



Curious about what's going on in other departments within your facility but don't always have time to find out? Introducing Peer Connection, where you can learn what your fellow WHA Peer Networks are up to.

Chief Financial Officers

During the June 14th Peer Network meeting, Ryan Westrom, Director of Finance for the Colorado Hospital Association (CHA), provided info on the Hospital Provider Fee (HPF). Funds collected are matched by the federal government, then distributed to hospitals and used to expand coverage to citizens (600,000 people are covered). Increasing fees being covered by the HPF (5%- 2017, 6%-2018, 7%-2019, 10% 2020+) for ACA expansion will have a direct impact on HPF. The population that is most negatively affected by these fees are rural hospitals. The state cannot make changes to HPF until it is approved by the federal government. Ryan also explained the Hospital Transformation Project, which is a 5-year payment reform initiative. There was much discussion around the Delivery System Reform Incentive Program (DSRIP) and if goals are missed, there will be a 15 – 20% reduction in supplemental payments. On a positive note, Marguerite Tuthill, CCA Network Development Manager, provided an overview of the CCA and its 2019 plan.

Chief Nursing Officers/Quality Improvement Risk Management

At our Peer Network meeting on August 2nd, April Asbury, VP of Patient Services for Heart of the Rockies shared how they are successfully implementing rehabilitation therapy in the emergency department and also meeting the Triple Aim. Cathy Roberts, Associate Chief Nursing Officer for St. Mary's Medical Center, led a discussion on the flu crisis as well as how we can better collaborate this winter. Finally, Natalie Vogan with the Colorado Rural Health Center shared best practices in forming a Patient Family Advisory Council.

Communications and Marketing

We postponed our July Communications and Marketing Peer Network meeting so members could attend the Denver Digital Summit. Members and staff will share the latest trends at our next meeting on August 15th.

Human Resources

The HR Peer Network met on August 3rd. Marguerite Tuthill, Network Development Manager, CCA, addressed Population Health impacts on self-funding health plans. The group had a robust roundtable to share knowledge and best practices. The next meeting will be October 12th.

Information Technology

IT members met on June 7th and established WHA Wiki pages so the IT leaders can more readily access and share pertinent information. They also discussed Europe's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and how it will impact their organizations. Resort hospitals will be most affected as they tend to treat more tourists from Europe. U.S. providers are being told that they need to brush up on consent forms, data sharing, and privacy monitoring, but WHA IT leaders agree that there is not good information available on how to proceed.

Laboratory Services

On June 5th, Laboratory Services Peer Network members heard from Mark Coombs, Regional Manager, Mayo Medical Laboratories, who provided an update on Mayo value-added programs and shared their third payor billing process. He also shared their ability to provide real-time info about billing, and how this provides the opportunity for immediate correction when there is a denial. The Clinical Laboratory Management Association (CLMA) is trying to get a Colorado chapter going again and have reached out to the Lab Group Chair, Tracy Robb, to see how other lab leaders feel.

Materials Management

On July 10th Materials Management Peer Network members met and discussed association memberships to Association for Healthcare Resource & Materials Management (AHRMM), and talked about new industry entrants into the medical supply market with corporate partner Premier. During their next meeting on October 2nd, members will test out the webinar offerings of AHRMM.

Rehabilitation Therapy

During the July 13th Rehabilitation Peer Network meeting, presentations were delivered on the Implementation of Physical Therapy in the Emergency Department, in-service internships offered through CU, and an update from Cameron MacDonald, President of APTA regarding their recent conference. During the next meeting on October 5th, the group will review the results of a survey to determine who their new chair for the next term will be.

Revenue Cycle

On Wednesday, May 23rd, self-ordered mammograms, facility charges for transfusions, who's submitting prior authorizations, and determining patient eligibility for Prime and regular Colorado Medicaid were all topics of conversation. Revenue Cycle leaders were also provided steps on how to use the brand new Healthcare Management website.

[Register for a meeting today!](#)



Don't forget to check your inbox for meeting reminders, agendas and registration information. Please contact **Angelina Salazar** at 970.986.3653 or angelina.salazar@wha1.org with suggestions on meeting topics or education.