



# BRIDGING THE GAP CONFERENCE

**DAY 1**

MAY 6, 2025

GRAND BALLROOM  
PLENARY



8:30 AM-9:45 AM

## Welcome & Panel Discussion

**Welcome-** Ann Clement- Wyoming 211

### **Building Stronger Bridges for Healthy Communities**

Panel includes: *Deb Anderson*-Wyoming 211, *Jolie Ritzo*-CIVITAS, *Joy Doll*- Hello Better Healthcare, *Tracy Carver*-Project Access NOW, *Jackie Sievers*- Contexture

Join our CIVITAS member panel to discuss how data and commUNITY can build bridges to withstand troubled waters and turbulent times. Jolie Ritzo, Interim CEO of CIVITAS will moderate a panel of subject matter experts from across the region who will review national, regional and local changes in policy and practice with impact on whole person care

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9:45 AM-11:00 AM

## Keynote Speaker

### **Fighting Food Insecurity in Wyoming-** First Lady Jennie Gordon

Approximately 83,000 Wyoming residents struggle with food insecurity. Nearly 26,000 of those are children. There are grassroots efforts in every Wyoming county dedicated to reducing hunger and combating food insecurity. Instead of reinventing the wheel, Wyoming Hunger Initiative was launched in October 2019 to work to prevent food insecurity by increasing awareness and support for the work of local anti-hunger organizations statewide. Together with partners from the Food Bank of Wyoming, the Cent\$ible Nutrition Program, Wyoming Department of Education Nutrition Services, and Wyoming Hunger Initiative, this panel will outline the work currently happening in this space while exploring the framework and foundation for successful collaboration and solutions to hunger.

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9:45 AM-11:00 AM

## Panel Discussion

### **Fighting Food Insecurity in Wyoming.**

**Panel includes:** First Lady Jennie Gordon- Moderator and Contributor, *Greta Spencer*- Wyoming Hunger Initiative, *Carla Bankes*- Wyoming Department of Education, *Kali McCrackin Goodenough*- Cent\$ible Nutrition, *Danika Sveda*- Wyoming Food Bank

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11:00 AM-11:15 AM

## Vendor Break

Please take a moment to visit with our vendors.



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11:15 AM-12:30 PM

## Breakout Session

### Healing Begins at the Kitchen Table

Danica Sveda- Food Bank of Wyoming

Explore the connection between food for not only physical health, but also as the cornerstone of mental wellness and a key component in building strong, resilient communities. We'll examine the links between nutrition and mental health, and how equitable access to healthy food can serve as a powerful tool for creating a more compassionate and connected social safety net.

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11:15 AM-12:30 PM

## Breakout Session

### Building Stronger Communities- The Role of CHNA & CNA Across Wyoming

Mandy Cepeda & Crystal Morse- Banner Health  
Amy Spieker & Angela Farrand-CRMC

What Assessment? Have you participated in an Assessment like the Community Needs (CNA) or Community Health Needs (CHNA)? Please join this session to understand why they are important and how we can help encourage participation and increase engagement in both the assessment phase and the improvement plans. You will learn how to find and use data to address community needs.

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11:15 AM-12:30 PM

## Breakout Session

### Navigating Recovery: Empowering Lives Through Effective Case Management- Pam Oiler- UW Family Medical Residency, MSW, LCSW

For individuals dealing with substance use, managing everyday life can be especially challenging. Many individuals also experience concurrent mental health and physical health issues, and they encounter various challenges such as homelessness, unemployment, lack of family support, financial difficulties, and potential involvement with the criminal justice system. These issues are further complicated by their struggle with addiction, which impedes their treatment and overall recovery. This session will focus on the critical role of effective case management in the recovery process for individuals facing various challenges, including social vulnerabilities. The objective of this session is to provide attendees with the knowledge, skills, and strategies to improve their case management practices, fostering a nurturing, holistic approach to recovery. The session will highlight the optimal use of resources and screening tools to identify and address social determinants of health (SDOH). By the end of this session, participants will gain valuable insights and practical strategies to enhance their case management skills, ultimately empowering individuals as they navigate their recovery journeys.

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12:30 PM-1:45 PM

## Lunch & Session

### Wyoming 211's CommuniCare Unveiled

Nichole Coyne & Sarah Martin- Wyoming 211  
Tessa McInnis- CRN

Wyoming 211 and the CommuniCare team, with the support of our partners at Community Resource Network (CRN), will demonstrate how a Community Information Exchange (CIE) can support and streamline communication within Care Teams. The consent based platform allows access to the Wyoming 211 resources enabling multi-directional electronic referrals for health and social needs. It is no longer a dream, it is our reality to help improve community wellness and whole person care.



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1:45 PM-3:00 PM

## Panel Discussion

Innovative Interventions created through Community Collaborations- Natrona Council for Safety & Justice Panel includes: Jim Cowser- Central Wyoming Counseling Center, Lance Porter- Wyoming Medical Center, Janet Hoyt- Banner Wyoming Medical Center, Kristy Oster- Natrona Collective Health Trust

The Natrona Council for Safety and Justice hosts a panel of local collaborator including Community Action Partnership of Natrona County, Central Wyoming Counseling Center and Natrona Collective Health Trust. This session will focus on how to create interventions focused on behavioral health, substance abuse and reentry strategies in the community. Each agency will discuss flexible strategies to create programming that enhances the work of community agencies that focuses on the interventions of clients in the behavioral health and reentry systems.



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3:00 PM-3:15 PM

**Vendor Break**

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3:15 PM-4:30 PM

**Breakout Session**

**Assessment and Counseling Interventions for Depression and Anxiety for People with Neurodevelopmental Disorders**

Brad Young- Wyoming Life Resource Center

Explore recent developments in the assessment and treatment of anxiety and depression for people with neurodevelopmental disorders. Discuss rates of mental illness among people with neurodevelopmental disabilities and explore lack of inclusive assessment instruments. Explore the impact of "treatment disdain" and diagnostic overshadowing. We will look at newer measures that may help mental health professionals assess these conditions. The presenter will review therapies and counseling techniques that may be helpful.

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3:15 PM-4:30 PM

**Breakout Session**

**Senior Living & Wyoming's Aging and Disability Resource Center**

Angie Geis- Primrose Retirement  
Kari Meyer- Wyoming 211

Discussing the pros and cons of Senior Living, understanding the differences in available care types/services (independent living vs. assisted living vs. skilled nursing).

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3:15 PM-4:30 PM

**Breakout Session**

**National Social Drivers of Health (RISE Conference) Recap**

Andrea Shipley- Wyoming Center on Aging  
Ann Clement- Wyoming 211

A dynamic recap of the learnings and attendee reflections from the 2025 National Rise Summit on Social Determinants of Health. Hear the high points of the conference and takeaway strategies to fulfill your goals with SDOH efforts in Wyoming.

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4:30 PM-5:00 PM

**Poster Presentations**

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5:00 PM-6:30 PM

**Networking Reception sponsored by  
LOR Foundation**





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8:30AM-9:45AM

## Welcome & Session

### Welcome- WyCOA

#### Moving at Speed of Trust: Building Partnerships for Optimizing Whole Person Health- Joy Doll

Successful cross-sector partnerships are built on trust, shared goals, and a commitment to advancing whole-person health. This session will explore strategies for fostering meaningful collaborations across healthcare, public health, and community-based organizations to address social drivers of health (SDOH). Attendees will gain insights into leveraging data, aligning incentives, and strengthening relationships to drive sustainable impact and whole person care in Wyoming.

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9:45 AM-11:00 AM

## Breakout Session

### The Role of Community Care Hubs Addressing Social Drivers of Health: Opportunities for Wyoming- Tracy Carver

Community Care Hubs are a growing model for improving coordination of services to address the social drivers of health in communities across the country. CCHs serve as trusted local backbone entities that are neutrally governed, flexible, and equipped to coordinate cross-sector partnerships between health care, housing, food access and other critical social service providers. States and communities nationwide are developing and adapting a variety of community care hub models to meet their unique needs.

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9:45 AM-11:00 AM

## Breakout Session

### Trauma Informed Care in Action: Breaking the Cycle with WBI - Lance Richards and Mitch Schoenwolf

Wyoming Behavioral Institute began an internal initiative in 2024 to create a trauma-specific environment of care, where people want to work and people experiencing mental health crises want to pursue recovery. All staff, including administrators and physicians, were trained to understand trauma-specific care. New employees are taught to use trauma-informed methods before interacting with other staff and patients. Benchmarks that indicate care is trauma specific include lower employee turnover rates, higher patient satisfaction scores and zero utilization of hands-on intervention. WBI's nursing team is so impressed by the ways trauma-informed care has changed the way patients and staff interact that they are taking their learning experience into the community. Nursing Supervisor Mitch Schoenwolf and Staff Development Facilitator Lance Richardson are helping patients, staff and now the community understand that people learn to use maladaptive behaviors like threats of violence, acts of violence, verbal aggression and self-harming as the means to getting their needs met — and specifically, comfort. Trauma-informed responses to behaviors can create a shift in the dynamic between adults and youth and reduce or eliminate power struggles. When the power struggle ends, the healing begins. Join us to learn more about trauma informed care, in action

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9:45 AM-11:00 AM

## Breakout Session

### My Health is My Home- Kelly Wessels

This session explores strategies related to collaboration on housing & health outcomes among the unsheltered, unstably housed.

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11:00 AM-11:15 AM

## Vendor Break

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11:15 AM- 12:30 PM

## Breakout Session

### From Informed to Empowered: Leveraging Research Partnerships to Strengthen Community-Based Health Initiatives- Tai Baker and Gail Wilson

Discover how a partnership between the Equality State Research Network (ESRN) and the Wyoming Health Council (WHC) led to transformative changes in program development, strategic planning, and service delivery. This session will explore how WHC, which oversees Title X-funded family planning services in Wyoming, moved from learning about community-based research to embedding it in their funding strategies and decision-making processes.

Attendees will gain a replicable framework for building effective research collaborations, assess organizational research readiness, and explore ways to apply evidence-based practices to improve community impact. Learn how WHC enhanced services for diverse populations, including those with disabilities, and how your organization can do the same—turning research into action for long-term success

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11:15 AM- 12:30 PM

## Breakout Session

### Suicide Prevention for Parents & Caregivers: Addressing a Social Issue with Proactive and Reactive Approaches- Dr. Kent Corso

Suicide prevention begins with open, age-appropriate conversations. This presentation equips parents, caregivers, and community members with proactive strategies to normalize discussions about suicide prevention, similar to how we teach children about stranger danger or fire safety. Additionally, it provides practical guidance on how to respond when a child expresses suicidal thoughts. Suicide is a social issue shaped by factors like connectedness, access to healthcare, community support, financial stability, and other social determinants of health. By fostering a safe and supportive environment, adults can help children build resilience, recognize warning signs, respond in helpful ways, and seek help when needed, ultimately contributing to a more informed and compassionate community response.

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11:15 AM- 12:30 PM

## Breakout Session

### How Health Harming Legal Needs can be Addressed to Benefit Under-Resourced Populations in Wyoming- Angie Dorsch

The successful Medical Legal Partnership (MLP) in Cheyenne forms the basis for efforts to increase the number of MLPs in the state. The history of building that program over ten years ago and some of the success stories from that work will provide the 101-information leading to where expansion is taking place and how more people can get involved in providing this SDOH component to their patients. The speaker is the lead for the project and will adeptly move to Q & A once the presentation is completed. See Learning Objectives to show the SDOH domains that are supported by MLPs.

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12:30 PM- 1:45 PM

## Lunch- Sponsored by Enroll Wyoming & Session option

### Wyoming 211's CommuniCare Unveiled

Nichole Coyne & Sarah Martin- Wyoming 211  
Tessa McInnis- CRN

Wyoming 211 and the CommuniCare team, with the support of our partners at Community Resource Network (CRN), will demonstrate how a Community Information Exchange (CIE) can support and streamline communication within Care Teams. The consent based platform allows access to the Wyoming 211 resources enabling multi-directional electronic referrals for health and social needs. It is no longer a dream, it is our reality to help improve community wellness and whole person care.



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1:45 PM- 3:00 PM

## Breakout Session

### Motivational Interviewing: Enhancing Engagement and Self-Management for Better Health and Governance- Leslie Manson

Motivational Interviewing (MI) is a powerful, evidence-based communication approach that helps individuals build confidence, strengthen decision-making, and take an active role in their own well-being. This session will explore how MI can be applied in both healthcare and governance settings to improve self-management, support behavior change, and enhance community engagement. Participants will learn how MI can be used to empower individuals, foster effective board leadership, and address key Social Determinants of Health (SDOH). By incorporating MI into professional and community roles, attendees will gain valuable skills to facilitate positive change and improve outcomes in both individual and organizational settings.

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1:45 PM- 3:00 PM

## Breakout Session

### Addressing SDOH through UW ECHO: Building Communities of Practice, Evidence-Based-Best Practices, and Case-Based Learning- Emily Lube and Cari Glantz

This session will explore how UW ECHO programs have been addressing the social drivers of health affecting Wyomingites. UW ECHO programs have addressed topics including best practices for suicide prevention, discussing youth substance use in the school setting, and supporting families of children with complex healthcare needs. We will look at the core components of the ECHO model and how those components support building communities of practice, remove silos, share evidence-based best practices, and apply case-based learning.



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1:45 PM- 3:00 PM

## Breakout Session

### The Power of Family Resource Centers- Infrastructure and Data- Jackie Sievers and Kelly Wessels

Family Resource Centers provide foundational support and education to the community members that they serve. This session will discuss both Data and Doing. Kelly Wessels will focus on the purpose of outreach, techniques, strategies that create impact and bring communities together around vulnerable populations for greater outcomes. Jackie Sievers will discuss how infrastructure can streamline workflows and bring data together for reporting, demonstrating successes, and informing the community of the immense value that FRCs bring.



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3:00 PM- 3:15 PM

## Vendor Break

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3:15 PM- 4:30 PM

## Keynote Speaker

### Wyoming Medicaid- Opportunities for Partnership- Dr. Paul Johnson

In his presentation, Dr. Johnson will provide a brief overview of the Medicaid program and opportunities and challenges to addressing health related social needs, including partnerships with community based organizations.





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8:30 AM- 10:00 AM

## Workshop

### Building Partnerships for Whole-Person Care- Joy Doll

Addressing social drivers of health (SDOH) requires strong, trust-based partnerships between healthcare, public health, and community organizations. This interactive workshop will equip participants with practical strategies for building and sustaining cross-sector collaborations that improve whole-person care. Through real-world examples and hands-on activities, attendees will explore effective partnership models, data-sharing approaches, and sustainable funding strategies to enhance community health outcomes.

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8:30 AM- 12:00 PM

## Workshop

### Creating Strong Dialogues: Discussions about the Intersection of Disability and SDOH- Dawn Rudolph

This dynamic presentation will discuss the significance of social drivers of health (SDOH) to WIND's mission across multiple community health sectors. We will discuss how the complexities and nuances of SDOH are relevant to people living with disabilities and their community support systems in Wyoming. Presenters invite you to draw upon your work and experiences to explore the relationships between SDOH and all aspects of individual life (including employment, education, housing, social participation, and transportation). Through structured group discussions, participants will examine relationships between disability and SDOH while learning from other participant perspectives across the state. This session will expose health equity challenges unique to Wyoming's communities, while fostering ongoing partnerships that intentionally include a wide range of experiences and assets across the state. Join us to share your expertise, learn from other's experiences, and help shape an inclusive, equitable future for disability services in Wyoming communities.

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10:00 AM- 12:00 PM

## Workshop

### Family Resource and Centers of Support- Cathy Story

A peer learning workshop discussing challenges and successes of Wyoming Family Resources centers. Join us to learn how your organization can build a stronger relationship with your FRC to maximize your impact on the community.



**Thank you so much for attending the  
Bridging the Gap Conference 2025!**

We will see you next year.