

Course to help train mental health first responders

By Steve Tool
Wallowa County Chieftain

First responders aren't always people jumping into emergency services vehicles with sirens blaring to save accident or fire victims.

Not all wounds are readily visible, which is why Stephen Kliewer, director emeritus of the Wallowa Valley Center for Wellness, is offering a class sponsored by the center to help train citizens to be mental health first responders.

The course outlines the basic mental health issues that exist by breaking down mental health into four basic categories: psychosis, anxiety, depression and addiction. The course also provide a process that allows people to identify with, develop a connection to and an assessment of how serious the issue is.

"It gives people a basic understanding of those types of mental health issues — how they present themselves and what they look like," Kliewer said. He added that the class is not intended to make people into something other than someone who can be there and be supportive, listen, care and help the person get appropriate care to the level they need.

The class takes place from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, Dec. 9 at the meeting room in the Eagle View Hotel, 1200 Highland Ave. in Enterprise. A separate class specific to youth mental health support took place Dec. 2.

The two class will deal with responding to adults who may suffer mental health issues and will examine subjects regarding to deal with a suicidal person or someone suffering an anxiety attack.

Kliewer, an ordained minister, encourages church members and pastors to attend.

"Church people are in a unique position to be first responders — not just pastors, but people in the church can help those who come in and are really struggling with anxiety, depression or whatever."

The class will be presented free of charge and will include a useful manual. Lunch also will be provided.

Through the Educational Services District, the class offers continuing education units for teachers.

"It's a pretty intense day, but it's a great course," Kliewer said. "The more people we can get trained, the better it is for our community — that's the bottom line."

AHA task force releases report on vulnerable communities

Wallowa Memorial Hospital CEO Larry Davy participated in report

Wallowa County Chieftain

The American Hospital Association assembled a task force of 29 leaders from the health care industry to address challenges in vulnerable urban and rural communities. Wallowa Memorial Hospital CEO Larry Davy has been serving on that task force for the past 15 months, traveling to Chicago, Phoenix and Washington, D.C., to share lessons learned about providing high-quality health care in a frontier community.

The task force released its findings in a report Nov. 29.

"Being part of the task force reiterated that hospitals across the nation are facing many of the same challenges we are facing," Davy said. "We have addressed some of the most critical issues facing other vulnerable communities, like attracting and retaining highly qualified physicians, and providing programs that educate our residents on how to lead healthier lives."

Davy was one of 10 rural hospital CEOs to serve on the task force, which included a hospital CEO from Washington and one from Montana to represent the Pacific Northwest.

Davy said he was impressed with the caliber of



Steve Tool/Chieftain archive
Wallowa Memorial Hospital CEO Larry Davy.

participants.

"It was a reminder of the large number of highly talented and committed health care leaders we have in our country focused on improving health care."

The task force outlined nine essential services that all vulnerable communities need to provide their residents: primary care; psychiatric and substance abuse; emergency care; prenatal care; ambulance and helicopter services to larger hospitals; diagnostic services like lab and X-ray; home health; dentistry; and a strong referral network to local and regional agencies, hospitals and specialists.

Davy said Wallowa County currently provides all nine essential services.

"We have a great network of agencies and clinics that provide behavioral and mental health services, prevention

and transportation to health care services in and out of the county. We're very fortunate here to have the scope and quality of services that we have."

Davy noted that major changes in the way health care is accessed will present challenges to Wallowa Memorial Hospital, such as the decline in patients being treated as inpatients in favor of offering more "outpatient" services, where patients come in a for a few hours rather than an overnight or multi-night stay. New regulations encourage patients to be moved out quickly to reduce costs, yet not all patients are ready to go home in the specified time frame, which creates challenges for smaller hospitals trying to meet the individual needs of their patients versus adhering to strict federal and state rules.

The task force also outlined nine "emerging strategies" designed to serve as a menu of potential options for communities to meet their specific health care needs:

- Addressing the social determinants of health
- Global budgets
- Inpatient/outpatient transformation strategy
- Emergency medical center
- Urgent care center
- Virtual care strategies
- Frontier health system
- Rural hospital health clinic strategy
- Indian health services strategies

Explanations of the nine emerging strategies can be read in the full report, available on the American Hospital Association website, www.aha.org.

Other challenges facing health care include what will happen to the Affordable Care Act, known as "Obamacare," under the new Trump Administration.

"We are in a wait-and-see mode, and we will have to adapt to changes as they occur," Davy said.

Another growing challenge to hospitals, even small, rural hospitals, is cybersecurity and the alarming rise in hackers breaking into health care networks, locking up information and demanding ransoms.

"We must be increasingly vigilant and make the necessary investments to protect our network from ever being a target," Davy said.

"The future challenges are huge, but with the proposed options of the task force and the commitment of the community, we will continue to be strong."

FOR THE RECORD

Circuit Court

Oct. 19
Ashley Tracy Thompson, 31, of Julietta, Idaho fined \$260 for violation of basic speed rule (78 in a 55-mph zone).

Nov. 16
Judith Denise Clark, 36, of Wallowa fined \$250 for driving uninsured, a class B misdemeanor, and driving while suspended or revoked, a class A misdemeanor.

Nov. 21
Antonio Joseph Lizaso, 51, of Emmett, Idaho fined \$150 for violating maximum statutory weight limits.

Jesse P. Chandler, 58, of Elgin fined \$150 for violating maximum statutory weight limits.

Nov. 28
Ryan J. Strohm, 38, of Joseph fined \$150 for violating maximum statutory weight limits.

Dispatch log:

Monday, Nov. 28
4:55 a.m.: Following burglary report, Enterprise police arrested Brian Scott Straub, 27, of Enterprise for burglary II, theft I, possession of heroin and warrants out of Clackamas County. Transported to Umatilla County.

8:36 a.m.: 911 call reporting vehicle stuck on Tollgate Summit, Forest Road 65. Referred to

Union County.

10:28 a.m.: Ambulance request in Joseph.

2:04 p.m.: Report of theft in Enterprise.

5:18 p.m.: Report of suspicious vehicle in Enterprise.

5:29 p.m.: Report of burglary in rural Wallowa.

6:53 p.m.: Ambulance request in Enterprise.

6:58 p.m.: Ambulance request in Enterprise.

Tuesday, Nov. 29
2:34 p.m.: Report of theft in Enterprise.

3:23 p.m.: Report of violation of restraining/stalking order in Joseph.

3:42 p.m.: Traffic stop in Enterprise.

3:50 p.m.: Traffic stop in Enterprise.

4:41 p.m.: Traffic stop in Enterprise.

5:12 p.m.: Civil issue in Enterprise.

6:23 p.m.: Ambulance request in Enterprise.

6:43 p.m.: Report of large boulder on Lewiston Highway.

Wednesday, Nov. 30
12:26 p.m.: Civil dispute in Enterprise.

1:04 p.m.: Enterprise police freed a dog that was stuck on a fence.

1:48 p.m.: Report of trespassing in Joseph.

2:34 p.m.: Report of scam/fraud in rural Wallowa.

5:56 p.m.: Civil dispute in rural Wallowa.

6:57 p.m.: Ambulance request in Enterprise.

Thursday, Dec. 1
10:05 a.m.: Ambulance transport to Joseph Airport.

1:22 p.m.: Sheriff's Office arrested Baltimore Leon Carper, 35, of Lostine for violation of release agreement and Dalton Chase Tanzey, 21, of Lostine for criminal trespass II, criminal mischief II, theft I and theft by deception. Both subjects transported to Umatilla County.

2:47 p.m.: Report of door-to-door salesperson in Joseph.

5:01 p.m.: Ambulance request in Wallowa.

8:05 p.m.: Wallowa County Community Corrections issued a detainer for Bryon Owen Reed, 35, of Lostine for probation violation, original charge reckless

endangering.

8:30 p.m.: Wallowa County Community Corrections issued a detainer for Andrea Michelle Anderson, 42, of Enterprise for probation violation, original charge DUII.

Friday, Dec. 2
9:55 a.m.: Stalking complaint in Enterprise.

10:55 a.m.: Report of possible impaired driver in rural Joseph.

1:32 p.m.: Ambulance request in Enterprise.

3:42 p.m.: Ambulance request in Enterprise.

9:38 p.m.: Traffic stop in Lostine.

Saturday, Dec. 3
4:58 a.m.: Ambulance request in Joseph.

9:43 a.m.: Ambulance request in Enterprise.

11:48 a.m.: Ambulance request in Enterprise.

1:38 p.m.: Report of violation of stalking protective order in rural Wallowa.

2:32 p.m.: Traffic stop in Enterprise.

2:57 p.m.: Joseph Fire responded to report of propane odor at Wallowa Lake.

8:25 p.m.: Non-injury traffic crash reported in rural Joseph.

Sunday, Dec. 4
12:09 a.m.: Report of vehicle stuck in rural Wallowa; driver would get it out the following day.

3:49 p.m.: Report of vehicle crash at intersection of Joseph Highway and Eggelson Lane; referred to OSP.

6:46 p.m.: Ambulance request in Joseph.



Soul Renovation Country Christmas Concert

Accepting canned goods and donations for Community Connection and Food Bank.

7PM, Dec. 14 at OK Theatre

Cabin Fever Cafe & Marketplace!

Come enjoy

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA



Sat, Dec 10th & Sun, Dec 11th

4 South Main in Joseph
541-432-1155
Hours: 8am - 2:30pm

HAPPY 95th BIRTHDAY

Addie Marks on December 7



Student of the Week



Darby Gassett

ENTERPRISE HIGH SCHOOL

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432-9050
Enterprise
426-4511
Wallowa
886-9151

The Student of the Week is chosen for academic achievement and community involvement. Students are selected by the administrators of their respective schools.

Holiday Party!

Friday, December 16th

10am - 3pm

Story Telling by Kathy Hunter

11:00 - 11:30am
1:00 - 1:30pm

Holiday Crafts, Games, Snacks & Hot Apple Cider



... and Sneak Preview of our Kids' Loft with Giant Birds Nest

Wallowology!

Natural History Discovery Center

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