

2018 • Volume 7 • Number 1

THE **R**RURAL *Report*



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



NEW SEASON



If you haven't had the chance to go to the website www.seniorsspeakne.org please take a few minutes. Both state nursing home associations; LeadingAge NE and the Nebraska Health Care Association, have entered into a public awareness campaign to educate the citizens of Nebraska about the deplorable financing of long-term care for our medicaid residents.

The methodology was to take the cost of running the nursing home from two years ago and give the facility a 2-3% increase for inflation! Food costs, utilities, labor, etc.....when was the last time inflation went up by only 2% every two years????

This was bad enough, but because of the reduction in tax receipts, the current reimbursement for nursing homes is 2.65% LESS than the cost of two years ago. What business can survive with this situation? The cost of providing care to the residents has outpaced their ability to pay for themselves. So the government, state and federal, pay for nursing home care through medicaid. Many of our rural facilities have about 65% of their residents on medicaid.

Many rural facilities have closed over the last three years. This trend will continue without a concerted effort by our state senators to address this crisis.

Ron Ross
Chief Executive officer

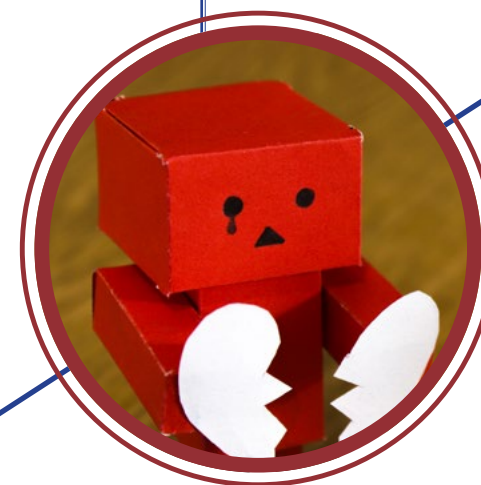


CONTENT

14-15 Staff directory can be found on pages 14 and 15.

7-13 Get the latest news from our facilities. Updates, events, and other community involvement.
Facility Updates

3-4 We were excited to celebrate this spring by given awards to some stellar employees.
Rural Health Development Spring Award Winners





Rural
Health
Development, Inc.

Health Care Consulting & Management

5-Star Award

White River health Care Center | White River, SD

Department Head of the Year

Teresa Stadler DON | Bertrand Nursing Home | Bertrand, NE

Whitney Kuhlen DON | Hillcrest Nursing Home | McCook, NE

Brandy Garrison Social Services | Wilber Care Center | Wilber, NE

Kris Mader Social Services Director | Ponderosa Villa | Crawford, NE

Administrator of the Year

Dean Dragon Administrator | Skyview at Bridgeport | Bridgeport, NE

Employee of the Year

Missie Bramhall Billing Manager | Rural Health Development





nativehm.com

NURSING HOME START-UP

Native American Health Management offers Nursing Home Start-Up services. NAHM works with state and federal governments to attain an enhanced rate.



MANAGEMENT SERVICES

Skilled Nursing Home and/or Assisted Living Facilities Management Services Native American Health Management is happy to offer management services to Tribes across the country.



CONSULTING SERVICES

Strategic Planning We can help your health system develop and implement a strategic plan for the current and future health needs of your community.



**FACILITY
UPDATES**



Sandhills Care Center Ainsworth, NE

Spring has sprung and we are so happy here at Sandhills Care Center! We are ready to watch the flowers start blooming, and for the weather to start warming up so we can enjoy the sunshine! We had State Survey in February, and did very well! I am very proud of our accomplishments and what we continue to strive for! We have a lot of exciting events planned for this Spring and Summer! If you are ever in the area, I encourage you to stop by and visit! We love visitors!

Stephanie Rucker - Administrator



Skyview at Bridgeport Bridgeport, NE

Skyview at Bridgeport adopted these two Airmen that deployed to Dubai almost six (6) months ago and a recent report indicates that they will be coming home in the next several weeks. Christopher Baskerville (left) and Kyle Hahn (right) have said that they would like to come thank the residents when they return for their thoughts, prayers and goodies. We look forward to seeing them home safe!

Skyview Foundation was able to secure a \$64,000 grant for a new ADA approved Van from the Nebraska Department of Roads with an 80/20 match of funds. Skyview Foundation will loan the vehicle to Skyview at Bridgeport Nursing Facility for use as they continue to perfect their financing to build a 20 unit Assisted Living facility. After the new building is completed, the vehicle will be shared for life enrichment activities such as going to the Scottsbluff Zoo. A variety of fundraising events are being planned to come up with the 20% matching funds to secure this generous grant. The van will be able to transport Veteran's to the Black Hills VA and Cheyenne VA Medical Centers.

Dean Dragon - Administrator



Colonial Haven/Court Beemer, NE

Greeting from Colonial Haven!

The activity department has been busy this month. The residents have been going to fish fry's in the area and enjoying great tasting fish and sometimes grilled cheese with all the fixings. We just wish the weather would cooperate, one day it's warm and the next day it's cold and raining or snowing. Everyone is hoping for a nice Easter. We were lucky last week and had a warm day so the power company could replace some electrical lines. This caused us to be without electricity for two and a half hours and was a good time to implement our emergency plan. Staff and residents followed our policy and did a great job.

Laurie Lierman - Administrator



Callaway Good Life Center Callaway, NE

Once again I am reminded why I feel so privileged to be a part of the Callaway Community. At the Callaway Chamber of Commerce Annual Awards supper held this past week, the Chamber awarded the Citizens of Callaway & Surrounding Area, Citizens of the Year for 2017 for Support of the Callaway Good Life Center. A heartfelt presentation to the entire community including the surrounding areas for the initial and continued support of the Callaway Good Life Center was made by the Chamber. Thank you to the person that put up this nomination, it is a wonderful tribute to a wonderful community.

The Economic Development Committee has been working hard on bringing Assisted Living to the community. We are in the preliminary stages, but hoping to move forward. This is another venture that will need the backing of the community, but I am confident that they will rally together as they have in the past. Adding an Assisted Living Facility adjacent to the Callaway Good Life Center would help to fill that gap in continuity of care. We have the Medical Clinic, Hospital, Independent Living apartments and Skilled and Long Term Care. The piece that we are missing is the Assisted Living.

I will be happy to be past the flu season, and it cannot come soon enough. We have been fortunate at the facility as (knock on wood) we have only had one confirmed case of Influenza A and two B. I contribute this to staff being diligent about handwashing and infection control, and also to the community for not visiting when they were not feeling well. We are all ready for warm weather and sunshine!

Have a Happy Spring, and plant some flowers!

Vicky Hendricks - Administrator



Sarah Ann Hester Home Benkelman, NE

Spring is here. However, Mother Nature seems to be a bit confused as to what the weather is going to do. Some days are beautiful and warm, while others are blustery and cold. Spring time is always a good time to start new things and make changes. The Sarah Ann Hester Memorial Home will be experiencing some changes in the up coming month. Due to changes in the service needs for the community, the Board of Directors of the Sarah Ann Hester Memorial Home have decided to convert the current Assisted Living Apartments into Senior Independent Living Apartments which are geared for persons 55 years of age and older wishing to, and with the ability to, live independently. We are excited about this new endeavor, however, converting from the Assisted Living there will be many changes with how we do things and we will be busy implementing new policies and training the facility staff. We are hopeful that this endeavor will fill a need in the community and generate some revenue for the facility. We have been blessed that our Skilled Nursing census has stayed at a comfortable number thus far this year and are hopeful that with the restructuring of the facility this will aid us in providing adequate staffing which seems to be a challenge for everyone.

Janice Edwards - Administrator



Ponderosa Villa Crawford, NE

Hello everyone, Happy Spring!!! We said goodbye to a dear friend and employee the last of March, Teresa McGinnis. Teresa worked here for 21 faithful years, she knew the ins and outs of every job here, was always right there to fix a problem or lend an ear if you needed one. We will miss her daily presence here. Teresa is now working at the school here in Crawford, she is keeping her Med Aide license current & will keep working with us in assisted living. She is also still helping our new girl learn the ropes. We love you Teresa & wish you the best of luck in your new adventure.

We would like to thank the Ponderosa Villa Auxiliary for the Pizza Party, the residents here enjoyed a variety of different kinds of pizza from Dominoes on Tuesday the 27th of March courtesy of the auxiliary.

Stephanie Huffman - Administrator



Bertrand Nursing Home Bertrand, NE

The year does not slow down one bit, does it? We just celebrated the holiday season and now just finish up the events for Valentine's Day and St Patty's Day. It's hard to believe that spring is here. WOW! Though the holidays have passed, there are still plenty of events going on.

Amy Grube - Administrator





St. Joseph's Villa David City, NE

With all the current events happening around the world, Saint Joseph's Villa and Court adopted the motto "Kindness Matters." During this coming year, the facility, the employees and residents will strive to promote Kindness Matters. A smile, a greeting, a hug, a kind word, a sincere gesture can make a difference in often dim light.

The winter has presented many challenges here at SJV&C. The snow storms, ice storms, and a case of illness brought the facility together as a team to provide care to our residents. As the facility banded together and overcame the obstacles, the facility was reminded of the Mission and Values of Just Stewardship and we got through the winter season and look forward to Spring.

As Spring approaches, the facility is preparing for the Annual State Survey. We look forward to another year of good standing and surpassing past inspections. The facility also continues to maintain a 5 Star rating. If those interested in the facility "report card" you may visit the following website:

April Johnston - Administrator



Glen Haven Home/ Linnwood Assisted Living Glenwood, IA

Spring is all about safety at Glen Haven and Linnwood Estates and like with anything in life, practice makes perfect. In February we as a team reviewed our Elopement policy and prevention strategies and participated in a facility wide Elopement Drill. In March we focused on Tornado preparedness and participated in the statewide tornado drills, testing our process and discussing different aspects and scenarios. The month of April brings a shift in focus to evacuation procedures and our annual evacuation drills.

As we think through our processes we are also beginning to consider how they might be affected by our move to Glen Haven Village later this year. With such a different campus, emergency preparedness procedures will no doubt be very different. As we begin to move into the beginning of the construction process, these are only a few of the policies and procedures we are thinking about. With our contractor selected and our USDA loan in final processing we are looking forward to the months ahead when we start to see the fruits of all of the planning labor.

Julianne Marriott - Administrator



Colonial Acres Humboldt, NE

As March fades in the Sunset, Colonial Acres starts spring time off witha SNOWY EASTER SUNDAY!!!! I know you never want to put your snow shovels away too early, but this is very strange. Many of our early blooming flowers were covered with a few inches of snow. It was a very cruel April Fool's Day joke! The staff at Colonial Acres are planning a new event for late spring. On June 1, Colonial Acres with be hosting a Summer Gala for the residents of our nursing home and assisted living community. Plans are being made to give the event a prom-like atmosphere. The staff wanted to have it outside in our beautiful Courtyard, so that's why the later date. Families and friends will be invited as well as the community residents. Food and music will be part of the celebration. See you there!

Dave Young - Administrator



Hillcrest Care Center Laurel, NE

Spring is here, or so they say. We are beginning to plan for our spring, and summer projects. We are going to be doing quite a bit of landscaping this spring. We are still working on making our patio area inviting to residents, and their families. We are also going to extend our flower garden from one little square to extend the entire length of the building. We are going to thin some plant out, but we are also going to make this a memorial garden. Anyone who has donated money for landscaping will have a plant planted there with a plaque.

A few other things that we have going on are that we are preparing for Laurel's Q125 celebration which will be in June. We will have a float in the parade, and are working on a few other things that we can do with the community. We are also getting ready for Nursing Home week. It will be a week full of entertainment.

Heather Eagle - Administrator



Hillcrest Nursing Home and Hidden Pines Assisted Living McCook, NE

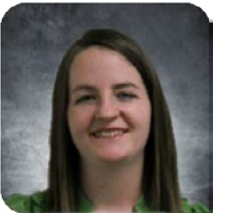
Hello from the Hillcrest "A Caring Center" facility in McCook Nebraska. I am sure we are like all the rest of you as we are tired of the white stuff. Spring keeps teasing us with 70 to 80 degrees and then slams us with another snow storm. We have had fun keeping our residents entertained, and everyone motivated. We are working hard also with the local hospital and clinic to open up better communication avenues and collaboration opportunities. We have started an "EBT" (Employee Brainstorming Team) to get the staff more involved with their concerns that go to the Administrator and then to the Board of Directors as a voice; so far it is working very well. Hillcrest is excited about the Spring and the future for our facility as we continue to improve the services to our residents, their families, and the community. We are also busy trying to understand and think of what the new survey process is going to look like to us. If anyone has gone through the new process reach out to us and tell us what you experienced. Take care everyone and blessing to you all.

Brad Cheek - Administrator

Mitchell Care Center Mitchell, NE

We are proud to have sponsored our first blood drive. It was held in January, even thou the weather was a bit chili we had a nice turn out and the staff was more than eager to sign up. Even our administrator, Stephanie, attempted to donate. I was very pleased with the success of our drive and are planning another one soon. I'm sure like most of you, we preparing for Nursing Home Week. We will be hosting PROM again this year and having live entertainment. This is always so special to the families and residents. I won't give away all our plans and keep you in suspense until after all is done. Happy Spring from Mitchell Care Center.

Stephanie Hahn - Administrator



The Lutheran Home Omaha, NE

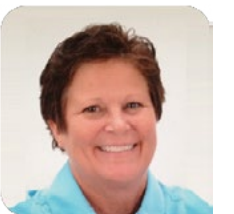
Is spring here? I see snow, and April fool's day has come and gone, but joke is on The Lutheran Home. Our annual spring clean up, may just end up being a day to de-ice and shovel.

However, in between March coming in like a Lion and leaving like a Lamb, we have had some beautiful days. One day we took advantage of a beautiful break in the weather and went for a drive in the country to enjoy the sunshine and fresh air.

The Lutheran Home continues to serve our residents and we are grateful for all the blessings bestowed on our little community. Along with the usual bingo, Rosary and current events that are always fun, Creighton Prep students visit several times per week and we enjoyed one of their baseball games last week! Thank you Creighton Prep.

TLH looks forward to May and the College World Series and all the excitement it brings around town so look us up on Face book and share our enjoyment as we welcome SPRING!

Donna Schellenberger - Administrator



Parkside Manor Stuart, NE

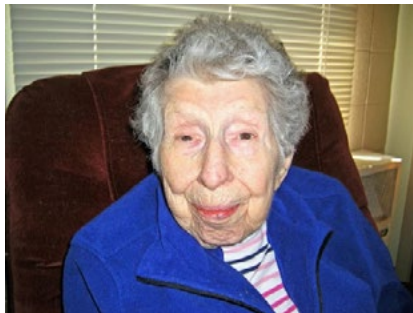
The residents and staff at Parkside have been anxiously awaiting the warmer weather that we are finally starting to get. We have reached a couple days in the 60's and we've all got spring fever! February was a busy month with Valentine's day celebrations. The residents all got to vote for a king and queen and we celebrated that on Valentine's day. We served a big lunch on Valentine's day that the residents chose at resident council. We had several guests join our residents for lunch, which was a great turn out. We have been having several people join us for Thirsty Thursday's and we all enjoy that. We hope you all have a great Spring and hope you can make it in to visit us soon!

Lucas Kaup - Administrator





Sutton Community Home Sutton, NE



Meet the fabulous Helen Vipperman! We are so pleased to be part of her care team and celebrate March 28th with her 102nd birthday! Helen has been with us over 4 years and has taught us so much about life, love, respect, and the importance of family. Sutton Community Home is blessed to have so many incredible men and women come here to teach us life lessons through daily interactions. Helen has been a favorite mentor/friend to all staff and we look forward to serving her and her family in the future!



Hannah Elliott - Administrator



Alpine Village Retirement Center Verdigre, NE

Greetings from Alpine! Winter is over and spring time is in the air.

We have been busy these last couple of months with 3 card bingo, crafting, birthday parties, dominos and pitch parties. In February on Valentine's Day, we crowned our King and Queen and Sweetheart of the Assisted Living and everyone enjoyed chocolate fondue. In March we watched a great movie with John Wayne and enjoyed Leprechaun popcorn, Stations of the Cross and a spelling bee. Just last week our resident made Klobasa (Czech summer sausage) for our beer, wine and cheese party. We had to close the doors to visitors for a few weeks due to illness in the community, but we are up and running full force.

If you are up and around the area please stop by and visit us.



Lucas Kaup - Administrator



Sunrise Heights of Wauneta Wauneta, NE

Wauneta Care and Therapy Center had a fun St. Patrick's Day party with our residents. We were entertained by local musicians, Wesley Wight of Stratton, and Violet Long and Roland Fortkamp of Wauneta. Wesley plays keyboards, Roland and Viola both play guitar and Viola also plays harmonica. The group is very talented! They played several Irish ballads and other songs as our residents clapped, sang or danced along. After the music, we enjoyed meat and cheese trays and shamrock cookies. A big thanks to our Activity Director, Karla Lipska for planning and organizing the event. It was a hit!



Lisa Kisinger - Administrator



Platte County Legacy Home Wheatland, WY

One of the highlights of the month is our Wheel Chair Dance! Local musicians, families and cadets from Guernsey make it a fun and memorable night! Everyone looks forward to this event every month. We always have a packed house! We have a wonderful group of musicians that volunteer their time and touch the spirit of our residents.



Shane Filipi - Administrator

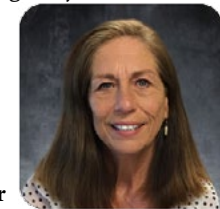


Oglala Sioux Lakota Nursing Home White Clay, NE

Spring is in the air, although we have had quite a bit of snow our Residents are busy with planting seeds for their garden. We have 35 Residents and are expecting new Residents to come home soon. In March we had our 1st Spring Carnival, which was a huge success! The Carnival had many games and prizes, the majority of Residents attended. Every other month we provide transportation for our residents to travel to our local Casino, this is a time for them to leave the Nursing Home as well as visiting friends and family at the Casino.

We are busy planning summer fun time for the Residents, such as attending the local Fair which consists of a Pow-Wow, Rodeo and Parade. The Annual Fair brings families from afar to come home to attend the Fair, excellent time for our Residents to visit family members. The Activity Department has numerous activities daily, such as horse racing, bingo, bible study, quilt making, movie nights, cards, coloring eggs for Easter, and bible study and church.

All in all, Residents and Employees are anxiously waiting for Spring so more outdoor activities can occur. Oglala Sioux Lakota Nursing Home is in its 2nd year, and we are progressing daily, thanks to the dedicated staff we have employed!



Susan Pourier - Administrator



White River Health Care Center White River, SD

January 2018 we became a 5-star facility. We did an article in the local new paper about the five-star facility. We had an appreciation for the staff for doing such a great job for the five-star.

February 14, 2018 we had our annual Valentine's day party with a king and queen from the facility. We also hired a new Maintenance Supervisor Gene Emery. Elementary kids came and did sitcom for Valentine's from the White River Elementary. Lake View school visited residents bring them gifts.

March we had Rosebud Elementary Drum group come to the facility to sing to the residents. We also hired a new Housekeeping/ Laundry Supervisor. We had nurse's students from Wisconsin visit the facility. Did CPR training for the nurses. We also had our St. Patrick's Day party ending in resident bingo.



Brandi Moran - Administrator



Wilber Care Center Wilber, NE

Wilber Care Center has been full of changes and activities. We are in the process of replacing the hallway flooring in the long term care area. This has been a process but we are almost done. Wilber Care Center staff and residents attended the Czech Kick off down town in March. This is an event enjoyed by many. We get to see the Czech dancers, the alumni band and see the queen and prince and princess crowned. Residents love the opportunity to see many friend and family members.

Wilber Care Center is also hosting the annual Easter Egg hunt. We have the Easter bunny and chicken in attendance also. All staff children and resident grandchildren are invited. This is a fun event for everyone.

We are very much looking forward to enjoying more time outside, planting flowers and vegetable and just enjoying the outdoors.



Barb Dryer - Administrator



RON ROSS

PRESIDENT

Ron Ross and Roger Petrik started RHD in 1990. As President of RHD, Ron provides leadership for the staff and their facilities.

"I believe the biggest reason for our success has been in delivering value to our customers. We enjoy an excellent reputation based on our ability to meet the needs of our clients, at a fair price."



MATT ROSS

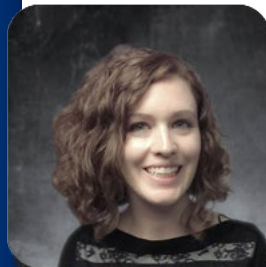
VICE PRESIDENT

Matt has worked for Rural Health Development since 2008 and has been the RHD Eastern Regional Manager since 2012. Before assuming the Regional Manager position, Matt was the Administrator in our Glenwood, IA facility for 3 ½ years. In his current position, Matt seeks to help guide our Administrators through the challenging and rewarding duties of running a skilled nursing facility.

JO FULLER

ACCOUNTING MANAGER

Jorena (Jo) Fuller began her employment with Rural Health Development (RHD) in September of 1999. Originally, she was hired to help with rural health clinic consultations, as Jo has over 12 years of experience serving as director of 5 hospital-based rural health clinics.



EMILY PLAGEMAN

MARKETING DIRECTOR

Emily began working for RHD as a Marketing Director in the spring of 2010. Emily loves the opportunity that she's been given to meet so many wonderful people at the facilities that RHD manages, including staff and residents, and looks forward to working with many more talented and inspiring people. In addition to her work with RHD, Emily is in charge of operations for RHD's sister company, HHS Solutions, which provides healthcare billing and consulting services.



JANET LYTTON

DIRECTOR OF REIMBURSEMENT

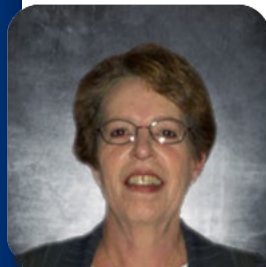
Janet Lytton has lived in rural America all her life and worked in Rural Health Care the last 27 years. She lives on an acreage near Shelton, NE with her husband, Gary. She has been the Director of Reimbursement for Rural Health Development for the last 25 years.



SUE BOOE

NURSE CONSULTANT

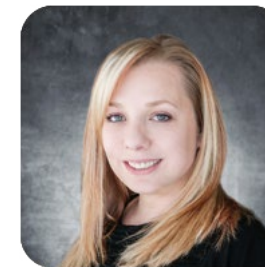
Sue Booe graduated from Lincoln General School of Nursing in 1971 in Lincoln, Nebraska. She has been actively licensed as a registered nurse as well as worked in acute care for 4 years. Sue spent eighteen years as a Director of Nursing in LTC. Her experience includes 10 years working with veterans in a 329 bed skilled facility, working in a 48 bed assisted living facility, supervising a nursing staff of 250, and preparing and managing a budget of 9 million dollars.



MARGARET MESSERSMITH

OFFICE MANAGER

Margaret Messersmith's official title at Rural Health Development is "Office Manager" however, with this title, she wears many hats. Margaret is the receptionist, secretary, human resource director, payroll clerk, accounts receivable/accounts payable clerk, and corporate accountant.



MISSIE BRAMHALL

BILLING MANAGER

Missie Bramhall has been in the healthcare field for more than 5 years. She started off working in Long-term Care eventually working her way up to Business Office Director for one of Nebraska's largest nursing homes. Missie earned a degree in Business Management and also Healthcare Management from the University of Phoenix.



MIKE HARRIS

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Mike started working for Rural Health Development in June 2010. Since that time, he has served as interim administrator at six RHD facilities in Nebraska and Wyoming, plus he worked part-time on various other projects. With RHD expanding rapidly, Mike was offered full-time employment in May 2012 with the responsibility for special projects.



KATHY SCHMID

NAHM - NURSE CONSULTANT

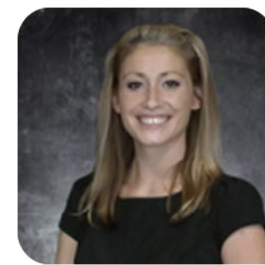
Kathy Schmid graduated from Western Nebraska General Hospital in Scottsbluff in 1986 as an RN. She worked in acute care for 10 years, including Pediatrics and surgery. Kathy has worked the last 20 years in long term care, working with Veterans and their families. Kathy has been married for almost 32 years and has 3 children and 2 grandchildren.



DIANE ROSS

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Diane was brought on in 2015 to help with Special Projects. Diane has over 20 years of experience in LTC management positions and helps RHD with census building, interim administration, and general project guidance. Diane brings with her a wealth of knowledge she gained from her management background with multiple non-profits and for profit nursing homes over the years and looks forward to sharing her expertise with all of the RHD facilities.



ANNA MCCLAIN

ACCOUNTANT

Anna joined Rural Health Development in April of 2013 as the Accountant. Anna attended Southeast Community College in Lincoln, NE, where she earned her A.A.S. in Business Accounting in 2008, and a Bachelors Degree in Business Accounting from Doane in 2012.



WALT DYE

SPECIAL PROJECTS

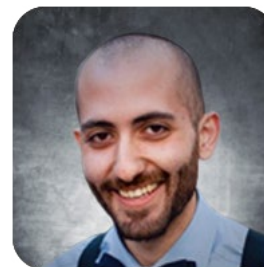
Walt was the Administrator at Mitchell Care Center from January of 1997 to 2011. He has been involved with several other facilities in Western Nebraska. Walt is retiring effective November 30th, 2016.



Erin Brady

Billing Specialist

I graduated from Southeast Community College with my Associates of Applied Science for Office Professional with Medical focus in 2015. I started working for Conifer while I was finishing up school working Blue Cross follow-up. After graduation, I was moved up to Medicare Billing Specialist. In January of 2017 I was hired by Rural Health Development to become a Billing Specialist for their sister company HHS Solutions. I enjoy reading, swimming and spending the day at the lake.



TORY MOGHADAM

IT Consultant/Marketing Specialist

Tory joined Rural Health Development in October of 2013. He has been doing graphic design and marketing for over 10 years and has designed many digital and printed marketing materials. Tory also helps with Rural Health Development's IT needs by providing IT consulting to our facilities and by writing programs when the need arises.



JESSICA RIDDER

BILLING SPECIALIST

Jessica Ridder began working for the billing department for HHS solutions in June 2015. She is currently attending the University of Lincoln Nebraska, and majoring in Business Management. Prior to joining the team at HHS she worked in a Dermatology clinic and at ALN Medical Management as a medical billing specialist.



SHELLY BERGONIA

BILLING SPECIALIST

Shelly joined HHS Solutions in August of 2015. She grew up in Nebraska City, Nebraska. She received her Medical Billing and Coding degree from Herzing University in 2012. Prior to her time with HHS Solutions she worked for a Skilled Nursing Facility in the Billing Department.

Find us online:



www.rhdconsult.com

www.linkedin.com/company/rural-health-development

www.facebook.com/RHDConsult



