



December 13, 2016 "Building Healthier Communities"

We are glad to share this last newsletter of 2016. When I take a look back on this past year, it shows that Wyoming Health Centers have many reasons to celebrate their work in 2016.

Early in the year, we thought that there would be five applicants for New Access Point (NAP) funding. We were eager and prepared to support those applications when the announcement was made in mid-April; however, after many conversations and consideration, three communities decided not to apply and found other ways to serve their populations. We are still waiting to hear whether the applications from the Sheridan Health Center and the University of Wyoming for Laramie will be awarded, but hopefully soon!

WYPCA welcomed several new Health Center leaders this year including Cole White as the new *permanent* CEO of the Community Health Center of Central Wyoming. He hit the ground running in his new role by finding a new location for Riverton Health Center that will allow for more exposure and make it easier for patients to find the clinic.

After a lag in service, the migrant health program in Powell re-opened this year under the Montana Migrant and Seasonal Farm Workers Council. They are now located near the Heritage Health Center, which allows for some synergy between the two programs.

After taking on the leadership of HealthWorks in March, David Squires inherited a state grant to increase clinic space at the Health Center and also found out that HealthWorks was awarded a Substance Abuse and Opioid Prevention grant. Being a resourceful person, he blended the two efforts so that the new building space would house the new staff for the behavioral health grant to address opioid and other addictions.

Last but definitely not least are the Quality Improvement projects. Wyoming Health Centers were awarded more than \$170,000 in QI awards from HRSA this year. And at the WYPCA, a new Clinical Quality Director joined the staff to work directly with the Health Centers on QI projects. Brenda as Clinical Quality Director brings a very valuable combination of significant clinical experience and endless enthusiasm to make her a true asset to WYPCA staff.

Executive Update

Jan Cartwright, Executive Director



The end of the year brings the loss of a Health Center, the Sweetwater Health Center and Pharmacy, which will close permanently on December 30, 2016. On a more hopeful note, WYPCA staff continues to work with two possible applicants for funding to reopen the Health Center later in 2017. The Health Center board and staff had worked hard to maintain the Health Center against the difficulties of leadership challenges and a troubled start and for that, we thank them.

Thank you for your contributions to a Healthier Wyoming! Let the staff of Wyoming Primary Care Association take this chance to send our wishes for a warm and wonderful holiday season. We are pledged to the success of everyone who has worked on behalf of the health of their community.

Best wishes for a peaceful holiday season and a bright and healthy 2017.

Jan Cartwright
Executive Director

Star of the Quarter: UW Family Practice Care Team



PDSA Cycles, Fish Bone Diagrams, Process Mapping, Patient Cycle Time, Staff Role Analysis... these are just a sampling of the quality improvement tools that a core set of staff from the Cheyenne campus of the University of Wyoming Family Medicine Residency Program (UWFMRP) have been working on as part of their Team Based Care (TBC) Learning Collaborative.

In September, UWFMRP began a nine month project with 17 other Federally-Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and Look-A-Like health centers from across the nation to develop a model of team-based care. This project is sponsored by Community Health Centers, Inc. (CHCI) in Connecticut.

Pictured left to right: Stephanie Schneider, Pamela Mary Oiler, Brenda Burnett, Elizabeth (Liz) Bravo-Alcon & LaDonna Whittaker,

Not pictured: Patrick Monahan, Ashley Krug, Christine Novy, Dona Romain, Elisabeth Gehringer, Evan D. Norby, Marianne Ploucha & Thanh-Nga Thi Nguyen

The TBC core team meets weekly to apply proven quality improvement processes to a variety of issues identified by the team. For more information about the project and this hard-working team, please contact faculty member/LCSW, Pam Oiler, prodi@uwyo.edu.

Staff Updates



Brenda Burnett
Clinical Quality Director



Hannah Wickey
Communication/O&E

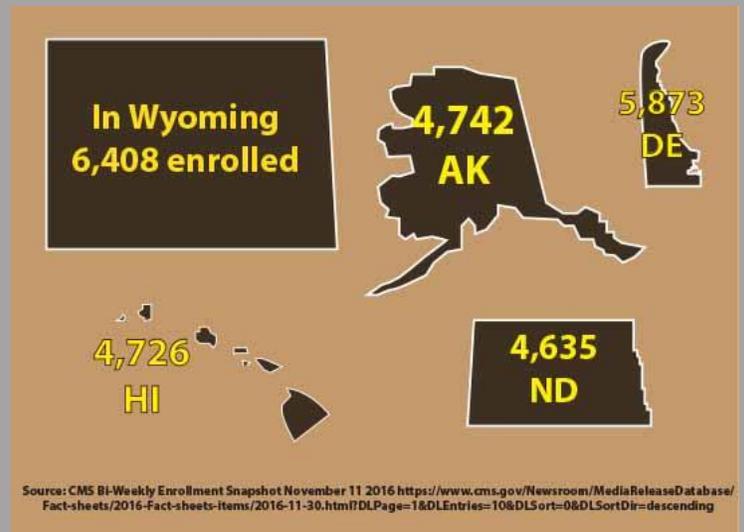


Kathy Johnson
Office Mgr./Events Coord.



Mary Lynne Shickich
Health Policy

Outreach and Enrollment- We are now about a month and a half into the fourth Open Enrollment. The election was a big surprise to some and now it has many talking about the future of the Affordable Care Act. As it stands now, nothing has changed: the ACA still offers eligible consumers the opportunity to enroll in health coverage, tax credits are still available to make it affordable and health centers and other entities still provide free in-person assistance to help.



6,408 Wyomingites enrolled in the first four weeks of Open Enrollment. This is an impressive number. To help illustrate how impressive, we compared our enrollment numbers to other states in the above graphic. Even though our population is the smallest in the country, our enrollment numbers are higher even when directly compared.

If the current Marketplace enrolled population in Wyoming were a city, it would be about the size of Torrington!

-H.W.



World AIDS Day- On December 1, 2016 the University of Wyoming Family Medicine Residency Program (UWFMRP) in Casper held an outreach event to promote World AIDS Day. This event was open to the public and co-sponsored by the WY Department of Health Communicable Disease Division, Natrona County Public Health and the Mountain West AIDS Education & Training Center. Confidential rapid HIV testing was available no cost on the Casper campus. Dr. Kim Whitaker from the UWFMRP clinic, stated that while the clinic has always provided HIV testing they wanted to raise awareness of the importance of everyone knowing their HIV status and the availability of rapid HIV screenings at the clinic. **In total they administered 50 rapid HIV tests!**

-B.B. MSN, RN

The 64th Wyoming Legislature Meets in January- The November elections are behind us, and here is the outcome for the 64th Legislature:

The Wyoming Senate lost one democratic seat so the composition now is 27 Republicans and 3 Democrats. The major change is the body went from one woman to now three women. A new member to the Senate from the House of Representatives is incoming Senator Fred Baldwin who is a physician assistant. He practices at the hospital in his hometown of Kemmerer and has a deep understanding of rural healthcare challenges and opportunities.



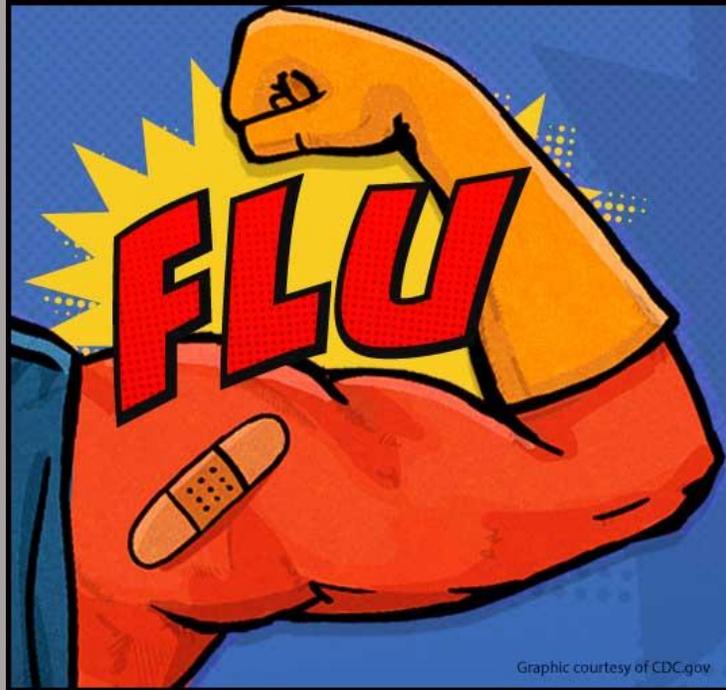
The House of Representatives stayed the same as far as party is concerned. There will be 51 Republicans and 4 Democrats. Tim Hallinan, MD a physician from Gillette, Wyoming has been elected to the House. He had served previously but stepped back for four years for health reasons. In the past, he has been considered one of the more knowledgeable legislators on health issues.

House Labor Committee assignments are as follows : Eric Barlow, Chairman; Scott Clem, JoAnn Dayton, Mike Gierau, Timothy Hallinan, Marti Halverson, Kendell Kroeker, Lars Lone, Patrick Sweeney and Senate Labor Committee assignments as follows: Charles Scott, Chairman; Fred Baldwin, Brian Boner, Anthony Bouchard, R. Ray Peterson.

Tuesday, January 10 is the opening day of the 40-day Session, which will meet every Monday through Friday except President's weekend, where there is a recess on both the Friday and Monday of the holiday. The tentative ending date is Friday, March 3. There are no restrictions on bills filed during a general session to any topic can be introduced by a legislator as long as it is submitted to the Legislative Service Office by January 24.

-M.L.S.

This just in...



Grant award funds flu shots for seniors- The University of Wyoming Family Medicine Residency Program at Cheyenne is pleased to announce that it has received **\$11,200 grant** from the American Academy of Family Physicians Foundation to develop and implement strategies to increase influenza and pneumococcal immunization rates for patients of Laramie County (65 and older) during the 2016-2017 influenza season. The targeted populations include those who receive their care at UW Family Medicine Clinic in Cheyenne, and Tri-County Medical Center in Pine Bluffs, to also include Assisted Living and Nursing Homes. The grant award will cover the cost and administration of the influenza and pneumococcal vaccines to those individuals who are underinsured or uninsured, in addition to promotion and education of vaccinations to the senior population.

For information about this project, please contact the project leaders Kathlene Mondanaro Ph.D., DO kmondana@uwyo.edu or Pam Oiler LCSW prodi@uwyo.edu.

Guest Column

The Ominous Rise of STDs in Wyoming

By: Debi Anderson

Communicable Disease Unit Manager at the Department of Health



Wyoming's rates for sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) continue to be a public health concern. The rate of gonorrhea was 1.5 time higher in 2015 than in 2014, while the rate of chlamydia increased by 3 percent. Nationally gonorrhea increased 13% from 2014 and chlamydia increased 6%.

Wyoming counties with the highest rates of STD infection in 2015 include Albany, Campbell, Carbon, Fremont, Laramie and Natrona. Through November 2016, 1788 chlamydia cases, 197 gonorrhea cases, 17 HIV cases and 12 syphilis cases have been identified and

reported the Wyoming Department of Health (WDH).

Many cases of chlamydia, gonorrhea and syphilis continue to be undiagnosed and unreported. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released the 2015 STD Surveillance Report in October. In the release, Dr. Gail Bolen, the Division of STD Prevention Director at CDC, indicated more cases of chlamydia, gonorrhea and syphilis combined were reported than ever before. Information to note from the 2015 STD Surveillance Report include:

- People aged 15 to 24 accounted for almost 2/3 of chlamydia cases and half of gonorrhea cases
- 90% reported syphilis cases were in men with gay, bisexual, and other MSM accounting for a majority of these cases
- There was an increase in congenital syphilis cases. The increase mirrored the increase of primary and secondary cases among women

There are individuals who may be infected and not know it. Approximately 75% of females and 50% of males infected with chlamydia and gonorrhea show no symptoms. Screening and testing as a routine part of medical care will increase the number of individuals who know they are infected and getting those infected appropriately treated. WDH has several resources available for providers to utilize including a risk assessment, screening matrix, and prevention supplies. To access these materials, please visit, <https://health.wyo.gov/publichealth/communicable-disease-unit/>. For the latest STD Treatment Recommendations, visit <https://npin.cdc.gov/pages/cdc-std-guidelines-and-recommendations>.

The US Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) recommends chlamydia and gonorrhea screening for sexually active women age 24 years and younger and in older women who are at risk. The USPSTF also recommends syphilis screening for all persons who are at risk for infection. For more information on these recommendations, visit <http://www.uspreventiveservicetaskforce.org>.

The Wyoming Primary Care Association (WYPCA) encourages all providers to review and update their STD screening practices. If interested in learning more specifically about HIV screening, please check out our archived webinar "HIV Screening: Are we doing all we can" which can be accessed [HERE](#).

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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