



June 14, 2017 "Building Healthier Communities"

## Executive Update

Jan Cartwright, Executive Director

With the Annual Conference behind us, Wyoming PCA staff is setting our sights to our new project period, which starts on July 1. Our HRSA negotiated work plan will be shared with board members at our next board meeting. We are busy planning for National Health Center Week events in August, the solar eclipse\* and fall training events. I hope that you will "save the date" for two WYPCA sponsored trainings in September to include a PCMH Summit in Cheyenne at Little America on September 12th and 13th (tentatively). Also in September, a board governance training will be held in Douglas at a location and date to be determined. This is for all Health Center board members who are new or need an update on the 19 program requirements. The trainer will be Mr. Jimmy Brown, a veteran, hospital and health care administrator and HRSA governance reviewer whose presentation style attendees will find educational and even enjoyable. Stay tuned to the bi-weekly and updates on both events.



## CONFERENCE WRAP-UP

As the last quarterly newsletter was "going to print", the WYPCA staff was still busy planning the Annual Conference. Fast forward and the conference is behind us. Based on evaluations and comments, I'm happy to say that it was a success. As we shared during the conference, there are many people/organizations to thank including the sponsors especially the American Cancer Society who not only provided thousands in financial support, but brought nationally recognized speakers who rolled out their newest educational effort, the Healthy Eating and Active Living Environment (HEALE). We are grateful for this type of support which brings new people and increased attention to our conference.

The biggest reason for the conference success goes to the WYPCA staff whose months of planning and coordination ensured an enjoyable and accessible education opportunity for the attendees. From Kathy's event management skills to Hannah's O & E track, valuable information was provided and the event went smoothly. Brenda brought the HEALE event to the conference through her ongoing work with ACS. Mary Lynne provided on location support and managed the policy side including the surprise visit from one of Senator Barrasso's staff. It was my job to thank them for all their contributions as the conference was wrapping up, but I missed that opportunity. **THANKYOU** Kathy, Brenda, Hannah and Mary Lynne.

## NATIONAL HEALTH CENTER WEEK

The second week of August is always a week to showcase America's Community Health Centers, this year August 13-19. We have already heard from several Health Centers about their events, but we'd like to encourage more. Mary Lynne always reminds legislators about the week, especially our federal delegation. This year's efforts take on more meaning with the changes to health insurance and Medicaid and a new administration's health policy.

changes to health insurance and Medicaid and a new administration's first budget. Let us know if you have already heard from legislators or invited them to your center and we are encouraging Congressman Cheney to visit a Health Center during the August recess.

## \*SOLAR ECLIPSE

August 21 will be quite a day for Wyoming and especially those communities in the range of the totality. It is expected that the state's population will double and according to emergency preparedness folks, there could be as many as 150,000 cars on I-25 and the load on cell service could exceed capacity. This is a rather intense emergency preparedness exercise in real time and a good way to work with the regional EP coalition and to show that your Center is working on EP issues. In support of Health Centers and your patients' eyesight, the WYPCA has purchased eclipse glasses and will make them available to each Health Center.

Happy summer,

Jan Cartwright  
Executive Director

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## Stars of the Quarter: Winners of the WYPCA Annual Awards

This was the second year of the WYPCA Annual Awards and the first year that an award honoring the work of William Baker, DVM of Powell was added to the award categories. A founding member of the Powell Health Care Coalition, William Baker was the applicant for both the state Health Center grant and the successful NAP. His research and concern for the underserved in Park County were exemplary and the inspiration for the Bill Baker Legacy Award. These awards were created to recognize good work at every level of the health center and include four categories: Excellence in Health Center Service, Excellence in Health Center Care, Excellence in Health Center Leadership and the William Baker Legacy Award.

**Trisha Runningfisher of Crossroads Healthcare Clinic wins the Excellence in Health Center Service Award-** "Trisha is our outreach worker/case manager for our clinic. Trisha drives our mobile clinic every week and acts as the front desk receptionist on our mobile clinic when

patients come on to see our provider in addition to her other duties including being a SOAR representative. She is well-known in the homeless community and has a reputation for going above and beyond to help her clients with clothing, housing, transportation, or other resources to help meet their basic needs. Recently she worked with a community agency to get a food box for a homeless patient in a town 45 miles away from our clinic. She picked up the food box and drove it out to him so he would not go hungry. This is just one example of Trisha's motivation to improve the overall health and wellbeing of our patients."



*In photo from left to right: Melissa Ipsen Program*



**PCMH Collaborative Work Group of UW Family Medicine at Cheyenne wins the Excellence in Health Center Care-** "After several false starts, our clinic has a core group of team members, including physicians, nursing staff, and administrative staff who are actively engaged in weekly PCMH team meetings. Under the leadership of Dr. Evan Norby, Program Director, we have made more progress in the last three months than we had in five years. We have reviewed each standard, collected the required reports, discussed and evaluated our results to strengthen existing and build new clinic process improvement measures and projects. Our team has set a September

2017 date for submitting all of our data for review and approval of our PCMH application. Given the time and effort the group has committed to this project, we would, be best served to recognize our entire team for our accomplishment. Through this process, the entire team has come amongst various departments in a way that exemplifies team accomplishment. It is an honor to work with such a group of professionals."

*In photo from left to right: David Squires WYPCA Board President, PCMH Team member Theresa Sheheen, WYPCA Clinical Quality Director Brenda Burnett and PCMH Team member Elizabeth M. Bravo-Alcon*

**Colette Behrent of Heritage Health Center wins the Excellence in Health Center Leadership Award-**

"I am nominating Colette Behrent for the Excellence in Health Center Leadership Award for her determination and tireless devotion to opening our health center from scratch. She was fresh out of her Public Health Master's Degree looking to make a positive difference in the health of communities. I believe opening a new health center in Wyoming certainly qualifies for that. She has had to learn many different systems and deal with all of the red tape required of new starts and Administrators, in addition to hiring the right staff, making budgeting decisions, being the HR and payroll department and occasionally the plumber and maintenance person when things really just needed to be done. She handle challenges professionally and thoughtfully and is careful not to make hasty decisions that could jeopardize the Center's future. We are fortunate to have her running the show up in Powell."



*In photo from left to right: Colette Behrent CEO of Heritage Health Center, Past leadership winner Kodi Merschat of CHCCW and David Squires WYPCA Board President*

**Wes Metzler of Heritage Health Center wins the William Baker Legacy Award-** "Wes is the reason HHC is still standing, literally. Wes has been our go to person to keep the physical location of the health center up-to-date and in-tact. He has spent countless hours at the health center working on everything from painting to roof repair and is always on the look out for articles or information that can help me grow and learn as a CEO. He does this in conjunction with being a part of numerous other community organizations that support Powell

conjunction with being apart of numerous other community organizations that support Powell citizens and the health center. If Wes can't fix the problem he knows just who to call and has no problem volunteering to make the call. He is part of our financial committee and the go to person to get checks signed. He volunteered to take a trip to Basin, 40 miles away, to help look at a possible new facility as HHC continues to grow. Wes does not get enough credit for the tremendous amount of work he did to get HHC open and help it towards continued success. HHC would not be what it is today without his help & support."

**Congratulations to all of the winners and thank you for all of your hard work!**

## Staff Updates



### WYPCA's 4th Annual

**Conference-** The 4th Annual Wyoming Primary Care Association(WYPCA) Training and Technical Assistance Conference was held, May 3 – 5, 2017, at the Ramkota Hotel and Convention Center in Casper Wyoming. This year's conference included both state and national speakers presenting on many topics including "Leading Change", presented by Patricia Marshall from SynerChange Chicago, "Healthy Eating and Active Living Environment" presented by the American Cancer Society and updates from the Wyoming Department of Health and CHAMPS. This year the WYPCA added a successful resource fair that gave attendees the chance to connect with vendors throughout the State of Wyoming. Following the conference we received very positive feedback from attendees who enjoyed the presenters, information provided and the addition of the resource fair.



We would like to thank all of those who attended this year's conference and look forward to seeing you again next year. If you were unable to attend this year keep your eye out for information on next year's conference.

-K.J.

## Wyoming Marketplace Enrollment

**Health Insurance Market Place Plan Selections by  
County Through March 1, 2017**



Graph created by Enroll Wyoming using data from Health and Human Services, Health Insurance Marketplace Plan Selections by Zip Code (10/1/13 – 3/1/17)

**Outreach and Enrollment-** There were a few that didn't think it would happen, but Open Enrollment for Marketplace is still on for 2017 - 2018. The WYPCA will continue to

support the health center CACs and our partners across the state by hosting a series of virtual meetings so they can discuss work-related issues peer-to-peer. The schedule will be developed over the summer and will be sent directly to Outreach and Enrollment (O&E) staff and partners via email. Please contact Hannah Wickey at [hannah@wypca.org](mailto:hannah@wypca.org) if there is someone who needs to be added to those communications.

Thank you to everyone who attended the O&E sessions at our annual conference. Above is one of the slides from the Enroll Wyoming presentation that captures Marketplace enrollment by county over the last four years. This track will take the place of the face-to-face O&E Fall Summit this year and will do so in coming years as well. In early fall the WYPCA will host a webinar on plan selection. The presenter of the webinar, Dave Chandra, formerly the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP) before becoming an independent consultant. He will be breaking down plans from Wyoming's Marketplace and explain all the intricacies of selecting a health plan to fit a person's needs. Additional information will be available in future communications.

-H.W.



**PCMH Boot Camp-** The 2017 PCMH Standards are here! If you are feeling a little confused about the recent changes that NCQA made with the PCMH survey process, you are not alone. The Wyoming Primary Care Association, in response to the numerous questions we have received about the changes, will be sponsoring a PCMH Application and Intent Boot Camp in September 2017! This Boot camp will span two days and feature a nationally-recognized consultant to introduce attendees to the 2017 application process; including the renewal or upgrade application. Practices now have a choice in the specific activities that must be demonstrated to

meet recognition requirements. We will be exploring those options plus much, much more.

We hope that you will consider joining us in September for this valuable and informative opportunity to learn from an expert on PCMH. Watch your email for additional details on this invitation!

**-B.B. MSN, RN, PCMH Content Certified Expert**

## Health Centers Weigh-In with

**Wyoming Senators-** This week Wyoming Health Centers and the Wyoming PrimaryCare Association sent a letter to Senator Mike Enzi and Senator JohnBarrasso about concerns with the Senate efforts on the American Health Care Act(AHCA). Both Wyoming Senators serve on a working group to prepare the bill for full Senate consideration.



As you recall, the House of Representatives in May passed the American Health Care Act(AHCA). According to estimates from the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office, the bill would leave 23 million more individuals without vital health coverage in 10 years. It also would cut billions from the already underfunded Medicaid program, which offers a critical lifeline to our most vulnerable citizens – children, the disabled, the poor and the elderly. In addition, the bill would eliminate essential protections for older and sicker patients, including those with pre-existing conditions, such as cancer patients and the chronically ill.

Our letter expressed concerns with the bill, especially the impact on vulnerable populations and asked the senators to reset the discussion to protect health coverage for as many Americans as possible. Along with our letter we offered a set of principles and recommendation for health reform in 2017.

For a copy of the letter, please contact Mary Lynne at [marylynn@wypca.org](mailto:marylynn@wypca.org).

-M.L.S.

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## This just in...



**Two Wyoming Health Center physicians were featured in an article about rural health on Helio.com.** Helio is a website that was created for medical specialists to receive clinical news and information as well as to provide access to continuing online education. The article included interviews with rural health experts from across the country. It was written in response to a CDC report that found people who live in rural areas have a higher risk of death than people who live in urban areas from heart disease, cancer, unintentional injury, chronic lower respiratory disease and stroke.

Dr. Vaughn Morgan works for Community Health Centers of Central Wyoming in Dubois and Dr. Juanita Sapp works for Heritage Health Center in Powell. They were able to provide some perspective for those who don't live in rural areas and were baffled by the findings in

some perspective for those who don't live in rural areas and were missed by the findings in the CDC report. You can read the full article [here](#). Dr. Morgan is featured on pages two and three of the article and Dr. Sapp appears on pages three and eight.

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## Golden Learning Opportunity FluFIT Colorectal Screening Program

The American Cancer Society is partnering with the MountainPacific Quality Health Foundation to bring a 4-part webinar series on FluFIT implementation to practices around Wyoming. This evidence-based, colorectal cancer screening initiative distributes Fecal Immunochemical Tests (FIT) to age, average risk adults who have not yet been screened for colorectal cancer when they come to your clinic for a flu shot.



This first webinar in the series, An Introduction to the FluFIT Program, will take place on June 20 from 12-1 pm, presented by Dr. Durado Brooks – you can register for it [here](#). The other webinars will cover the following topics and be held at the following times:

Webinar 2: Assemble a FluFIT Team, July 18

Webinar 3: Develop a FluFIT Workflow, Aug. 1

Webinar 4: Systems to Support Patient Flow, Aug. 29

More information on registration and speakers for the rest of the series to come soon.

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## Guest Column Disaster Planning for Healthcare

By: David Edwards

*Hospital Preparedness Program Coordinator for the WY Department of Health*



Come November 15, 2017, many CMS providers will need to have in place a disaster plan that meet the new Conditions of Participation (COP). This disaster plan will include policies and procedures for implementation of the plan and a training and testing program that includes participation in a community-based exercise.

However, a plan is nothing more than a bunch of paper if you don't exercise and test it periodically. As former President Dwight D. Eisenhower said, "Plans are nothing; planning is everything." Take the time to work with your personnel and subject matter experts to develop your plan. Disasters do happen. How your facility will survive depends on your plans, preparedness and training.

Need help in developing your plan? Contact your local Healthcare Coalition Coordinator. They are available to assist you in meeting the new COPs. Wyoming's Healthcare Coalitions work to ensure that each member agency has what it needs to respond to emergencies and planned events, including medical equipment and supplies, real-time information, communication systems, and educated and trained health care personnel.

Reach out to your Healthcare Coalition Coordinator. Or you can contact me at [david.edwards@wyo.gov](mailto:david.edwards@wyo.gov) or by telephone at 307-777-6904.

**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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