

A Message from WHA's CEO



“Rural hospitals are closing around the country and yet Colorado and Utah are staying strong.”



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Greetings WHA members and friends! This is Angelina Salazar, your CEO, wishing you a happy early spring! I'm definitely feeling the fever, as I know many of you are. I'm also grateful for the snow, especially after the fires and dry summer last year. April has arrived and we've kicked off our 2019 Peer Network meetings with specific initiatives from each group determined at the Western Healthcare Alliance Annual Summit. As a reminder, those of you who attended the summit were part of a member-wide innovation workshop and ended your day with your Peer Network group, collaborating and developing a group goal for the year.

- The CFOs and IT leaders want to increase overall participation at their meetings, knowing that collaboration can't occur if you aren't at the table.
- The CNO and Quality leaders want to create a resource portal or app for policies, emerging technology, staff development, regulatory and compliance, and risk assessments.
- The Marketing and Communications leaders want to best determine how their communities want hospital and healthcare information, so they are going to develop a survey tool together.
- The HR, Lab, and Rehab leaders are all focusing on staffing, both recruitment and retention, so every meeting this year will have a staffing element.
- The Materials Management leaders want to implement a training program that cross trains inter-hospital employees.
- The Revenue Cycle leaders want to collaborate on bringing more training to their regions and the sharing of resources.
- The Board, which is made up of CEOs, are also determining areas of shared effort around compliance efforts and possibly developing a shared linen service. They are also talking about what it means to be a WHA member, and continuing the discussion around the question we all heard at the Western Healthcare Alliance Annual Summit – “What else can we do together?”

Rural hospitals are closing around the country and yet Colorado and Utah are staying strong. We think it's because of your commitment to collaboration and support of each other. Keep up the great work!