

# what's up?

NEWS FOR WESTERN HEALTHCARE ALLIANCE



WHA members at WHAAS 2015.



## AGENDA

### Wednesday, February 10th

2 pm – 6 pm Trend Forum & Networking Reception

### Thursday, February 11th

8 am – 4 pm Corporate Partner Exhibition

9 am – 12 pm Opening Keynote & Peer Network Sessions

12 pm – 1 pm Networking Lunch

1 pm – 4 pm Peer Network Sessions & Closing Keynote

For more information about this event please contact **Bobbie Orchard** at **877.683.5223** or [bobbie.orchard@wha1.org](mailto:bobbie.orchard@wha1.org).

## Back to the Future: WHAAS 2016

Please plan to join us for the Western Healthcare Alliance Annual Summit (WHAAS), February 10th & 11th, 2016 at the DoubleTree Hotel in Grand Junction. This one-of-a-kind yearly conference is dedicated to networking, education, and growth of our members.

Every year, WHAAS brings together executives of rural healthcare facilities including: CEOs, CFOs, CNOs, CMOs, Laboratory, Rehab, Quality Improvement/Risk Management, HR, IT, PFS, Materials Management, Communications and Marketing, health network leaders and more!

By the end of the Summit, you will leave with new tools for your success in these new and challenging times. Throughout the Summit, attendees will have opportunities to network with peers from other member facilities, as well as leaders from neighboring states and affiliated networks. WHA, supported by strong membership and growth, has been visionary in combining expertise, resources, volume, and enthusiasm to support excellent healthcare organizations in Colorado and Utah.

Dive deeper into programs with discounts and services exclusively available to members at the Corporate Partner Exhibition. Attendees will have several opportunities, including the Trend Forum on February 11th, to visit in person with our WHA Preferred Corporate Partners. Join us at WHAAS and see what our partners have to offer to make your job easier.

WHA is at the forefront of assisting rural communities with the changing environment in which they are faced. We're looking forward to you joining us as we collaborate to expand access and coordination to improve quality healthcare in our communities. Go Back to the Future in 2016 with WHA!

Stay tuned to your email for details on registering for WHAAS 2016.

**P2**

**501R—Are You Ready?**

**P3**

**WHA Member News**

**P4**

**Upcoming Events**



**Western  
Healthcare  
Alliance**

## 501R—Are You Ready?

*Tax exempt hospitals with a December 31st fiscal year-end should pay close attention to these requirements as they affect revenue cycle management procedures.*

In December 2014 the IRS issued final regulations for 501(c)(3) hospitals in which they must comply with to retain exempt status. Those who don't comply with the regulations face penalties for noncompliance, up to loss of exempt status and/or a \$50,000 excise tax penalty for failure to complete an adopted Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) and implementation strategy by the required due date.

Tax-exempt hospitals with a December 31 fiscal year-end should pay close attention to these requirements as they must comply by December 31, 2015. Those with a different fiscal year-end should be compliant by their year-end 2016.

In addition to completing their CHNA and implementation strategy, each hospital should do the following to comply with these new guidelines:

### **501(r)(4)—Written & Adopted Financial Assistance Policy & Written Emergency Medical Care Policy**

Each hospital must have in place a written financial assistance policy (FAP) as well as a written emergency medical care policy to be compliant with the requirements of Section 501(r)(4). Each policy must also be adopted by an authorized body of the hospital. Each hospital should also have Plain Language Summary (PLS) of these policies available to the public. It is recommended that the PLS should be available to access through the home page of the hospital's website and lead to a dedicated FAP page.



### **501(r)(5)—Limitations on Charges/Amount Generally Billed (AGB)**

Each hospital must not use gross charges and limit amounts charged for emergency or other medical necessary care provided to individuals eligible for assistance under the hospital's FAP. Such amounts cannot be more than the amounts generally billed to individuals who have insurance covering such care (AGB). All patients that qualify under your FAP will need to receive an AGB discount. AGB can be determined using either the look-back method or the prospective Medicare and Medicaid method.

### **501(r)(6)—Notification Requirements, Extraordinary Collection Actions & Other Issues**

Hospitals are not allowed to engage in "extraordinary collections actions" before they have made "reasonable efforts" to determine whether the individual is eligible for financial assistance for the care provided.

Each of our 501(c)(3) hospitals needs to pay close attention to these new guidelines as the end of the year is rapidly approaching.

For more information on these guidelines, please contact **Pilar Mank** at **970-986-3690** or **pilar.mank@wha1.org**.



## Animas Surgical Hospital Welcomed as Newest WHA Associate Member



Animas Surgical Hospital is a physician owned and operated specialty hospital located in picturesque Durango, Colorado. The hospital was created in 2004 when local physicians came together to bring residents of the Four Corners specialty care.

Animas Surgical Hospital is a level 4 trauma center offering 24/7 emergency services, occupational medicine, diagnostics imaging, internal medicine, surgical services, urgent care, and their Rivergate Medical Campus with physicians representing nearly 30 medical specialties. When designing the hospital, the physicians wanted to create a state-of-the-art facility that focused on surgeries that were more efficient, more patient-friendly, and

delivered better outcomes. They have succeeded in achieving these goals and have a low patient-to-nurse ratio of 3:1, a near zero infection rate, fast scheduling, and short waits for patients.

In October of 2015, they were awarded a 5-star rating for exceptional services by Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (HCAHPS). Animas ranked as one of only four hospitals in Colorado that received top ratings and were one of only 251 hospitals in the entire country to receive 5-star ratings. Congratulations Animas on this great achievement.

*Welcome Animas Surgical Hospital!*

## HopeWest Recognized as Top 100 Best Places to Work



HopeWest has been recognized as one of Modern Healthcare's Top 100 Best Places to Work in Healthcare for 2015 nationwide. It ranked number 30, among more than 400 organizations who participated across the country.

Modern Healthcare, a national trade publication, honors workplaces throughout the healthcare industry that empower employees to provide patients and customers with the best possible care, products, and services. Of the criteria used to determine rank in the Best Places to Work in Healthcare assessment, 75% is the result of employee surveys.

"The commitment we have to our mission of helping patients and families across the Western Slope is also what drives our dedication to our employees and to creating a great place to work," said Christy Whitney, President and CEO of HopeWest. "It's very inspiring to be associated with other dynamic healthcare companies across the nation."

*Congratulations HopeWest!*

## Montrose Memorial Hospital Recognized as a Community Value Five-Star Hospital by Cleverley + Associates



For the fourth year in a row, Montrose Memorial Hospital (MMH) has been recognized as a top-ranked Community Value Provider by Cleverley + Associates in its new publication: The State of the Hospital Industry, 2015 Edition.

MMH is part of a select and distinguished group of hospitals in the United States. Only two hospitals in the state of Colorado were honored with this award. Inclusion in the Community Value Leadership Award group speaks to the great value that MMH provides to our community.

"It is a major accomplishment to be ranked a five star hospital for the fourth year in a row," said Steve Hannah, MHA, CEO for Montrose Memorial Hospital. "I'm proud of the hard work of our MMH team members, including caregivers, support staff, physicians and healthcare providers."

*Congratulations Montrose Memorial Hospital!*

**P3**

**WHA Member News**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

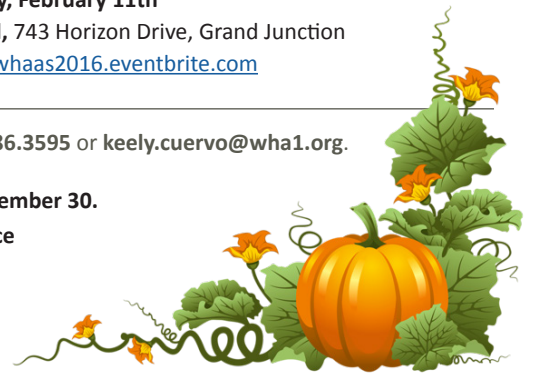
<b>WHA PFS Peer Network Meeting</b>	<b>Tuesday, November 3rd</b> 10:00 am – 3:00 pm Western Healthcare Alliance, Grand Junction
<b>WHA Materials Management Peer Network Meeting</b>	<b>Wednesday, November 4th</b> 9:45 am – 2:00 pm Western Healthcare Alliance, Grand Junction
<b>WHA Board of Directors Meeting/ CCA, RMACO, and SJACO Board of Managers Meeting</b>	<b>Thursday, November 5th</b> St. Mary's Medical Center, Grand Junction Saccomanno Education Center, 5th floor
<b>2015 Western Healthcare Alliance Annual Summit &amp; Corporate Partner Exhibition</b>	<b>Trend Forum and Networking Reception: Wednesday, February 10th</b> <b>WHAAS: Thursday, February 11th</b> <b>DoubleTree Hotel</b> , 743 Horizon Drive, Grand Junction Register: <a href="https://whaas2016.eventbrite.com">https://whaas2016.eventbrite.com</a>

For more details regarding the WHA Peer Network Meetings, contact **Keely Cuervo** at 866.986.3595 or [keely.cuervo@wha1.org](mailto:keely.cuervo@wha1.org).

Our office will be closed from 3:00 pm Wednesday, November 25 to 8:00 am Monday, November 30.

Contact **Pilar Mank** at 866.986.3590 for questions about our office hours or to place patients on the "Do Not Call" list for the holidays. Thank you!

*Happy Thanksgiving!*



**Western  
Healthcare  
Alliance**



**Strategic Leadership**



**Financial Strength**



**Operational Efficiencies**



**Clinical Excellence**



**Workforce Development**

## Staff Directory

**Carolyn Bruce**  
Chief Executive Officer  
866.683.5203 • [carolyn.bruce@wha1.org](mailto:carolyn.bruce@wha1.org)

**Steve Hubbard**  
Chief Financial Officer  
866.683.5207 • [steve.hubbard@wha1.org](mailto:steve.hubbard@wha1.org)

**Jessica Taylor**  
Vice President, Business Strategy &  
Client Relations  
866.986.3651 • [jessica.taylor@wha1.org](mailto:jessica.taylor@wha1.org)

**Tom Northey**  
Vice President, Information Strategy  
866.986.3675 • [tom.northey@wha1.org](mailto:tom.northey@wha1.org)

**David Ressler**  
Executive Director, Community Care Alliance  
866.986.3675 • [david.ressler@wha1.org](mailto:david.ressler@wha1.org)

**Marnell Bradfield**  
Director, Care Coordination & Quality  
Community Care Alliance  
866.986.3681 • [marnell.bradfield@wha1.org](mailto:marnell.bradfield@wha1.org)

**Bobbie Orchard**  
Director, Marketing  
877.683.5223 • [bobbie.orchard@wha1.org](mailto:bobbie.orchard@wha1.org)

**Pilar Mank**  
Director, Client Services  
866.986.3590 • [pilar.mank@wha1.org](mailto:pilar.mank@wha1.org)

**Gloria Sacco**  
Director, Central Business Office  
866.986.3620 • [gloria.sacco@wha1.org](mailto:gloria.sacco@wha1.org)

**Stephen Day**  
IT Director  
866.683.5205 • [stephen.day@wha1.org](mailto:stephen.day@wha1.org)

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

**P4**

Upcoming Events

**888.828.0011**

**wha1.org**