

Cooperative Connections

NCHN Conference Provides Perspective By Jon Smith



How many of you know that The Hospital Cooperative (THC) is a member of a national cooperative? The National Cooperative of Health Networks (NCHN) was created in the mid 1990's to help networks like THC meet its goals. NCHN held its annual meeting in Scottsdale, Arizona in April with a focus on the "8 Second Ride." The message for all network directors and our member organizations was one of focusing on the customer and improving communication. Each educational program provided me with unique perspective on how we can

better focus our efforts meeting your needs and improve our communication with each member of THC.

These are difficult times for all within the field of health care. In order to survive, we have to learn to do more with less and THC must always put ourselves in the shoes of our member hospitals. What are your needs? How do you obtain resources to meet those needs? How can we help support you meeting the needs of your customers?

Already in 2011, THC has developed a plan to purchase a mobile MRI unit and create a self-funded insurance cooperative for members. Both will provide cost savings and improve efforts in keeping people local for their care. The THC Leadership Development Series is being re-engineered to bring education to the staff at the facility and to create opportunities for continuing education credits to be earned for attendance. New

contracts have been signed for consulting, revenue enhancement, and operating efficiencies. THC's website at www.hospitalcooperative.org has been re-launched and will be a more useful tool for members. In each case, we have been able to move these opportunities forward because we are doing a better job "listening" to your needs.

The possibilities that we have as a network are endless. My trip to Scottsdale created a greater awareness of the possibilities and it is my focus to take advantage of the collective knowledge that we have within our hospitals and also other networks in our region. If you have any suggestions on how THC can help improve your department or facility, please contact us at 208-239-2162.



LOOKING AHEAD

MAY

May 5

Executive Board Meeting
10:00 am

May 6

Peer Group Meeting
Acute Care/Longterm Care/Quality
10:00 am

May 13

Peer Group Meeting
Business Office/HIM
10:00 am

May 17

Peer Network Conference calls
Laboratory—11:00 am
Clinics—12:00 pm
Pharmacy—2:00 pm
Radiology—3:00 pm

May 19

Brown Bag Lunch Series
12:15 pm

May 20

Peer Group Meeting
IT—10:00 am

May 27

Peer Group Meeting
Education/HR
10:00 am

JUNE

June 2

Executive Board Meeting
10:00 am

June 10

Peer Group Meeting
Env Serv /Facilities
10:00 am

June 16

Brown Bag Lunch Series
12:15 pm

June 24

Peer Group Meeting
Foundation/Marketing
10:00 am

JULY

July 7

Executive Board Meeting
10:00 am

July 8

Peer Group Meeting
Acute Care/Longterm Care/Quality
10:00 am

July 15

Peer Group Meeting
Nutrition Services
10:00 am

July 21

Brown Bag Lunch Series
12:15 pm

July 22

Peer Group Meeting
CFO
10:00 am



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Bear Lake Memorial Hospital

Due to changes made to the Annual Bear Lake Memorial Hospital Senior Health Fair, community seniors did not have to wait in line in the snow on Thursday, April 7 to have their blood drawn. This year



blood draws were performed prior to the health fair, eliminating long lines for those who were fasting and also allowed more seniors to take advantage of the services offered. Health fair attendees were also given the opportunity to have their blood results screened by their doctor the day of the health fair, rather than have the results mailed to them at a later date.

The event, which took place on the Bear Lake Memorial Hospital campus, provided free health screenings to over 700 Bear Lake Valley seniors. Estimated savings to the residents who participated is approximately \$760, depending on the number of screenings they received. The overall benefit to the community was approximately \$532,000. The Hospital and Bear Lake Valley Health Care Foundation are able to provide these free services through the proceeds received at the Annual Golf 'Fore' Health Tournament held in August. Last year's event brought in nearly \$21,000.

Blood result screenings were provided by Dr. Clay Campbell and Dr. Jack Clark, as well as by Anya Anthony, PA and Alex Moss, PA. Dr. Noall Wolff also provided screening results along with free skin lesion checks in his office. The Bear Lake Memorial Hospital lab, radiology department and dietary department also provided valuable services and information for the health fair.

Vendors providing health information and additional services included Dr. Jeff Collins, Home Care Medical, Pocatello Cardiology, Senior's Health Insurance Benefits (SHIBA), the Southeastern Idaho Health Department, Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center (EIRMC), Modern Woodman, Portneuf Medical Center, Modern Drug, Area Agency on Aging and Idaho DEQ. The Bear Lake Senior Citizen's Center estimates they served approximately 100 soup and sandwich lunches.

Bear Lake Memorial Hospital health care librarian, Kim Hulme, chaired the event on behalf of the hospital with invaluable help from the Bear Lake Valley Health Care Foundation and the Director of Volunteer Services, Judy Fitzsimmons. Over 60 volunteers from Bear Lake Memorial Hospital, the Bear Lake Memorial Hospital Auxiliary, the Bear Lake Valley Health Care Foundation and the Bear Lake Senior Citizen's Center helped keep the event running smoothly.

Bear Lake Memorial Hospital was pleased to see so many residents take advantage of the services offered at the Senior Health Fair, and would like to thank those who participated as well as those who volunteered for helping make this such a successful event.

Bingham Memorial Hospital Nurses as Teachers Workshop to be held June 20-21

On June 20-21, THC in partnership with Rural Connections and the Idaho State Office of Rural Health and Primary care, will be hosting a FREE workshop called "Nurses as Teachers" at Bingham Memorial Hospital in Blackfoot. This course is an intensive two-day preceptor workshop that brings theory to practice and includes a tool-kit for teaching orientees with a variety of learning styles. Topics Include: Teaching & Learning Styles, Competency, Critical Thinking & Clinical Judgment, Communication, Conflict Management, Prioritization & Delegation, and Team Building. The course is open to any nurses interested in becoming preceptors whether you are a seasoned nurse or a recent graduate. To register, please contact Jamie Pehrson at 208-239-2143 or jamiiep@portmed.org.

Portneuf Medical Center

PROPOSAL FOR BACK SCHOOL

- 1.) **ON-SITE TEACHING** Annually, Back School would be presented to each COOP Hospital staff by the PMC Physical Medicine Staff. This would include printed materials, demonstration and participant interaction. There would be specific training for clinical (8 per class) and nonclinical (25 per class) employees. Each session would be approximately 1.5-2 hours for clinical and 1-1.5 hours for nonclinical instruction. The cost would be \$30.00 per hour for classes and travel time.
- 2.) **TRAIN THE TRAINER** Annually, PMC Physical Medicine Staff would provide instruction to selected staff at each of the COOP Hospitals to become the "lifting and transfer" specialists. There would be specific training for clinical and nonclinical employees. These individuals would then be utilized by the hospitals to train their employees. The class size would be limited to eight clinical and eight non-clinical. Sixteen people would attend the first part of the class (1-1.5 hours) for the didactic portion. The second part of the class would be specific to clinical staff to demonstrate transfers and how to observe co-workers doing transfers. The cost would be \$40.00 per hour for the instruction and also travel time.

TRIVIA FUN

A word I know, six letters it contains. Subtract just one, and twelve is what remains.

Please submit your answers to jamiiep@portmed.org—all correct responses will be entered into a drawing for a spectacular prize.

Answer will be in our next newsletter.

Thanks for playing!!

Minidoka Memorial Hospital



Minidoka Memorial Hospital installs a new sign with a digital reader board. Minidoka Memorial Hospital has initiated another marketing tool to provide community information. The sign and digital reader board can display the time, temperature and a list of hospital and community events. It has been unanimously

welcomed by the Rupert residents. An informed community is a healthier community.

A free bone mineral density clinic was provided to the Mini-Cassia Community on April 13. Over 100 women, and men, took advantage of this service provided by the radiology department of Minidoka Memorial Hospital. This BMD screen measures the density of the heel and produces a report that can be delivered to the patient's health care provider.

Minidoka Memorial Hospital employees recently donated batting helmets to Minico High School's varsity Lady Spartan team. In the past, MMH has provided helmets for the tri-city little kids baseball leagues, and recently purchased helmets for MHS Babe Ruth team. Every July, MMH also provides hundreds of bicycle helmets at their annual bike safety events.



Power County Hospital District



April has been a very busy month, as we celebrate our 50th Anniversary and transition our facility to a new name from Harms Memorial Hospital to the Power County Hospital District. Updates include a new website- www.pchd.net and updated emails and materials with the new name. The address and phone number contact information will remain the same.

The Union Pacific Foundation recently awarded a \$1,000 grant to the Harms Foundation. The grant will be combined with a \$2,000 donation from the Foundation to purchase equipment for Power County Hospital District Family Clinic and Power County Skilled Nursing Facility.

The clinic plans to purchase an autoclave which is used to deep-clean and sterilize instruments. The nursing home is going to purchase a Robo-Nurse, a small machine that electronically checks blood pressure, pulse rate, oxygen level, and temperature. The Foundation would like to thank the Union Pacific Foundation for supporting Power County Hospital District facilities.

Madison Memorial Hospital

Award of Excellence in Healthcare Quality

Madison Memorial Hospital was honored on April 14 during an awards ceremony in Boise by Qualis Health, a health care improvement organization.



The award comes in recognition for Madison Memorial's continual dedication to quality improvement by implementing a system designed to improve medication administration. A key group of employees, who worked hard to spearhead this project and ensured its success, went to Boise to receive the award.

This isn't the first time in which Madison Memorial Hospital has been recognized by Qualis Health. In 2003, the hospital was awarded an Award of Excellence in Healthcare Quality when it implemented the ISO-9000 quality standards facility-wide.

"Qualis Health recognizes Madison Memorial for their clinical and administrative leadership in improving the quality of health care of their patients," said Jonathan Sugarman, MD, MPH, President and CEO of Qualis Health. "They have repeatedly demonstrated an exceptional commitment to quality, with outstanding results."

Madison Memorial Hospital expands Board of Trustees with Talented Local Community Members

The Madison County Commissioners appointed three new members to the Board of Trustees of Madison Memorial Hospital, bringing the total membership to nine. These individuals are Jerry Rigby, Maurie Barton, and Neil Erickson.

Local Responders from Madison Memorial Hospital Attend Advanced Homeland Security Training

Emergency Responders, Scott Nielson and Wade Bowman, from Madison Memorial Hospital, recently completed Technical Emergency Response Training (TERT) offered by the Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP) in Anniston, Alabama. Trainees learned the different aspects of emergency preparedness that are imperative for understanding and responding to a local nuclear and other chemical disasters alongside providers, managers, and government officials from across the country.

2011 GOLF TOURNAMENTS

BEAR LAKE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL—AUGUST 20

BINGHAM MEMORIAL HOSPITAL—JULY 29

CARIBOU MEMORIAL HOSPITAL—JUNE 18

MADISON MEMORIAL HOSPITAL—AUGUST 27

MINIDOKA MEMORIAL HOSPITAL—JULY 7

ST BENEDICTS FAMILY MEDICAL CENTER—SEPTEMBER 24

STAR VALLEY MEDICAL CENTER —JUNE 17

TETON VALLEY HOSPITAL—AUGUST 9TH

Star Valley Medical Center

SVMC surgeon on the cutting edge of orthopaedic technology

Dr. Brian Tallerico, D.O., is bringing cutting edge medical science technology to Star Valley Medical Center. Recently, two cartilage transplants were performed at the facility. In the future, another two procedures have been scheduled. According to Dr. Tallerico, out of the six transplants scheduled for the region, four will occur at SVMC.

The cartilage transplant performed by Dr. Tallerico involves cartilage in the knee. According to Dr. Tallerico, injuring or damaging cartilage in the knees while an individual is young is fairly common. However, the process of repairing the damage can be very complex. In the past the other options were very expensive and risky. Tallerico says the outcomes from this new surgery are "excellent" and is more economically feasible.



Orthopaedics at SVMC takes customized health care to a whole new level

It used to be that when it came to total knee replacement surgery, the patient's knee was molded to fit standard knee replacement parts. However, starting at SVMC, patients will have the option of ordering a custom knee replacement. According to Dr. Brian Tallerico, D.O., a scan of the patient's knee is taken and then the images are then sent to Switzerland where engineers map the knee and fit guides to the specific knee. The benefits to this procedure include reduced patient risk, increased outcomes, shorter surgery, and less expense to the patient. Dr. Tallerico is the only physician in the region using this technology.

Steele Memorial Medical Center

Annual Community Health Fair

Steele Memorial Medical Center held its annual Community Health Fair on April 8 and 9. The laboratory department offered nine lab tests at reduced rates. The radiology department added a new test this year offering cardiac calcium scoring. They performed 41 calcium scores with 4 people needing to be referred to a cardiologist. Dr. Stewart Carrington once again performed free skin cancer screenings on over 70 patients. The event was a huge success with over 300 participants.

Community Support Groups

Steele Memorial Medical Center has several support groups that meet on a regular basis. The diabetic support group meets on the third Friday of every month from 6:30-7:30 p.m. The multiple sclerosis support group meets the fourth Thursday of every month from 5:00-6:00 p.m. and the celiac support group meets quarterly on the third Wednesday of the month. If you would like more information, please contact Steele Memorial Clinic at 208-756-6212.

Teton Valley Hospital

Teton Valley Hospital was recently recognized for quality and performance by Qualis Health, a Seattle-based nonprofit organization. The hospital was among five Idaho health care facilities that were honored for successful patient quality projects. Eleven projects were entered for consideration.

Director of Nursing Services, Angela Booker, said that nursing and pharmacy staff were determined to implement a medication reconciliation program for inpatients. When people have to spend a night or more in the hospital, they need to bring any medications they are taking; this offers a good opportunity for staff to review all of the patient's prescriptions and nonprescription drugs in order to assure optimal dosages and avoid negative interactions or unintentional misuse.

TVH representatives traveled to Boise over the last weekend to accept the award. Two hospital registered nurses, Susan Kay and Anna Baler, provided an instructional presentation for other Qualis Health Conference attendees who may be interested in bringing the program to their hospitals.

"It's essential that our hospital is able to offer free or low-cost services that help our patients with fundamental medical concerns," said Virgil Boss, CEO for Teton Valley Health Care. "I'm very proud of our staff for their commitment to develop this program for our patients."

As a part of a medication use awareness campaign, TVH is offering private consultations for people who would like to have a pharmacist review their medications with them. For more information, please contact Ann Loyola, Public Affairs Manager, at aloyola@tvhcare.org or 208-354-6301.

Join us for See N Save Selects, May 20, 2011 at the Senior Center, Driggs ID

Join us for a silent auction of *premium* merchandise, one of a kind prints and artwork, name brand clothes, purses, shoes, diamond rings, turquoise, and silver. The bidding is from 6-7 p.m., with the silent auction lots closing from 7 - 9 p.m. Admission \$5.00. Free refreshments and beverages served by Teton Valley Hospital Foundation. Hors d'oeuvres available from Seniors West of the Tetons Catering. All net proceeds benefit the Teton Valley Hospital Foundation.

Cooperative Questions of the Quarter

Below are the questions that we received in the past quarter. If you would like a copy of the answers we received, please e-mail Jamie at jamiiep@portmed.org.

- At several of our past peer network meetings, there have been discussions regarding the Coop hospitals possibly sharing training resources – so if you have someone in your facility that is great at training in a certain area – would your facility be willing to share that trainer – either at your facility or via video? If so, please list the trainings, the trainer, and how often the training or education is offered.
- Policy or procedure on what should be done in case of an intruder in the hospital, either with or without a weapon.
- We have been asked to poll the Coop members to see if anyone has a specific policy on encryption?
- Does your hospital provide company cell phones and if so, for who?
- What is your policy on Electronic Signatures, Attestation and Authorship?
- Could you ask the other members of the Coop what their policy on emergency food supply is?



GOVERNOR'S EXECUTIVE ORDER PROHIBITS IDAHO STATE AGENCIES FROM IMPLEMENTING OBAMACARE

(BOISE) – Governor C.L. “Butch” Otter issued an executive order April 20, 2011 imposing a State prohibition on receiving federal funding for or otherwise implementing the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act – often called “Obamacare.”

Executive Order 2011-03 uses portions of House Bill 298, a so-called “nullification bill” that was approved by the Legislature this year. The executive order directs State agencies not to establish new programs, promulgate rules or accept federal funding to implement Obamacare. It also bars State agencies from assisting federal agencies in implementing the law.

“The Legislature clearly wanted to send a message to the national government this session, expressing its frustration with Obamacare. I agree with the message and know the debate about Obamacare would be vastly different, if not completely unnecessary, if the national government adhered to the Tenth Amendment,” Governor Otter wrote in a three-page letter to Secretary of State Ben Yursa, explaining his veto of House Bill 298, which sought to entirely “nullify” the federal law’s application in Idaho.

“I also agree with the Legislature and the sponsors of this bill that now is not the time to implement Obamacare. However, it is equally unacceptable to forego exploring viable state solutions to our healthcare needs and allowing the national government to assert more control over Idahoans,” the Governor wrote.

While Executive Order 2011-03 bars State agencies from implementing Obamacare, it does allow the Idaho departments of Insurance and Health and Welfare to continue developing a State health insurance exchange. The Governor said that would prevent the federal government from controlling the state’s insurance market by administering an exchange of its own in Idaho.

“I had worked in the health insurance field for over 30 years and applaud the Governor for allowing Idaho to remain in control and giving our citizens the reins for our own solution to healthcare reform,” Idaho Department of Health and Welfare Director Richard Armstrong said. “I am confident that Idaho’s expertise and can-do attitude will design an exchange that provides better access for families and employers, while also preserving the health insurance marketplace.”

Spotlight:

AmeriPride

AmeriPride Services has been providing professional apparel and services to the health care industry for over 118 years. As a family owned and operated company, we have been able to focus on our commitment to image, service and innovation.

- AmeriPride HealthStyle customized apparel, facility, and hygiene programs ensure that your practice is always projecting a positive image to your patients.
- Our service team is a critical component that sets us apart in the medical industry. They are carefully trained in OSHA and other health care regulations to handle all of your needs, and will work closely with you to ensure a long and lasting business relationship. One out of every five of AmeriPride's 6,000 employees is a customer service representative.
- Our healthcare clients find that AmeriPride's extensive product line makes it easy to order the right items quickly and efficiently. Some examples of our products include but are not limited to: surgery towels, steam towels, wash cloths, bath towels, bed sheets, pillow cases, blankets, patient gowns, mammography gowns, x-ray gowns, pediatric gowns, lab coats, doctor coats, scrubs, floor mats, hand soap, micro fiber mops, and first aid kits.

For further information, please contact Jeremy Potter at 208-420-7649.

People You Can Count On
403 Main Avenue. W., Twin Falls, Idaho 83301
www.ameripride.com



Cooperative Connections

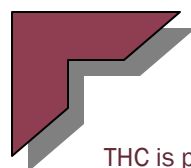
Jamie Pehrson, Editor

The Hospital Cooperative Executive Board

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Telehealth Corner

THC is participating in a group forum with other telehealth organizations across Idaho focused on expanding coverage and reimbursement for telemedicine services. The group will be working collaboratively to develop best practices and a common voice to help ensure that telemedicine services continue to grow in Idaho. Portneuf Medical Center has partnered with Bear Lake Memorial Hospital to beta test use of the InTouch RP Lite system in clinical applications. Testing will continue during the spring and summer.