

what's up?

NEWS FOR WESTERN HEALTHCARE ALLIANCE



Western Healthcare Alliance Receives Grant from Health Resources Services Administration

Western Healthcare Alliance (WHA) is pleased to announce it has received a \$900,000, three-year grant from the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (FORHP) within the Human Resources Services Administration (HRSA), an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). These funds will be used to support a new project called the Community Care Organization (CCO) for the 27 healthcare organization members of WHA.

The CCO project is aimed to help hospitals and healthcare organizations transition to a model where healthcare providers produce better outcomes, lower costs, and patient-centered care to local and regional communities. "In this new era of healthcare reform, it is crucial that WHA provider members facilitate the coordination of care to improve the health of the rural communities we serve. By working together through the Community Care Organization project, WHA members will leverage technology and resources to improve patient care and lower costs. Until now this comprehensive level of collaboration has only been seen in large urban medical settings or within health systems," says Carolyn Bruce, CEO of WHA.

HRSA Rural Health Network Development grants are awarded through a competitive application and scoring process. WHA was awarded this grant as part of the \$15.5 million HHS commitment to improving care in rural areas. Funds were awarded to organizations who, "Through collaboration and combined functions, ... maximize resources and services in a health care model that can be replicated in other communities, both rural and urban."

"Rural communities have some of the greatest needs for expanding access to health care. These investments represent our commitment at the federal level to support partners on the ground, who are working to strengthen health care delivery in every area of the country," says Mary K. Wakefield, PhD, RN, the Administrator at HRSA which oversees this grant program.

With this new funding from HRSA along with member contributions, WHA will begin staffing the CCO project with an Executive Director, Administrative Assistant, Care Management Nurses, and Population Health Data Analysts. The WHA Board of Directors, chaired by Dan Prinster, Vice President of Business Development at St. Mary's Hospital & Medical Center in Grand Junction, Colorado, will continue to hold member meetings, conduct research, and complete the development of this cutting-edge CCO project. "As an organization that has spent the last 25 years developing innovative programs and services for the improvement of community healthcare, we couldn't be more pleased to bring this project forward. We are looking forward to partnering with HRSA to collaborate with others on a national scale," Bruce adds.

Contact **Bobbie Orchard**, Director of Marketing for more information about the Community Care Organization and HRSA grant award. bobbie.orchard@wha1.org or 970.683.5223.

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Community Hospital
Groundbreaking

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WHA Welcomes MFHC,
FHW Gets New Name

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Upcoming Events

Community Hospital Breaks Ground for New Hospital in Grand Junction

Community Hospital officials recently announced that financing has been secured to begin construction on their new facility just west of Canyon View Park in Grand Junction. To celebrate, they hosted a ceremonial groundbreaking on October 15th at the new site to commemorate this exceptional milestone in the hospital's history.

Founded in 1946, the hospital's goal is to provide a facility that exceeds patients' expectations while enhancing delivery of healthcare and providing more choices to the community. The new facility will be a four-story 130,000 square foot, state-of-the-art hospital featuring 44 private patient rooms, outpatient facilities designed specifically for patients' convenience, an entire floor dedicated to labor and delivery with a private entrance, and a more robust emergency department.

"I cannot begin to express how thrilled we are to be moving forward in building this new hospital," said Chris Thomas, President and CEO. "To see this long-time dream finally come to fruition is extremely rewarding. One of the things we are most excited about in constructing a new hospital is the opportunity to design it from scratch to not only better meet the needs of patients, but also do so more efficiently. Community Hospital has been pushing the envelope to improve healthcare in our community and lower the cost to our patients and partners. This facility will only enhance our ability to continue these efforts," said Thomas.



The \$49 million building project is expected to take 18 months with opening anticipated in the spring of 2016. The hospital will represent the next generation of integrated healthcare delivery systems as planners are putting considerable thought into what healthcare will look like in the future. The new campus already has a new 886,000 square foot medical office building, including a same day surgery center, and an urgent care facility that was completed in April 2014.

Congratulations Community Hospital on this exciting dream coming true!

WHA Bulletin Board

Bobbie Orchard Returns to WHA as Director of Marketing

We are pleased to announce that Bobbie Orchard has returned to the Western Healthcare Alliance and Healthcare Management, LLC team! Bobbie stepped into the role of Director of Marketing beginning on November 3rd. She will lead the efforts in our communication strategies at in-person meetings, industry conferences, and online at WHA1.org, HCMColorado.com, N2NStrategies.com as well as other online domains and mediums. She'll be responsible for coordinating program materials, logistics and team resources, as well as the administration of our new Client Relations Management (CRM) software to help us more effectively provide services to members and clients.

Please join us in a very warm welcome back to Bobbie! We are thrilled and very pleased to see her smiling face at the office again. We are looking forward to continuing our work with her in 2015 and beyond.

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Community Hospital
Groundbreaking



Clinical Excellence

WHA Welcomes New Associate Member



WHA is excited to announce that we have added a new Associate Member—Mountain Family Health Centers (MFHC). Mountain Family Health Centers provides primary care, dental, and behavioral health provider to over 13,000 rural residents living in or near the Colorado Rockies. With four (soon to be five) sites spread over 150 miles, MFHC providers, care teams and support staff are dedicated to delivering high quality care, as evidenced by National Committee for Quality Assurance Level 3 Patient-Centered-Medical-Home recognition and state-of-the-art health information technology. Their sites are located in Glenwood Springs, Black Hawk, Basalt, Rifle, and Edwards. Mountain Family's mission is *"to provide high quality, integrated primary, behavioral, and dental health care in the communities we serve, with special consideration for the medically-under served, regardless of ability to pay."*

As an Associate Member of WHA, MFHC will have access to the well-balanced menu of programs and services available to all WHA members.

Please join us in welcoming Mountain Family Health Centers to WHA!

Family Health West Unveils Colorado Canyons Hospital and Medical Center as New Name for Hospital



The Family Health West (FHW) hospital in Fruita has a new name—Colorado Canyons Hospital and Medical Center. “The new name reflects both the past and the future,” explained Mark J. Francis, CEO and President. “Over a half-century ago, we began a legacy of serving lower valley families with quality home-town care. We have continued that legacy by expanding to meet the growing healthcare needs of our community. As we look toward the future and plan for more growth, we have developed a brand new name and a culture of caring you’ll find nowhere else.”

FHW began in 1946 as a 10-bed rural 501(c)(3) hospital. Now the facility includes laboratory, radiology, emergency department, and surgical services. Other services include outpatient procedures, pain management, assisted living facilities, and a nursing home, including Alzheimer’s care and skilled nursing. Additional services include pediatric rehabilitation, wound care, rehabilitation therapy, imaging, coagulation, arthritis, plastic surgery, women’s healthcare and podiatry.

“Family Health West is a trusted name in this valley,” said Francis. “It is the foundation for the variety of services we now provide and ensures that no matter what you or your loved ones need in terms of healthcare, we will be there to catch you when you fall.”

Congratulations, Family Health West/Colorado Canyons Hospital and Medical Center for continuing to expand healthcare services for your community!

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WHA Welcomes MFHC,
FHW Gets New Name

Upcoming Events



Wednesday, February 11th

WHA program updates and networking member reception

Thursday, February 12th

Keynote presentations and Peer Network meetings

Friday, February 13th

Leadership Academy education class for managers

Our office will be closed from 3:00 pm Wednesday, November 26 to 8:00 am Monday, December 1. Contact Penny Stevenson at 866.986.3587 for questions about our office hours or to place patients on the "Do Not Call" list for the holidays. Thank you!

Happy Thanksgiving!



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**Collaborating to Support and Sustain
Quality Healthcare in All Our Communities**

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Upcoming Events

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