

Organization: Wallowa County Health Care District

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Mission & Purpose in Wallowa County: The Health District was formed in 1992 to take ownership and operation of the hospital from the County. The focus of the District, through the hospital as well as the medical office building and the new ALF/RCF, is to provide Premier health care in a professional, personalized environment for the residents and visitors of Wallowa County.

Key metrics/outcomes/impacts for the past year: For the year ending 6/30/2012 the District made a strong financial recovery from the previous year, ending with a net profit of \$1.5m as compared to a net loss of just over \$100k the prior year. At the same time capital assets increased by over \$4m.; primarily the addition of the medical office building which opened 7/1/12. The addition of the MOB will help insure the retention/recruitment of physicians well into the future. We also greatly expanded our infusion therapy program and added a sleep lab program as well as numerous equipment, skill and service upgrades.

Current top 3 priorities: (1) Complete and occupy the new ALF/RCF; (2) Recruit and replace the current CFO and CEO; (3) Modify operations to conform with health care reform for optimal patient and financial outcomes

Challenges:

- Struggling economy - The national economy affects us with 2% reductions in Medicare due to sequestration as well as other issues with health reform; the current status of state finances affect health providers, especially the CCOs; and the local economy hits us with both more people non-insured or under insured and less willingness on everyone's part to pay for non-essential healthcare;
- Ambiguity of health care reform;
- Difficulty of professional recruitment - Primarily the location. Being so rural is both a handicap and an asset, depending on who you are recruiting. When you finally get someone interested, the salary and housing are other problems.

Top 3 opportunities: Closer interactions with area providers to coordinate care; potential implementation of new services; better utilization of electronic health resources

of current active collaborators: Area health providers, primarily staff physicians; county mental health department; the Hospital Foundation; the Hospital Auxiliary; the District Board

Who to collaborate more with: local governments; schools; area business; others?