points- This is a busy time for the communities in Wyoming who are applying for new federal funding to build a Community Health Center. Originally five communities were considering an application, but now it's down to three: the Northern Arapaho Tribe, Sheridan and Laramie. The Northern Arapaho tribe are applying for Health Center funding for Ethete. Sheridan is basing their application on the Free Clinic services that are already provided. Laramie is applying to provide care to the underserved in Albany County through the Educational Health Center of Wyoming at the University of Wyoming. The PCA is so pleased to provide support for these applications. The final deadline is July 15, with funding announcements to be made by the end of the calendar year.

Conference Wrap-Up- There are a few aspects of our recent Annual Training Conference I would like to highlight in addition to the article that appears later in this newsletter. First, congratulations to the winners of the first annual Excellence awards who are also our "Star of the Quarter". Second, at the conference we honored Wyoming State Representative Elaine Harvey as a "Health Center Champion". Elaine (HD 26) recently announced that she will not run again for her seat representing parts of Park and Big Horn Counties. In her 16 years in the Wyoming House, she worked on and led the Labor Health and Social Services Committee. It was her leadership that led to legislation dedicating the first state money for

Community Health Centers in Wyoming. I also want to thank the WYPCA Staff for their work along with many of the speakers who attended on their own to make the conference a success.

Tribute to William Baker– We lost a Health Center Champion last month. William “Bill” Baker, DVM, passed away on May 21. He was the founder of the Powell Health Care Coalition with his wife Sharon. Together they worked tirelessly for a dozen years to realize the Heritage Health Center, which opened in September 2015 in Powell. Originally from Virginia, Bill had a storied life as a veterinarian, sailor and sportsman. It was on a bike tour that he and Sharon decided to relocate to Powell from the east coast, and the community was better for it. Among many talents that included photography (he had an exhibit of photos he had taken and enhanced all on his iPad), Bill was a student who read three newspapers each morning. Of the many things I will miss are the articles of interest that Bill would send to the PCA. For another viewpoint about Bill and Sharon’s work, click [here](#).

Jan Cartwright
Executive Director



Star of the Quarter: The WYPCA Annual Award Winners

This was the first year the WYPCA Annual Training Conference featured an awards ceremony. There were three award categories:

- Excellence in Health Center Leadership
- Excellence in Health Center Care
- Excellence in Health Center Service

It was wonderful to recognize such deserving individuals and to read why their colleagues felt they deserved the award.

Excellence in Health Center Leadership

“Kodi is CHCCW’s Dir. of Development. Every project she undertakes is done with a strict eye for all the details. Even with an EHR that was not designed to pull reports she has accurately gotten all the figures for UDS. When someone does not understand an aspect of the project and their role in it, Kodi gently educates and guides them to success.”

-Nomination from Community Health Centers of Central Wyoming

Excellence in Health Center Care

“Norma is the most dedicated caregiver I have ever known. She cares for everyone no matter who walks in the door.”

-Nomination from HealthWorks

Excellence in Health Center Service

“Jessica goes above and beyond her duties in O&E. She actively promotes the health center and takes all aspects of her job to the next level. She has developed an entire marketing campaign that will integrate all health center services and promotion. She is always looking for new grant funding and other ways to improve health center services.”

-Nomination from Heritage Health Center

Staff Updates



Outreach and Enrollment- An additional challenge has presented itself to Wyomingites who have been laid off from the energy industry. This problem arises from energy workers accepting COBRA health coverage as part of their severance package and unknowingly losing their Special Enrollment Period (SEP) with the Marketplace.



The responsibility for COBRA premium payments eventually shifts from the former employer to the former employee. These premiums cost around \$1600 a month and drive people to seek out more affordable coverage options on the Marketplace. However, a consumer with COBRA coverage can not opt out due to its un-affordability and must let it run out in order to trigger a SEP and enroll outside Open Enrollment.

The department of insurance has taken measures to educate energy employers about the predicament they are unintentionally placing their former workers in. It is so fortunate to have Marketplace assistors in place at Wyoming Health Centers to educate individual Wyomingites on their options during this difficult time. If a person finds themselves in this predicament, it is recommended that they file a hardship exemption (income limits apply) for the months they are without coverage and come back November 1 to review their Marketplace options

-H.W.

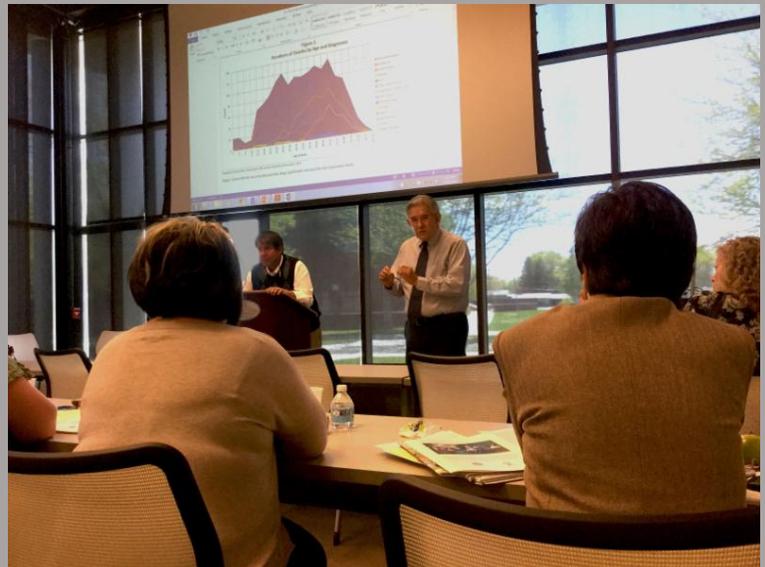
Annual Conference- The 3rd Annual WYPCA Training and Technical Assistance Conference took place May 17 and 18 on the beautiful Northwest College Campus in Powell, WY. Attendees experienced new features this year with a webinar session and tours of health centers. As always a mix of national, regional and state presenters provided valuable information on pertinent

topics that face Wyoming Health Centers and the work they do for their communities.

The health center tours brought together health center staff, who normally have hundreds of miles between them, to take a glimpse of what a similar program looks like in a different community. As the saying goes, "Once you've seen one health center... you've seen one health center."

The evaluations show this year's conference was a success. Thank you attendees, presenters, Northwest College and their delicious catering. We would like to extend a special thank you to Anna Sapp who worked closely with the WYPCA to ensure that everything from the lighting to the technology and food met our needs. Finally thank you to the city of Powell for your charm and beautiful weather that created a wonderful atmosphere for this event.

-K.W.





Top: Former IHS Director Rick Brannan gave Wind River Reservation updates
Middle: Velma Stingley, Area Services Coordinator for Ag Worker Health & Services, guides a tour of their new clinic
Bottom: Downtown Powell

Zika Virus- Just a few short months ago, not many had heard of the Zika Virus or the consequences of becoming infected. As information develops, we are reminded nearly every day that the ability of this virus to affect the health and well-being of our clients and communities is NOT to be underestimated. The virus is on the move as the CDC map below illustrates. As health care providers, we are on the front lines of the Zika battle to ensure that our clients understand their risk of exposure and to encourage testing if they may have been exposed. The CDC has collected and developed many resources related to the Zika virus. These resources include posters that can be printed and displayed in your clinics. You can view them [here](#).



This map from cdc.gov shows all the laboratory-confirmed cases of Zika. All the Zika cases in the 50 states were travel-associated cases. Only 5 states don't have at least one case of Zika: Wyoming, North Dakota, South Dakota, Idaho and Alaska. New York has the most cases with 130 with Florida following close behind with 128.

A number of other national organizations are working to provide information and education due to the reproductive implications of the Zika Virus. One of these organizations is the Family Planning National Training Centers. Their resources can be viewed [here](#).

-B.B. MSN, RN

National Health Service Corps- A virtual job fair will be taking place on Tuesday, July 19th from 5 - 8:15 pm MST. This virtual job fair will allow designated National Health Service Corps (NHSC) sites to interact with job-seeking clinicians in all NHSC-eligible disciplines.

This recruiting opportunity is open to designated sites with a HPSA score of 17 or above. This score is higher than many of Wyoming's HPSA scores, but the requirement will not always be this high to participate in future virtual job fairs. The most recent virtual job fair in May only required a score of 14 and above and another virtual job fair will be available in October. You can contact Hannah Wickey, hannah@wypca.org, if you are unsure of your HPSA score.

If you have a qualifying HPSA score and a job opening in one of the following areas:

- Physicians (MD or DO)
- Dentists
- Nurse Practitioners (post graduate degree with clinical practice focus)
- Certified Nurse-Midwives
- Physician Assistants
- Registered Nurses

you can register at the link found [here](#) until Tuesday June 21st. You will need to prepare a 10-slide presentation and send them to NHSCVirtualJobFair@hrsa.gov by Friday, June 24th. Completing registration and submitting a presentation does NOT guarantee you a spot as presenter.

An example presentation and guidance on preparing an effective 10-slide presentation are available. To receive one or both of these documents please email Hannah Wickey at the email address mentioned above.

If you are selected as a presenter you will get to interact with the career fair attendees for 15 minutes to talk about your organization, the community you serve, the opportunities you have available and to answer questions. The NHSC Virtual Job Fair Team will work with you throughout the preparation and presentation process.

-H.W.



Guest Column

Nurse Practitioner Residency Programs in FQHCs

By Michelle Dowling, *RN* and Ann Marie Hart, *PhD, FNP-BC*

Research supports that nurse practitioners (NPs) deliver primary care with excellent outcomes and high satisfaction ratings. NPs have a strong record of working with rural and vulnerable populations, however, new NPs' transition to independent practice is often described as tremulous and without adequate support. The National Academy of Medicine has called for the development of NP residencies in FQHCs for the dual benefit of improving access and to facilitate new NPs transition to practice. A recent study explored developing NP residencies in Wyoming's FQHCs, with a main theme, "If we build it, they will come."

Wyoming has a strong FQHC infrastructure, next steps are to secure leadership and funding.



Golden Learning Opportunity "DoAsk, Do Tell! Collecting Data on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity in Health Centers" Webinar

THE FENWAY



INSTITUTE

Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people face many health disparities and stigma in health care. Despite this, LGBT people remain largely invisible to their providers. Collecting sexual orientation and gender identity (SO/GI) data of new and returning patients is critical for health centers and other healthcare organizations to provide a welcoming, inclusive environment of care; and to provide high-quality care to all patients. HRSA recently added SO/GI data as a required element for the Uniform Data System (UDS) for CY 2016.

There are 11 states collaborating on this webinar: Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North and South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming to help you accomplish the following learning objectives:

1. Describe LGBT concepts, terms, and health disparities
2. Explain why collecting sexual orientation and gender identity (SO/GI) data is important for

health centers and patient care

3. Access recommendations for collecting sexual orientation and gender identity data and entering it into electronic health records (EHR)

4. Identify ways to provide a welcoming and inclusive health care environment to collect SO/GI data

This is a 90-minute webinar. Registration is not required. Please carve out a spot on your calendar for Tuesday, August 2 from 12-1:30pm, and join the webinar using this [link](#).

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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