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Telehealth, Telemedicine Topics of Statewide Health Conference

Cheyenne, Wyo. — Numerous state, regional and national leaders in health care will participate in a teleconference sponsored by Wyoming's top health agencies to help direct the development of statewide telehealth and telemedicine services. The teleconference will take place from 8 a.m. to noon on Wednesday, Aug. 20, and is open to the public. Interested participants may attend the teleconference at one of 17 teleconference sites located throughout the state.

Health experts who will lead discussions at the conference include Brent Sherard, M.D., director of the Wyoming Department of Health; Wyoming Rep. Colin Simpson; Dennis Ellis, executive director of the Wyoming Medical Society; Rex Gantenbein, director of the Center for Rural Health Research and Education at the University of Wyoming; Jim Bush, Medicaid medical director at the Wyoming Department of Health; Jonathan Linkous, CEO, American Telemedicine Association; and Larry Biggio, executive director of the Wyoming Health Information Organization.

The teleconference will begin with an update on the state of telehealth and telemedicine in Wyoming, followed by a look at the state's health needs and priorities for the future.

The lead sponsor of the teleconference is the Wyoming Health Information Organization, which seeks to build Wyoming's health information communication technology infrastructure to enhance

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Add 1-1-1-1-1, “Telehealth, Telemedicine Conference”

public health and health-care services over coming decades. WyHIO is led by chairman of the board Jerry Calkins, M.D., a member of the Wyoming Medical Society.

According to the American Association of Telemedicine, the term “telemedicine” refers to “the use of medical information exchanged from one site to another via electronic communications to improve patients’ health status.” The term “telehealth” encompasses a broader definition of remote health care not always involving clinical services. According to AAT, “Videoconferencing, transmission of still images, e-health including patient portals, remote monitoring of vital signs, continuing medical education and nursing call centers are all considered part of telemedicine and telehealth.”

Sites for participation in the teleconference will be in the following Wyoming towns and cities: Afton, Basin, Casper, Cheyenne (two locations), Douglas, Evanston, Jackson, Laramie, Lusk, Newcastle, Rawlins, Thermopolis, Torrington and Worland.

More information on this teleconference and the WyHIO, including addresses and sign-up details for participation sites throughout the state as well as a conference agenda, can be found at www.wyhio.org. Or contact the WyHIO office at (307) 432-4025 or contact@wyhio.org.