



## Dahl Memorial Healthcare Association Receives Grant

Dahl Memorial Healthcare Association of Ekalaka with the support of Montana Health Network has received a \$95,000 one year planning grant related to the use of telemedicine in the rural primary care setting. \$85,000 or 89% will be provided by federal funds from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). The remaining \$10,000 or 11% will be funded by Montana Health Network's foundation, Rural Health Development. This grant is designed to create a model to offer support and relief to the sole local provider. Equipment will be purchased that will allow a primary care physician, in a location other than the patient, to receive the real time clinical information needed to make decisions about a patient's health. Planning will include investigating process flow; training staff; and reviewing opportunities to provide back up for primary care providers in remote locations. Both Billings Clinic and Glendive Medical Center are providing clinical expertise, while Prairie County Hospital District/Terry and McCone County Health Center/Circle join Dahl Memorial Healthcare Association/Ekalaka as test sites. Eastern Montana Telemedicine Network is providing the technical telemedicine support.

Focus groups will be held in the three test site locations where the equipment will be showcased and information about telemedicine will be provided to the public. For questions about this planning grant, please contact Chris Hopkins at 406-234-1420 or [chopkins@montanahealthnetwork.com](mailto:chopkins@montanahealthnetwork.com).

## Staffing Pool News

MHN Staffing Pool currently has two Radiology Technologists. Should you need their services, please contact Nixie at 406-228-8044 or [ngagne@montanahealthnetwork.com](mailto:ngagne@montanahealthnetwork.com). The MHN Provider Pool continues to expand with the addition of another Nurse Practitioner and a PA. If your facility needs provider coverage, please contact Chris Hopkins at 406-234-1420 or [chopkins@montanahealthnetwork.com](mailto:chopkins@montanahealthnetwork.com).

## Congratulations Jerri Hrubes

Congratulations to Jerri Hrubes, Montana Health Network Staffing Pool Representative. Jerri received her Bachelor's degree in Social Science with and Education concentration in May of 2011. Jerri's next goal is to finish her Master's degree in Business Administration with a Healthcare concentration in the Spring of 2012.

## Recovery Resources' Board of Governors Announces Commission Rate Decrease

Recovery Resources is pleased to announce a decrease in commission rates for collections to 19.5% for regular collections which affects the majority of accounts collected. The rate change was effective April 22, 2011. Additional benefits of participating in this program is the potential of "end of year" profit sharing.

There have been other changes made at Recovery Resources including the implementation of a certified Professional Collections Specialist who is focused on "small balance" collections on accounts of \$299 and less. An educational library has also been developed which can be viewed at the Recovery Resources website in the "Members Only" section. Recovery Resources is working hard to provide educational materials for the professional development of internal staff as well as member facilities' collection staff. Further, new procedures are being implemented to remove accounts beyond the statute of limitations. For more information please call Janeen at Recovery Resources, LLC. 800-574-3567.

## Compliance Hotline

Each healthcare facility must have a process to allow the public or employees to make complaints. MHN has a hotline which takes care of this requirement and only costs \$100/year.

## Contract With Qwest

As a reminder, we did renegotiate a contract with Qwest late last year and we are seeing savings of about 50% in long distance costs. In this economy, this monthly savings can make a difference. We have helped several facilities make this transfer and are familiar with the process. If you are interested, please contact Chris Hopkins at 406-234-1420 or [chopkins@montanahealthnetwork.com](mailto:chopkins@montanahealthnetwork.com).

## Privacy and Security

MHN now offers a very competitive Privacy and Security Insurance policy. The increase in electronic records and communications, and the stricter rules and regulations related to data breach make this coverage important to consider. If you would like more information, please call Janet Bastian at 406-234-1420 or [jbastian@montanahealthnetwork.com](mailto:jbastian@montanahealthnetwork.com).

