

Rural & Frontier Health Division Update

Division Staff

Ron Pearson
Administrator
Michelle Hoffman
Executive Assistant
Jamie Raff
Financial Manager

Office of Rural Health

Sharla Allen
Manager
Jeff Hopkins
Workforce Specialist
Michelle Hoffman
Program Manager
Keri Wagner
Program Specialist

Community Services

Jim Rolf
Manager
Tricia Dean
Program Specialist
Kate Pirayesh
Benefits Specialist

Multicultural Health

Lillian Zuniga
Manager
Cherame Serrano
Program Coordinator

Telehealth/Telemed

Consortium
(James Bush, M.D.)

Vital Statistics Services

Gladys Breedon
Manager
Matthew Rowe
Field Representative
Dottie Winans
Records Unit Supv
Bernice Cox
Adoption Records
Carol Gass
Nosologist
Christine Williams
Admin Assistant
Deborah Gentry
Corrections Specialist
Verna Plumlee
Fiscal Specialist
Emily Salomon
Records Specialist
Jenn Tautkus
Statistician

Wyoming Department of Health
Rural and Frontier Health Division (307) 777-8902
<http://www.health.wyo.gov/rfhd>

Welcome to the "Rural and Frontier Health Division Update!" This newsletter is provided as an informational source on activities involving the programs and services within the division. Comments and/or suggestions are welcomed and may be addressed to WDH-RFHD@health.wyo.gov.

Office of Rural Health



Wyoming in National Rural Health Spotlight



Senator Michael Enzi and Ron Pearson; Administrator, RFHD



Ron Pearson, Senator Michael Enzi, Pennie Hunt, WHRN, Sharla Allen, Manager, ORH

Senators Enzi and Barrasso were recognized recently for their strong support of legislative initiatives to improve rural healthcare. Wyoming had three attendees at the National Rural Health Association's (NRHA) Policy Institute, held January 24-26 in Washington, D.C.; Ron Pearson, Administrator, Rural and Frontier Health Division, Sharla Allen, Manager, Office of Rural Health, and Pennie Hunt, Executive Director, Wyoming Health Resources Network. They were given the wonderful opportunity to introduce Senator Michael Enzi at the NRHA Conference and to formally recognize him with the NRHA Congressional Leadership Award. They also shared in the National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health's (NOSORH) presentation of the NOSORH 2010 Legislator of the Year Award to Senator John Barrasso.



Pennie Hunt, WHRN, Sharla Allen, ORH, Senator John Barrasso, Teryl Eisinger, NOSORH Director, and Ron Pearson, RFHD

New Way to Find Out About Rural Health Happenings

The Office of Rural Health (ORH) recently began using a list serve to enhance the sharing of information. A list serve allows the user to sign up for emails from ORH on news, happenings, and deadlines that apply to the rural health community. Users may also submit information to be included on the list serve. To sign up, go to this web address, <http://lists.health.wyo.gov/wws/info/orh>, or the ORH home page, <http://www.health.wyo.gov/rfhd/rural/index.html>, and click on the "Subscribe to the ORH List Serve" link just above the "Programs" section.

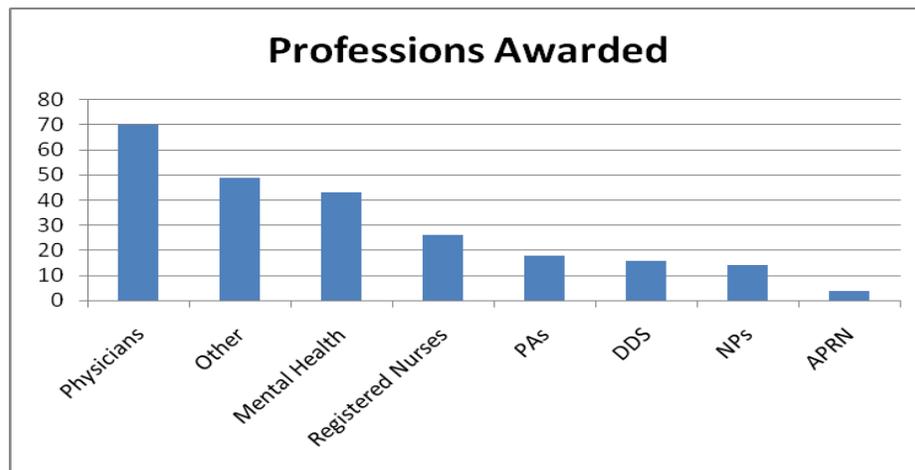
User instructions: Once at the Mailing List Service page, click on the subscribe link. Type your email address in the block furnished; click the "send me my password" button. A password will then be sent to the email address you furnished. Login to the website using your email address and password. ORH will be sent an email to approve your request to join the list serve. Once your membership is approved, you can view the archive of information posted, submit information to be posted, and receive emails of new information posted on the list serve.

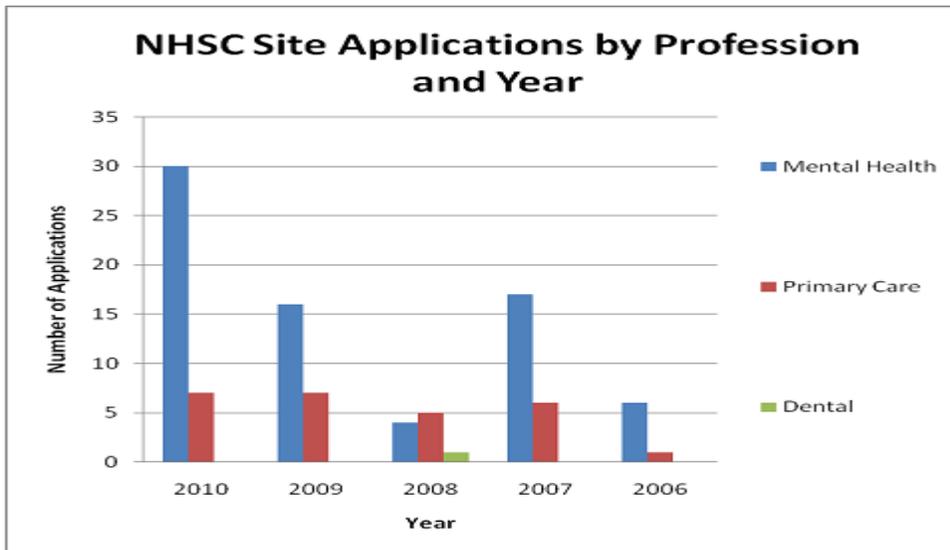
All requests to post information will be reviewed by ORH to prevent inappropriate material from being posted and to avoid wasting users' valuable time. Currently, ORH has one list serve for all topics that may impact rural health. If there is demand for separate list serves for various topics, ORH will investigate additional list serves.

Healthcare Professional Loan Repayment Programs

ORH has received numerous calls and emails with questions concerning a 2011 application period. ORH recommends all interested parties visit the **Wyoming Healthcare Professional Loan Repayment Program (WHPLRP)** webpage (<http://www.health.wyo.gov/rfhd/rural/loan.html>) in mid-May for updated information concerning a 2011 application period.

The Wyoming Healthcare Professional Loan Repayment Program allows every licensed healthcare profession to participate. The graph below indicates the professions awarded since the program began in 2005.





In the meantime, the National Health Service Corps (NHSC) is taking applications for its Loan Repayment Program (<http://nhsc.bhpr.hrsa.gov/loanrepayment>). NHSC allows 11 healthcare professions to participate. Employment sites must be approved by NHSC prior to individual healthcare professionals applying. The graph depicts the number of site applications recommended for approval by ORH since 2006.

Magnet Branding Ceremony



On December 16, 2010, the Chief Magnet Committee, under the guidance of Sandra Conklin, R.N., M.S.N., announced the submission of Wyoming Medical Center's application to become a Magnet recognized hospital. "We already operate as a Magnet hospital. It's now time to be officially recognized as one," said Julie Cann-Taylor, CNO. The Committee hosted a branding celebration to signify the support and show of unity from each department within the hospital system to this Magnet effort.

ORH Co-Sponsoring Healthcare Careers Summer Camp

The Wyoming Area Health Education Center (AHEC) is pleased to announce its first Healthcare Careers Summer Camp at the University of Wyoming in Laramie, July 10 – 14, 2011. This career exploration camp is open to current 9th and 10th graders (academic year 2010-11) that have a potential interest in a future career in healthcare. Current need and predicted shortages in medicine, nursing, dentistry, pharmacy, and a wide variety of ancillary medical positions require identifying early and help support students interested in healthcare careers.

Due to the generosity of sponsors, the only cost to attend this camp is a \$25 non-refundable commitment fee. Students will be responsible for securing transportation to and from Laramie.

For more information and an application go to www.wynursing.org/ahec.html. Application deadline is April 15, 2011, and space is limited. The Selection Committee will review completed applications and select students based on the application materials including student essay and reference form. For additional information and assistance, please contact Marivern Easton at the Wyoming AHEC, (307) 766-6751 or measton3@uwoyo.edu.

Multicultural Health

Multicultural Health Seeks to Eliminate Health Disparities

The Wyoming Office of Multicultural Health's (WOMH) mission is to minimize health disparities among underserved populations in the State of Wyoming through collaboration, advocacy, and education; and to promote culturally competent programs aimed at improving access to healthcare. In 2010, WOMH partnered with other divisions within the Wyoming Department of Health and other private and public entities to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of funding efforts for all.



The National Leadership Summit on Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities brought 2,000 health experts and community leaders to Washington, D.C., in January 2006. The National Partnership for Action to End Health Disparities (NPA) was the subsequent step. The National Partnership for Action focuses on health status and health outcomes amongst racial and ethnic minority populations. It is intended to lead WOMH and its partners toward a shared destination; a nation free of health disparities, with quality health outcomes for all. More information on the National Partnership for Action can be found at: <http://minorityhealth.hhs.gov/npa/templates/browse.aspx?lvl=1&lvlid=11>.

Multicultural Health Announces 2011 Mini-Grants

January 14, 2011, marked the launch of the new Wyoming Office of Multicultural Health Mini-Grant Program. This year, applications will be accepted through May 31, 2011, for funding ranging from \$100 to \$1499. Projects must pertain to access to healthcare or obesity/overweight and must directly relate to one or more of the five objectives of the National Partnership for Action to End Health Disparities (NPA) and/or one or more of the four goals of Healthy People 2020.

The five objectives of the NPA are:

- Awareness
- Leadership
- Health System and Life Experience
- Cultural and Linguistic Competency
- Data, Research, and Evaluation

The four goals of Healthy People 2020 are:

- Attain high-quality, longer lives free of preventable disease, disability, injury, and premature death
- Achieve health equity, eliminate disparities, and improve the health of all groups
- Create social and physical environments that promote good health for all
- Promote quality of life, healthy development, and healthy behaviors across all life stages

Funded projects must address improving Wyoming's health disparities for minorities or underserved populations (i.e. Hispanic, Native American, uninsured, underinsured, etc.), to include disabled and special populations. Projects must have clearly stated expected outcomes as well as clearly stated goals and objectives and why the goals and objectives are important to the people of Wyoming.

WOMH Mini-Grant funding cannot be used for direct patient care, construction or renovation, fund raising, staff job training, political activities, clinical trials, or vocational rehabilitation.

Entities eligible to apply for this funding include:

- Public and state controlled institutions of higher education;
- Native American tribal governments (federally recognized);
- Native American tribal organizations (other than federally recognized tribal governments);
- Nonprofits having a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education; and
- Nonprofits that do not have a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education.

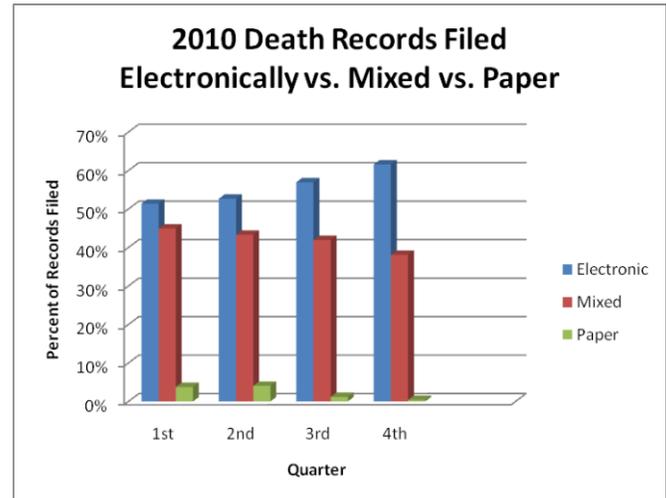
To download the complete application packet, please access the WOMH website at <http://health.wyo.gov/rfhd/multicultural/index.html>. To request a packet be mailed, please call Cherame at (307) 777-1941.

Vital Statistics Services

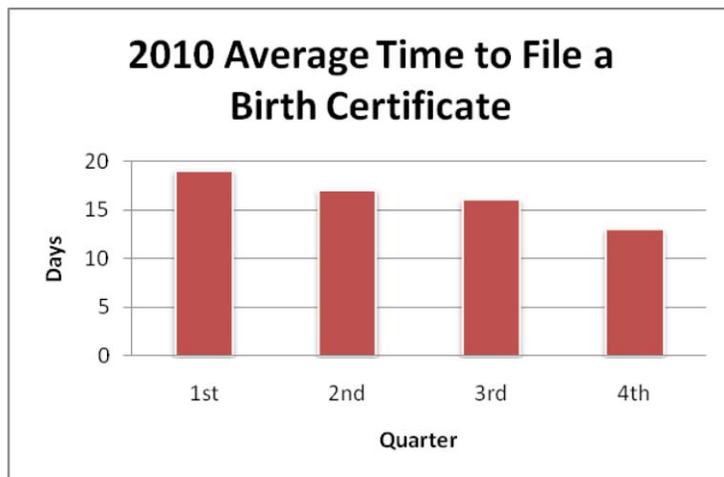
Death Records

Vital Statistics Services has been able to get more death records filed electronically as 2010 closed. At the beginning of the year, approximately 50% of death records were filed online. As the year continued, with continuous support from the VSS staff and Wyoming Department of Health (WDH) IT, nearly 60% of death records were filed online, an increase of 10%.

Filing death records electronically reduces cost for the WDH and those funeral homes using this system. When funeral homes have to print a death record on paper for physical signatures they are using their own internal resources to get the document to the appropriate medical provider. These costs include gas, postage, and time lost while waiting for the record to be signed. The Department incurs costs because state statute required the VSS office to furnish all forms for purposes of completing and filing certificates.



Birth Records



Filing birth records in the State of Wyoming is being accomplished at a much faster rate than in previous years. For 2010, on average, it took approximately 16 days for a birth record to be filed. Once the record is acceptable and can be filed by VSS, the staff is able to file these records in one day or less. Those records being filed with a Paternity Affidavit often add time to the record because the mother and father are required to complete a Paternity Affidavit and it cannot be filed electronically.

Issuance

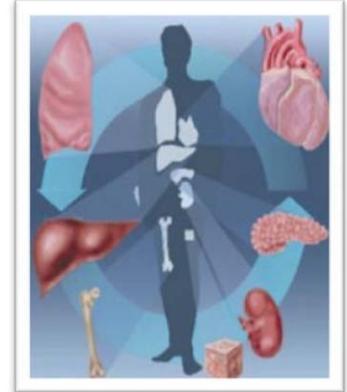
With the increased speed of filing records, the VSS staff can then search, create, and issue certified copies to continue meeting the increasing demand for vital records, both locally and nationally.

For the time period 1/1/2010 to 12/31/2010 the VSS staff generated nearly \$700,000 in revenue. Nearly \$300,000 went into the Children’s Trust Fund and approximately \$400,000 went into the General Fund.

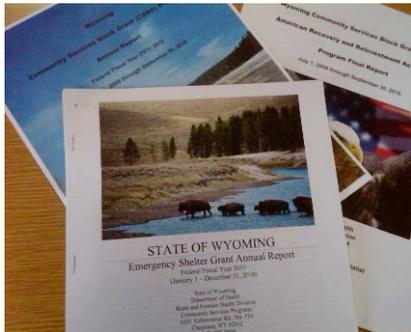
Community Services Programs

Transplantation Science

Wyoming Cares/Wyoming Shares hopes to bring Transplantation Science into Wyoming. Transplantation Science is a program owned by Donor Alliance that brings a 45 minute presentation to age appropriate health science classrooms to tell the facts of organ donation. The program will review the functions of transplantable organs and tissues and educate students on the process of donation. The class also addresses common myths and questions regarding donation. During the 45 minute session, students are split in groups and move through four stations, each focusing on different organs, while completing a corresponding worksheet for every station. Transplantation Science is a very interactive program, utilizing plasticized organs and other exciting visuals to engage students in the curriculum. Since 60% of Wyoming's drivers are already designated as donors, the program will be focused in counties with the lowest organ donor designation rates to ensure the most effective use of the class. Wyoming Cares/Wyoming Shares is very excited to bring Transplantation Science to Wyoming, and aims to have plans finalized to incorporate the program during the 2011/2012 school year.



Reports



Community Services Programs announces the release and distribution of three important reports on activities and expenditures for the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) and Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) Programs. During the program period of federal fiscal year (FFY) 2010, from October 1, 2009, through September 30, 2010, CSBG participants served 47,021 low income people with a combination of annual and American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) CSBG funding. In addition, reports from programs using ARRA funding indicate that 105 jobs were created or maintained. Homeless shelters and homeless prevention programs around the state report 63,355 nights of shelter and 85,789 meals served to homeless people in Wyoming through assistance from the federally funded FFY 2010 ESG program. For a copy of the report or for additional details, please contact Jim Rolf, Manager, Community Services Programs, at (307) 777-8652 or jim.rolf@health.wyo.gov, or Tricia Dean at (307) 777-8940 or tricia.dean@health.wyo.gov.

Telehealth/EHR/HIT Updates

A Website for The Medicaid EHR Provider Incentive Program...Wyoming Style!

The Wyoming Department of Health, Medicaid Office has launched a website designed to be a robust resource for Wyoming providers and hospitals as they prepare for registration in the Medicaid EHR Provider Incentive Program administered by Wyoming Medicaid.

Actual registration for the Medicaid EHR Provider Incentive Program is slated to begin the summer of 2011. The website, www.wyomingincentive.com contains useful information for providers and hospitals to begin to prepare for registration, contact information for questions, and resources to assist providers and hospitals in calculating their Medicaid patient volume. Once registration is activated, the electronic application will be available on the website.

A Way to Meet EHR Incentive Program Requirements

The Wyoming Total Health Record and the Medicaid EHR Provider Incentive Program: a good plan and strong partners for rural providers.

The Wyoming Total Health Record (THR), developed by the Wyoming Department of Health, Medicaid Office is a certified electronic health record (EHR) system available to Wyoming Medicaid providers at no cost for the first two years. The web-based system is designed to meet all meaningful use requirements; therefore, additional customizations are not necessary to qualify for incentive payments. Because it is web-based, there are no applications to install and no servers to manage and maintain.

The usability of this system, built on the certified Medical Informatics Engineering (MIE) platform and marketed as the Total Health Record (THR), is a result of input from providers across Wyoming about the features of the application.

The THR system is expected to go live in its first phase in early 2011. A number of Wyoming practices have been selected as early adopters of the THR, and once the early adopter phase is complete, the THR will become available to additional providers. The Wyoming Department of Health is committed to ensuring that as many Medicaid providers as possible receive their Incentive Program payments, and the THR is an important part of that process for providers who have not yet selected an EHR.

For more information regarding the Total Health Record contact: Heather Theis, (307) 777-6636 or heather.theis1@health.wyo.gov.

Telehealth Network Grand Round Offerings (from Cheyenne Regional Medical Center)

Cheyenne Regional Medical Center (CRMC) serves out Grand Rounds from Children's Hospital, University of Missouri and University of Colorado for anyone in the state of Wyoming to watch. CRMC uses polycom video conferencing equipment to get these programs and to send them out. If your facility does not have video conferencing equipment, it would be necessary to do one of two things: 1) buy the necessary equipment, or 2) CRMC can install (help you install) a free application from polycom onto any PC and then enroll you onto the CRMC equipment. Typically the fee is \$20 per month, per connection, to be given access to the equipment; but CRMC may be able to do this for free for a few months to see if the program suits your needs. If your facility has an IT person and has a firewall, CRMC may need to discuss with them what to allow through it.

Beyond Grand Rounds, any training for staff and RN's the hospital does would also be available. CRMC also has various other programs that originate from CRMC that the video conferencing application enables others to see.

The Grand Rounds schedule can be found on the calendar in the www.sewtn.org web site. Contact: Kenneth Watson, MBA, Telehealth Coordinator, Outreach/Telehealth, Cheyenne Regional Medical Center, 200 West 17th St., Ste. 30, Cheyenne, WY 82001, (307) 633-7695, Ken.Watson@crmcwy.org for more information.

Rural Health News, Updates & Funding Opportunities:

<http://www.raconline.org/updates/health/021511.html>

Health Programs on the Chopping Block as States Gird for Drop in Federal Aid

Feb 10, 2011 -- Kaiser Health News article tells of the difficult choices states will face in the coming year as demand for health-related services is growing, voters don't want to raise taxes, payments to doctors, hospitals and clinics have already been reduced and states risk losing federal funds if they cut eligibility for the joint federal-state Medicaid health program for the poor and disabled.

ONC to Provide Additional Funding to Accelerate Critical Access and Rural Hospitals' Switch to Electronic Health Records

Feb 9, 2011 -- Dr. David Blumenthal, MD, MPP, national coordinator for health information technology in the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) today announced an additional \$12 million in new technical support assistance to help critical access hospitals (CAHs) and rural hospitals adopt and become meaningful users of certified health information technology.

Legislation to Give Rural Americans Fair Representation on Medicare, Medicaid Boards

Feb 9, 2011 -- Lake Country News, (CA) article reports that yesterday a bipartisan group in Congress introduced legislation to give rural Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries equal representation on the boards that set policy for the public programs.

Upcoming Events:

- Annual Rural Health Conference, May 3 – 6, 2011, Austin, TX
- Western Region Flex Conference, June 22 - 23, 2011, Lake Tahoe, NV
- National Flex Conference, July 13 - 14, 2011, Portland, ME
- Rural Health Clinic Conference, September 27 – 28, 2011, Kansas City, MO
- Critical Access Hospital Conference, September 28 – 30, 2011, Kansas City, MO

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.health.wyo.gov/rfhd