

## The National Cooperative of Health Networks (NCHN) Annual Conference

The National Cooperative of Health Networks Association (NCHN) held its 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Educational Conference in New Orleans from April 16<sup>th</sup> through the 19<sup>th</sup>. The Conference, NCHN's primary annual get-together and sharing event, hosted over 80 health network leaders from 29 states representing over 600 associated healthcare entities. The conference location – in New Orleans' festive and famous French Quarter – was certainly a highlight for many attendees, but it didn't outdo the numerous educational sessions that covered timely topics relevant to health networks and their members.

Educational sessions spanned topics from evaluation and outcome measures and the evolution of networking to board engagement, anti-trust laws, and Health Information Technology (HIT). Standout sessions, as referenced by the attendees conference evaluations, include Jessica Lipnack's keynote presentation, *The Power of Networks*, Cassalyn David's session on *Crafting Value Propositions*, Dave Johnson's presentation on Board Engagement, and finally, Jay Seifert's reconceptualization of Wellness on Friday morning. Each of these sessions were rated highly and reference multiple times as key takeaways.

While conference attendees reported a broad range of specific takeaways and key learning moments, as always, the single biggest reason that attendees come to the conference is not for a specific session, but to learn from other attendees. One of the best aspects of the conference, and attendees report this year after year, was the opportunity to meet face to face with other people who do what they do... lead health networks. As one NCHN member once

said, "At the airport, at social events, etc., I am always trying to explain what I do to other professionals. I talk in excitement for 15 minutes and when I finish, they still have no idea what I do. It's great to be around other people who just know." Health networks, for those who aren't directly involved, are a relatively obscure concept, even for many providers who work in health care, and they are an innovative, post-modern response to the barriers faced by rural healthcare organizations, especially.

Health networks are unique organizational models that assist members in overcoming the challenges, bridging the gaps, and maximizing the opportunities inherent in the changing health care climate. For this reason, it's acutely important for NCHN to provide timely resources and educational sessions at their annual Conference. Health network leaders are not only responsible for the operation of their own network, but they also serve as knowledge leaders for all issues pertinent to the health care field. "On one end of the spectrum of network management, securing funding, we're hearing from HRSA/ORHP that good grant applications now need to incorporate concrete, outcome-based evaluation methods," said Rebecca Davis, Ph.D., Executive Director of NCHN. "On the other end, in maintaining a network, we know that we need to focus on board engagement, marketing, and leadership, and at the same time branch out into new programs that embrace HIT and EHR. The conference covers a broad range of topics and our hope is always that network leaders and staff can gain additional tools to enhance both their network operations and that of their member organizations."



Also in attendance were The Hospital Cooperatives' Jon Smith and Robert Cuoio. At the Conference, Jon Smith, who had just completed two terms as Treasurer, was elected as NCHN Vice President and will serve from 2013-2014, with a commitment to serve as NCHN's President in 2014-2015. "I am honored to serve in the upcoming years on the NCHN Executive Board," said Jon Smith. Robert Cuoio added, "NCHN is such a valuable organization for us. We appreciate the opportunity to interact with other network leaders."

The National Cooperative of Health Networks (NCHN) is a member-driven association of health networks and strategic partners. NCHN's mission is *to support and strengthen health networks through collaboration, networking, leadership development, and education*. Since its incorporation in 1995, it has developed into a nationally recognized organization that offers support to health networks throughout their phases of development. To find out more, visit NCHN online at [www.NCHN.org](http://www.NCHN.org).

Courtesy: Christy Sullenberger,  
Director of Member Services



Find us on Facebook! We will be adding photos, upcoming calendar events, and will have contest giveaways. Just go to the following address:  
[www.facebook.com/TheHospitalCooperative](http://www.facebook.com/TheHospitalCooperative)

This month, we are giving away a gift certificate to Buffalo Wild Wings. Visit our page for more details.

## Portneuf Medical Center

### Blue Distinction Awards Given for Industry Leading Quality at Portneuf Medical Center

Portneuf Medical Center has long time been recognized as the leader in quality and technology in Southeast Idaho and its surrounding communities. Recently, Blue Cross Blue Shield and Regents recognized Portneuf for its outstanding quality in the delivery of Hip and Knee replacement surgery as well as spinal surgery. PMC is the only organization awarded this honor on the eastern side of the state of Idaho.



What is Blue Distinction and why is it important?

Blue Distinction is part of a broader effort by The Blues to improve health care quality and value by empowering consumers and employers to make better informed decisions about health care providers.

\* Empowering Consumers. Blue Distinction provides consumers with information to help them easily identify providers proven to deliver quality, cost-efficient care that is well-suited to their specialty care needs. User-friendly tools - from online directories to toll-free customer service - help consumers find these providers, no matter where they live, work, or travel in the US.

\* Nationally Consistent Criteria. Building on long-standing success of Blue Distinction, The Blues have refined the program to include more robust criteria focused on patient safety and outcomes, developed with input from the medical community.

\* Tailored Solutions. Blue Distinction provides a strong foundation for employers, working with their local Blue Plans, to create customized benefit plans that meet their needs. Quality remains Blue Distinction's key benchmark so employers can feel comfortable that when selecting a Blue Distinction designated facility, their employees are choosing a provider with proven quality.

Our amazing physicians and medical staff truly love what they do. This is clearly evidenced in the quality of our outcomes at PMC. Come witness this for yourself. You'll be so happy you did.

BE WELL !!!

### National Recognition for PMC Wound Care and Hyperbaric Center

The Portneuf Wound Care and Hyperbaric Center has received the 2012 Center of Excellence Award for Clinical Excellence and Patient Satisfaction. A Center of Excellence Award recognizes wound care clinics that demonstrate outstanding patient outcomes for 24 consecutive months. Of over 500 wound care clinics nationwide, Portneuf Wound Care and Hyperbaric Center is within the top 7% for clinical excellence and patient satisfaction. The award demonstrates the ongoing commitment of Portneuf Medical Center to advance specialized care of chronic, non-healing wounds in its community.

To be recognized as a Center of Excellence, wound care clinics must achieve superior results in multiple quality benchmarks – Portneuf Wound & Hyperbaric Center's healing rate of 93%, median days to heal of 24 days, and patient satisfaction results of 94% are among the quality benchmarks evaluated. Portneuf Wound Care Center demonstrates the dedication to providing its patients with the best possible outcomes. Since opening its doors in 2010, the wound care team has successfully healed over 1,400 wounds. Portneuf Wound Care Center's physician-led program provides a

variety of advanced treatment modalities including:

- Wound debridement
- Pressure offloading
- Infection management
- Hyperbaric oxygen therapy
- Bioengineered skin substitute grafts
- Advanced wound dressings

With a rapidly aging population, growing incidence of diabetes, obesity and other contributing factors, the need for specialized wound care is expected to significantly increase over the next decade. With expert physicians, nurses and technicians, the Portneuf Wound Care and Hyperbaric Center remains dedicated to meeting its patient's specific wound care needs.



For more information, contact the wound care center at (208) 239-2670 or visit the clinic at 777 Hospital Way, Suite G1.

## Minidoka Memorial Hospital

### Community Response Workshop

Minidoka Memorial Hospital recently hosted a "Community Response" workshop for community members, local emergency preparedness agencies and hospital staff. This two-day workshop was conducted by Rick Bearden, an independent emergency management instructor from Alabama, that has more than 36 years experience and training in a diverse background including public safety, emergency management, and public health. The workshop was separated into six different sessions that covered basic community emergency preparedness in your county, decontamination training, field response training, and tabletop exercises to allow more of a group interaction to the training thus making them seem more real than just lecture.

Kim Vega, Director of Community Relations and Grants stated that "not only the participation from different local agencies but the response and positive feedback couldn't have been better, especially for this being our first workshop like this in this area. MMH hopes to have access to grant funding again next year to host more emergency response trainings and workshops and include even more people. We had people from as far as Bear Lake and Madison Memorial attend this workshop. Rick did an outstanding job and seemed to reach everybody with his knowledge and education of emergency preparedness. We received the funding to host this from our ASPR grant funding for Region V".



## Lost Rivers Medical Center

### New CEO Announced

The Board of Trustees for Lost Rivers Medical Center is pleased to announce that Bradley Huerta has been selected as the hospital's new CEO/Administrator. To welcome Mr. Huerta, the Hospital Auxiliary will be hosting an Open House on May 9th starting at 6:00 pm. Activities include:



- The opportunity to “meet and greet” Mr. Huerta and his family
- Formal introduction of Dr. Chad Colvin, Chief of Staff
- Welcoming Dr. Jeff Haskell who has recently returned to LRMC
- Walking tour of the newly remodeled Physical Therapy department
- Recognition of “National Nurses Week”
- Raffle drawings for gifts donated by local businesses
- Light refreshments

Please feel free to join Lost Rivers Medical Center for this event. For additional information please contact Tina Akins at (208) 527-8206, x111 or takins@lrmctr.org.

## Teton Valley Hospital

### Tele-psychiatry is coming to Teton Valley

Teton Valley Health Care announces the addition of telepsychiatry to further expand our mental healthcare services. We are adding the services of a psychiatrist to help respond to the shortage of psychiatric care in our Valley and to offer a close-knit team approach to mental health wellness.

Patients will visit our comfortable counseling room at Driggs Health Clinic to consult with psychiatrist Jin R. Soofi, MD, via a two-way telemedicine monitor. After the consultation, our clinical patient manager will meet separately with Dr. Soofi to confirm follow-up plans and any prescription needs.



Our clinical patient manager will coordinate efforts among the psychiatrist, health care provider, mental health counselor and other professionals who may be involved in the patient's care.

For the past two years, Driggs Health Clinic has offered free mental health counseling every Friday during normal operating hours. We'll continue to offer that free service for our community. Meet Dr. Soofi via video-conferencing during a special hospital-focus 2015 forum TBA at the Teton Senior Center.

For further information, please call Angela Booker at (208) 354-6317 ext. 104.

## Madison Memorial Hospital

### New CNO Announcement

We are privileged to announce that Bob Kendrick has accepted the position of CNO. Robert “Bob” Kendrick comes to us from Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center as one of their ICU Nurses and House Supervisors. Bob received his BSN from the University of Utah and a Master of Healthcare Administration from Brigham Young University. Putting his skills and knowledge to use, he has worked as a Staff Nurse, Nursing Supervisor, Vice President of Human Resource, Assistant Vice President of Clinical Services, Administrative Director of Clinical/Support Services, Chief Operating Officer, and Chief Nursing Officer. His extensive skill in both Nursing and Human Resources will lend itself to the continued development of our Nurses to be first class regional healthcare providers. We welcome Bob to our team and look forward to learning from him.

### Family Maternity Center Open House

Since October 2012, Madison Memorial Hospital's Family Maternity Center has been under construction. We are not adding on any additional labor and delivery suites, but have completely renovated the facility and its furnishings. The Open House was held on May 1, 2013 from 6 pm until 8 pm. We are also in the process of renovating the south entrance by implementing a canopied temporary parking area for patient safety and convenient access to the facility. This phase of the project was available for the Open House, but will continue its construction for completion in June. The entire project will cost approximately \$1.9 million dollars. Madison Memorial Hospital delivered nearly 1500 babies last year.



### Making Way for the New MRI

Madison Memorial Hospital is making way for a new MRI equipment. The images are of the extraction of the old MRI magnet to make way for construction of a new Philips Ingenia 1.5T MRI system to be installed.

The new MRI equipment will incorporate a number of breakthrough technologies that are designed to deliver exceptional image clarity. It will be able to quickly provide radiologists and physicians with precise, detailed MR images needed to help them confidently diagnose many different anatomical and structural problems in the body. This will include brain and nervous system disorders, cardiovascular disease, and organ disease. As for the patients, this new MR will allow for a much more comfortable experience due to the size of opening. It increases from a 60 to a 70 centimeters opening. We are excited for this new upgrade and the benefit it will be for Madison County and the surrounding areas. We are using a mobile MRI trailer that is parked on our campus to continue our radiological services during this transitional period. The Philips Ingenia MRI is scheduled to go live on June 3, 2013.



## Star Valley Medical Center

### SVMC named in Top 100 Critical Access Hospitals

Star Valley Medical Center in Afton, Star Valley, Wyoming was recently named one of the HealthStrong™ Top 100 Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs) in the United States.

“Star Valley Medical Center is proud of the efforts of its physicians and staff who have contributed to our hospital achieving this designation,” said Charlie Button, CEO. “Star Valley Medical Center is grateful to our communities for all the support we receive. Health care access is a vital component of any vibrant rural community and we are committed to serving the residents of Star Valley with safe, compassionate and quality care.”

The HealthStrong™ Top 100 Critical Access Hospitals, including Star Valley Medical Center, scored best among critical access hospitals on the iVantage Health Analytics' Hospital Strength Index™. The 2013 Top 100 CAH announcement is the second release of this important designation. The Hospital Strength Index is first-ever comprehensive rating of CAHs and the results recognize the Top 100 Critical Access



Hospitals that provide a “safety- net” to communities across rural America – measuring them across 56 different performance metrics, including quality, outcomes, patient perspective, affordability and efficiency. More information can be found at [www.iVantageHealth.com/HSI](http://www.iVantageHealth.com/HSI).

“Rural hospitals play a critical role in providing needed care to communities across America, yet the challenges are completely different while being as complex as urban hospitals. The need for enhanced performance and a framework for success are equally important as hospitals prepare for the impact of health reform,” said John Morrow, EVP of iVantage Health Analytics.

Star Valley Medical Center is a Critical Access Hospital in Afton, Wyoming serving the communities in Star Valley and other areas of western Wyoming. Star Valley Medical Center operates medical clinics in Thayne and Alpine, Wyoming, and also provides an orthopedic and physical therapy clinic in Thayne, Wyoming.

For more information, please call Star Valley Medical Center at (307) 885-5887, or visit us at 901 Adams Street in Afton, Wyoming. See us on the web at [www.svmcwy.org](http://www.svmcwy.org)

### Star Valley Medical Center Named Patient Safety Excellence Award Winner

Star Valley Medical Center was recently named in the top ten percent of all hospitals in America for Patient Safety. Healthgrades, a Denver, Colorado based firm has collected nationally reported indicators from all hospitals and ranked each health care organization based on 14 individual patient safety criterion. Only one other hospital in Wyoming and two hospitals in Idaho were named in this report. To see the published report please go to

[www.healthgrades.com](http://www.healthgrades.com)



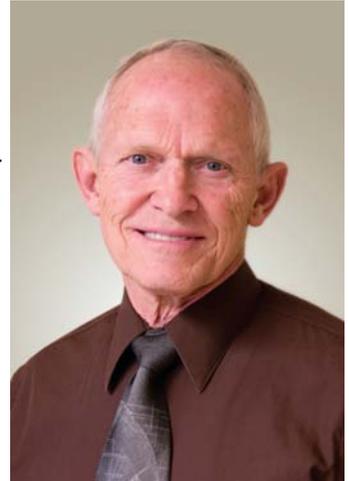
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## Bingham Memorial Hospital

### BMH Welcomes Two New Physicians

Bingham Memorial Hospital is proud to welcome Dr. Carl Bell and Dr. Mary Himmler to the ranks of the BMH physician family.

Dr. Bell joins Portneuf Family Medicine in Pocatello. Dr. Bell has been practicing medicine for over 30 years, spending most of his medical career as a family practice physician in American Fork, Utah where he delivered nearly 2000 babies and was honored as Utah County Physician of the Year in 1999. Since retiring from family practice thirteen years ago to devote more time to his family, Dr. Bell has been practicing emergency medicine as a locum tenens physician—including six years at the Lost Rivers Medical Center in Arco, Idaho.



One of the things Dr. Bell enjoys most about working in the healthcare field is the bond of friendship developed with his patients. “In family practice, your patients become your friends,” he says. “And what could be better than taking care of your friends all day? It’s rewarding to work with people of all ages and to treat a patient from infancy through adulthood. I love helping people.”

Dr. Himmler comes back to Bingham after spending several years in the Washington, D.C. area. She has always enjoyed taking care of others and worked at a rehabilitation unit during college. As a result, she decided to pursue a career as a physician.

Dr. Himmler is board-certified in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. She went to medical school at the University of South Dakota School of Medicine and completed her residency at Eastern Virginia Medical School Department of Medicine and Rehabilitation in Norfolk, Virginia. She is also trained in acupuncture and is a member of the Idaho Medical Association.



Many of the patients Dr. Himmler helps have disabilities like acute paralysis, stroke, and spinal injuries. She believes attitude is everything in treatment. By combining an understanding of their injury with tough love, she finds her patients can overcome disappointment and physical restraints to live a normal life again. She points to the example of paraplegics she knows who have overcome their disabilities and are still practicing physicians.

## Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center

### EIRMC Opens On-Site Clinic for Employees

Ever been at work, felt that tell-tale “tickle” in the back of your throat, and thought “wish the doctor was right next door?” Eastern Idaho Regional Medical recently opened the H2U Clinic that provides primary and urgent care to employees and their dependents - free of charge and right on the campus of the hospital.

Our employees receive care from a nurse practitioner who is board certified in family medicine, with advanced training in diagnosing and treating common illnesses and medical problems such as allergies, ear infections, strep throat, colds and flu. The Clinic also offers lab services and support for managing chronic conditions and diseases. The NP’s can write prescriptions to be filled off-site; even better, if it’s on our list of most-prescribed medications, it can be dispensed directly to the employee during the office visit and at no cost.

### EIRMC’s New Pediatric Intensive Care Unit is Now Open

For the children who need a little extra TLC and the families who need to be by their side, critical care services for kids are now available here in Southeast Idaho.



For very ill children ages infant-18, EIRMC’s PICU offers:

- Pediatric Intensivists specially trained in pediatric critical care medicine
- Advanced equipment and highly specialized staff of nurses, respiratory therapists, physical and occupational therapists, social workers and nutritionists
- Cheerfully decorated, kid-friendly rooms, family spaces and a playroom
- Child Life Specialists to help families and children cope

Geared to treat a wide spectrum of children's serious illness and injuries, the PICU currently admits patients who need multidisciplinary intervention or continuous monitoring for treatment of:

- Moderate to severe Respiratory diseases and/or needing endotracheal intubation or mechanical ventilation
- Non-life-threatening Neurologic diseases, seizures responsive to therapy, or neurosurgical post-op care
- Hematologic / Oncologic diseases or life-threatening bleeding, severe anemia, or complications of sickle cell crisis
- Endocrine / Metabolic diseases, or other electrolyte and metabolic abnormalities
- Gastrointestinal diseases, bleeding or foreign body needing emergency endoscopy
- Minor Renal, minor Cardiac, or Multi-system diseases
- Periop care, acute care, or needing transfer from other health care facilities
- Or, needing application of special technology or medication

Available 24/7, the Access Center will get your patient connected with the services they need.  
1-800-4U-EIRMC (1-800-483-4762).

## Bear Lake Memorial Hospital

### Bear Lake Memorial Hospital Receives “Love Bug”

About three years ago, Nat Talcott decided he was going to restore a 1967 Volkswagen Beetle and give it to his wife, Patricia, as a gift. This was not the first car Nat had restored as he also restored a 1937 Ford pickup, a 1957 Chevy Bel-Air, and a 1977 Lincoln Continental Mark V.

Being a perfectionist, the restoration took longer and cost more than Nat had anticipated. He insisted on original parts so often-times he was getting parts from Germany, which obviously slowed the process and cost more. The 1967 Volkswagen only had 25,000 miles on it when he bought it but Nat insisted that the engine be completely overhauled, and in fact he had it hopped up a bit. The interior upholstery was completely replaced, all rust was removed and a brand new baby blue paint job that matched the original paint was applied by Nussbaum Auto Body. In short, it’s a brand new 46 year-old car!

Unfortunately Nat passed away before the VW was finished so he never got to see the finished product. Patricia took the Love Bug, which has been affectionately named Herbee, home to her garage where it has spent most of the winter.

Nat and Patricia have always been good friends of the Hospital. Both have volunteered many hours on behalf of the Hospital over the years so in February, Patricia decided Herbee would make a wonderful raffle prize to help the cause of the new patient rooms. When Rod Jacobson, Hospital Administrator, learned of the gift he was thrilled. Rod had kidded Nat that Patricia really didn’t want a Volkswagen and the Foundation could raise a lot of money if he would donate it to us. Apparently Nat had even discussed the possibility of donating it prior to his untimely death. “Herbee is in immaculate shape. A 1967 Volkswagen was a special year for Volkswagen, making it a highly sought after collector’s item. Nearly everyone born before 1960 has a “Love Bug” memory. I’m sure this will be our biggest, most successful raffle ever. I know I’m buying tickets!”

It needs to be noted here that Nussbaum Auto Body is also donating to this cause. They have agreed to write off all the labor they put into restoring Herbee. Their donation amounts to \$4,500. According to Scott Nussbaum, Herbee is likely worth somewhere between \$15,000 and \$25,000 depending on the market; certainly \$25,000 in California.

Raffle tickets will soon be available and Herbee will be on display throughout the summer. “We want to express our gratitude to both Patricia Talcott and Nussbaum Auto Body for making this gift available to the Foundation.

The proceeds from this raffle will likely be enough to fully equip one new patient room,” said Craig Thomas, Foundation Director.



## Caribou Memorial Hospital

### CMH Welcomes New Physician

Caribou Memorial Hospital finalized the purchase of the Caribou Medical Clinic building effective March 1. They were able to get three exam rooms and an office ready for Jonathan W. Housley, MD, to start his practice on April 1. Dr. Housley is a board certified family physician with full service obstetrics. Dr. Housley was previously employed at St. Luke's Jerome Family Medicine before agreeing to relocate to Soda Springs.



### CMH Upgrades Network

Currently, we are working on finalizing our new wiring project for our network structure. This has been a major project for our hospital since it's incorporating updates to our phone system and cable wiring for residents/patients rooms too. Our network project is going to allow us to migrate to an Avaya phone system. This will update us and move us away from the old Nortel system. The change to Avaya allows us to integrate to new IP phones while allowing our existing phones to function on the new system, which reduced cost. Since we already had a wiring crew on-site, we also wanted to resolve the current digital cabling for TV issues we have had too. This should be resolved with a fresh pull of point to point runs to each room. This project like our network and phone project will lead to improved management of our phone, cable, and network topologies. We have taken snapshots along the way and will present to our stakeholder and employees, and will also share copies with our IT Peer Group so they can see the enhancements we have made.

## Golf Tournaments at THC Hospitals

Bear Lake Memorial Hospital  
Saturday, August 17

Bingham Memorial Hospital  
Friday, July 26

Caribou Memorial Hospital  
Saturday, June 15

Franklin County Medical Center  
Saturday, June 22

Madison Memorial Hospital  
Saturday, August 24

Minidoka Memorial Hospital  
Thursday, July 11

Star Valley Medical Center  
Friday, June 14

Teton Valley Hospital  
Tuesday, August 20



## Calendar of Events

### May 2013

Acute Care  
Peer Network Meeting  
May 10

Serv Safe  
May 14 and May 15

Lunchtime Education Series  
"Personal Organizational Skills and  
Techniques"  
May 16

Information Technology  
Peer Network Meeting  
May 17



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### June 2013

THC Executive Board Meeting  
June 6

Pharmacy  
Peer Network Meeting  
June 12

Nutrition Services  
Educational Training  
June 19

Lunchtime Education Series  
"The Basics of Getting Things Done"  
March 21

Human Resources  
Peer Network Meeting  
June 21

Foundation/Marketing  
Peer Network Meeting  
June 28

## The Hospital Cooperative Hosts Bowling Event

At the beginning of May 2013, The Hospital Cooperative hosted a bowling event with staff from Minidoka Memorial Hospital at the Snake River Bowl in Burley, Idaho. The purpose of the event was teambuilding and for THC to show their appreciation to the hospital for being a valuable member to the organization. A total of nine teams registered with four players per team. Staff members were treated with a pizza and salad buffet along with THC-themed cookies.

Teams were encouraged to dress up in costumes and they did not disappoint. "The Nerds" were voted as the best costume by the other teams. In a playoff-type format, teams bowled against each other to win the tournament. Again, "The Nerds" experienced victory in a tie-breaking bowl-off against THC's staff.

According to Jamie Pehrson, Administrative Specialist at The Hospital Cooperative, "This event was very rewarding. We had several staff members share their appreciation and tell us that they had a great time."

The Hospital Cooperative will be hosting bowling events in several of its members communities in the upcoming months.



### Cooperative Connections

Robert Cuoio, Editor

### The Hospital Cooperative Executive Board

John Hoopes, Chairman	Dallas Clinger
Mike Andrus, Vice Chairman	Brenda Stanley
Jeff Daniels, Secretary/Treasurer	John Williams
Charlie Button	Carl Hanson
Keith Gnagey	Doug Crabtree
Brad Huerta	Rod Jacobson
Jeff Hill	Rachel Gonzales

### Staff

Jon Smith, Executive Director  
Robert Cuoio, Director of Operations  
Jamie Pehrson, Administrative Specialist  
John Murphy, Volunteer

## Area Health Education Center

The Area Health Education Center (AHEC) is a nation-wide organization working in collaboration with medical schools and schools of nursing to promote workforce development in primary healthcare fields, particularly in rural and under-served areas. AHECs across the country are involved in activities such as medical recruitment and retention, preceptor coordination, K-12 pipeline projects, providing high quality CE/CME offerings and more. Idaho AHEC is a program of Mountain States Group, Inc., and is affiliated with University of Washington School of Medicine WWAMI Program. To learn more about the AHEC network throughout the country see <http://www.nationalahec.org/>. For details about AHEC in Idaho please visit our website at <http://idahoahhec.org/>

Idaho AHEC Project Center Director Lynda Bennett facilitates the Idaho Telehealth Discussion Group convened by Representative John Rusche. This group is currently involved in identifying resources and addressing barriers to increase access to healthcare throughout Idaho through telehealth / telemedicine. For more information about this group please contact Lynda at (208) 336-5533 ext 253 or [lbennett@mtnstatesgroup.org](mailto:lbennett@mtnstatesgroup.org).



## Telehealth Update

The Hospital Cooperative has been working with a couple different entities to bring child and adolescent psychiatry to Southeast Idaho using video-conferencing. William Terry, MD, from Boise, Idaho, has agreed to start services in the upcoming weeks for a couple of THC members. Also, THC is finalizing an agreement with the University of Utah to provide behavioral health services including psychiatrists and counselors.

We will be expanding the telehealth network to include Minidoka Memorial Hospital, Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center (EIRMC), Healthwest-Aberdeen, and the Southeastern Idaho Public Health office in Soda Springs, Idaho. We are excited at the possibility of EIRMC providing clinical services to our rural member hospitals. Currently, Portneuf Medical Center is providing adult psychiatry and teleoncology.