



THIRD QUARTER 2008



Expansion of Mesa State Nursing Program

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WHA is very excited to be working with Mesa State College to expand the capacity of their nursing program to increase the future supply of nurses on the Western Slope.

More details about this fabulous partnership will be available for discussion at the August 14th WHA Board of Directors' meeting.

North to the Future: A Rural Health Network Summit

Western Healthcare Alliance was instrumental in bringing together five rural health networks (representing 129 healthcare providers) July 27th—29th in Girdwood, Alaska. The five networks represented include: Nevada Rural Health Partners, Health Future, Western Healthcare Alliance, Montana Health Network, and Alaska Small Hospital Performance Improvement Network. The purpose of this Summit was to look at what services these networks presently provide and to explore areas where the five networks could work together.

Meeting highlights included several very impressive presentations by The Advisory Board Company and by the Mayo Health Policy Center, organized by WHA. Of particular note was the presentation focusing on what the Mayo Clinic is doing. They are in position to advise the next President utilizing a new model for healthcare and healthcare reform based on the input of healthcare providers and consumers across the nation.



The five networks represented see the collaboration as an ultimate way to provide/purchase/hire needed services that can bring efficiencies and cost savings and expertise not otherwise available to their small, rural facilities. The group developed a list of more than 40 collaborative ideas and prioritized them to the top three for immediate action.

*Special thanks to **Martie Wisdom** (Grand River Hospital), **Jim Coombs** (Grand River Hospital), **Larry Dupper** (Valley View Hospital), & **Ed Finley** (Wray Community District Hospital) for their invaluable participation in the Summit!*

MISSION STATEMENT

To utilize collaborative efforts to enhance the operating efficiencies, market positions, and quality of service provided by the member organizations, and thereby assure the continued provision of health related services to their respective communities.



For more information on the **Institute** please contact:

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Institute for Rural Health Leadership

Small and rural hospitals are subject to the distinctive pressures and conditions existing within the governance, medical staff, employees, socio-economic, and political makeup of the local community. Surviving and thriving in this unique environment is a challenge requiring exceptional experience and skill. The **Institute for Rural Health Leadership** was created and constructed specifically to assist rural health leaders survive and flourish in this unique environment.

The **Institute** offers services in the following areas:

- **Education:** Featuring a curriculum specifically designed to meet the exacting needs of small and rural healthcare organizations and equip rural leaders with the skills and tools necessary to be successful.
- **Consultation:** Providing consultation services designed to deliver the right information at the right time to help rural healthcare leaders and their communities retain and advance the quality of healthcare in their local communities.
- **Research:** Continuous research of best practices and innovations in rural health management and leadership to continuously improve the quality of educational and consultation services.
- **Situational Analysis:** Offering specific research, planning, meeting facilitation, and business development services to help secure the survival of rural health organizations and facilitate the successful implementation of special projects, new businesses, and shared services across regional/national rural health networks.



For more information on the **Institute** and how it might benefit your facility, please contact **Larry Leaming, DHA, FACHE** at **970.683.5258** or email him at **Larry.Leaming@wha1.org**.

Upcoming Meetings August 22nd

CFO Peer Network Meeting

9:00 am—12:00 pm **Golf at Redland's Mesa Golf Course**

12:00 pm—1:00 pm **Lunch & Networking with PFS Directors**

1:00 pm—4:00 pm **CFO Peer Network Meeting**

PFS Director Peer Network Meeting

9:00 am—12:00 pm **PSF Directors Peer Network Meeting**

12:00 pm—1:00 pm **Lunch & Networking with CFOs**

All events will be held at the WHA offices (715 Horizon Drive, Suite 420, Grand Junction, CO) unless otherwise indicated.

Please **RSVP** for all events to **Bobbie** at **rsvp@wha1.org** or by calling **970.683.5223**. *See you on the 22nd!*

Networking to address rural healthcare issues...