

WHA CONNECTIONS

New Buildings Meet Growing Needs

Two WHA members have recently celebrated new facility openings. In July, Grand River Hospital District opened the new addition to their campus, and The Memorial Hospital in Craig moved into their new facility on November 12th.



Grand River Medical Center

We applaud the efforts of Martie Wisdom, CEO of Grand River and George Rohrich, CEO of The Memorial Hospital on their vision, enthusiasm, and powers of persuasion to open such beautifully designed and state-of-the-art functional buildings. Their thoughtful approach to building for today's and tomorrow's community need is noteworthy.

The southwest addition to Grand River Medical Center houses physical therapy and primary care. It also has ample conference space, a mem-

ory garden and labyrinth. "It's not often you see an organization who plans for the future, instead of just building to meet the needs of the present. It's impressive," noted Colorado State Senator, Al White. Here at WHA, we couldn't agree more.

The future of healthcare in Moffat County is also impressive. After nearly 60 years at the same facility, The Memorial Hospital has moved to its new location at 750 Hospital Loop, in west Craig. Completed on budget and ahead of schedule, it measures 77,258 square feet. Like Grand River, it was designed with patient security, privacy and comfort at heart. Features include expanded surgical space, state-of-the-art technological advances, intimate waiting spaces and warm, comforting interior design.



The Memorial Hospital

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Questions, comments or contributions?
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CEO's Corner

Change is in the air here in Western Colorado.



On the national scale, reform looms and it will impact how we deliver care and pay for it.

On the regional level, rural health networks, like our own WHA, are seeking new ways to foster collaboration and community health. From shared infrastructure and services to collaborative care delivery systems, hospitals and other stakeholders are working together to make a difference.

On the local level, we are re-designing and modernizing how we deliver care. It's an exciting time to be a "healthcare careerist." A few of the new buildings are featured here.

WHA is taking strides to anticipate these changes and help our member organizations thrive in these times.

You'll notice new faces, new programs and new approaches at work. Collaboration within and among communities is becoming more important – how we collaborate and adapt will be the cornerstone of our shared success.

As we end our 20 year anniversary celebration, we are returning, in some ways, to our very beginnings. We are reinvesting in our relationships with you, our members. We strive to constantly deliver value, we measure our progress in terms of your own and we are attentively listening for new programs and services.

With 2009 coming to a close, we thank you for a great 20 years and look forward to a stronger, healthier 20 more.

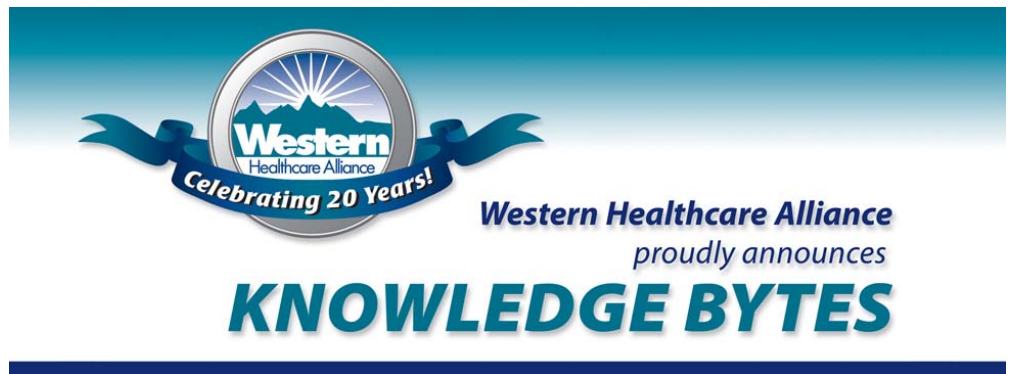
Carolyn Bruce

New Buildings (continued)

Other hospitals throughout the region are in various stages of building and planning. Some hospitals are beginning to raise funds and bond issuances for facility replacement, others are working through the planning and zoning political process and still others are nearing completion of new additions.

In the coming months we look forward to featuring Valley View's new addition, St. Mary's new patient tower, and progress notes on other facilities.

What's clear is that within the next several years, the entire face of healthcare delivery on the Western Slope will have changed completely. WHA's recent CEO roundtable focused much attention on the "do's and don'ts" of facility planning and building. Nearly everyone had a lesson to share, a few words of wisdom, and an amusing story to tell. Effective leadership and great vision on the part of all our member organizations is shaping the face of healthcare delivery.



Our next session: **December 2nd from 12:00 pm to 12:40 pm** (Mountain)

"HITECH Act and HIPAA: Are you ready?"

Presented by David Ginsberg, President, PrivaPlan Associates, Inc.

This presentation will provide an overview of the current and planned changes as a result of the HITECH Act. Specifically we will focus on the Breach notification rule and key changes to business associate agreements.

Background

The US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) passed new regulations on August 19, 2009 that require health care providers, health plans, and other entities covered by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) to notify individuals when their patient health information (PHI) is breached. These "breach notification" regulations address provisions of the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health (HITECH) Act, which was passed as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA).

Your entire facility can participate in these great opportunities for only **\$49 per line/facility**. What a great, cost-effective way to bring information to you and your employees.

Register now for this great session online at www.wha1.org.

The WHAT? ... The WHAAS!

Western Healthcare Alliance Annual Summit

February 11, 2010

The challenges rural health organizations face today are more significant than ever before.

With limited resources and significant access issues, topics from clinical quality and operational efficiency to workforce development and strategic growth take on new urgency. Layer in health reform, decreasing reimbursements and market uncertainty. Anticipating change is critical to effective leadership and management. The 2010 WHAAS addresses these pressing issues.

- Keynote Presentations
 - Legislative Update: Colorado and National Reform
Senator Bennett Invited
 - Clinical Integration and Accountable Care Organizations
Dr. Brian Silverstein of the Camden Group and Governance
Institute Faculty Member
 - Crucial Conversations: Effective Communications in the Medical
Workplace with Chris McDowell, Director, Eagle Valley Medical
Center
- Corporate Partner Exhibition — Access to Current and Potential Partners
- Board of Directors and Peer Network Meetings
 - WHA/HCM Board of Directors
 - Chief Financial Officers
 - Chief Nursing Officers
 - Laboratory Services Directors
 - Human Resources Directors
 - Information Technology Directors
 - Rehabilitation Directors
 - Patient Financial Services Directors/Managers
 - Quality and Risk Directors
- Breakfast, Lunch and Cocktail Reception

SAVE THE DATE for the WHAAS! This is a great opportunity for leaders from each organization to network with each other as well as meet with the exhibitors of the Corporate Partner Exhibition.

2010 WHA ANNUAL SUMMIT

February 11, 2010
8:30 am—7:30 pm
Doubletree Hotel
Grand Junction

WHA has negotiated a special room rate at the **Doubletree Hotel** of **\$90** per night for WHAAS attendees. Please call 970-241-8888 to reserve your room.

RSVP to RSVP@wha1.org.



Upcoming WHA Meetings

- November 19, 2009 — PFS Peer Network Meeting, WHA Offices, Grand Junction
- December 10, 2009 — IT Peer Network Meeting, WHA Offices, Grand Junction
- December 11, 2009 — Laboratory Services Peer Network Meeting, WHA Offices, Grand Junction

Attending? Let us know at RSVP@wha1.org.



WHA Peer Network Updates

The **Lab Services Network** continues to expand its reach and impact on collaborative lab services. On December 11th, they will meet in Grand Junction with a full agenda. Highlights include:

- “Influenza Update”, Dr. Bobbi S. Pritt, Mayo Clinic
Dr. Pritt from Mayo’s faculty will update us on the current state of Influenza and how we can best prepare for the season.
- “Regional Laboratory Alliance”, Carla Orner (General Manager, RLA)
Carla will give an overview of the successful lab network she directs in Kansas City, highlighting mature and innovative programs they have developed (i.e. comprehensive test-sharing, having their own reference lab partner “Physician Reference Lab”)
- “Horizon Laboratory”, Barb Miller (Finance Coordinator, Banner Health of Colorado) and Sue Harkness (Laboratory Director, McKee Medical Center) will describe the new laboratory Banner Health is launching in Colorado, and opportunities for LSN partnership.
- “Test-Sharing Business Plan”, Cheri Subora (WHA Lab Consultant) & Daryl Bohlender
We will provide a list of “next steps” and “what’s in it for me?” for WHA lab directors who are interested in launching test-sharing with other WHA members and perhaps FLN partners across the state.

For more information or to participate, contact Daryl Bohlender at Daryl.Bohlender@wha1.org.

The **CNO Peer Network** is exploring opportunities to bring more robust nurse residency programs to the Western Slope. As recruitment has become less urgent (and easier!) the group is now focusing on how to best train and retain nursing talent. The CNO Peer Network is in discussions with the Center for Nursing Excellence. They are evaluating how the group and individual hospitals can support a grant application for rural nursing residency programs here in Western Colorado. For more information, contact Michele Lueck at Michele.Lueck@wha1.org.

The **IT Peer Network Group** is evaluating different vendors to help support security needs at individual hospitals. Security is a growing and complicated concern for all of us. Our member hospitals are often too small and resources are too limited to support a full-time security professional. The peer network is building a model to partner for resources. For more information, contact Stephen Day at Stephen.Day@wha1.org.

Welcome New Members!

WHA welcomes our newest members, Vail Valley Medical Center and Colorado West Regional Mental Health. Vail Valley also has new leadership on board – and we extend a warm welcome to Doris Kirchner, CEO and her leadership team.

WHA Holiday Hours

Wednesday, November 25th — Close at 3:00 pm
 Thursday, November 26th — Thanksgiving, Closed
 Friday, November 27th — Closed
 Thursday, December 24th — Closed
 Friday, December 25th — Christmas, Closed
 Thursday, December 31st — Close at 3:00 pm
 Friday, January 1st — New Year’s Day, Closed

*Wishing everyone a safe
and happy
holiday season!*