



# NEWS BRIEFS

Informational Newsletter for Wyoming Hospitals

## WHA Calendar:

WHA Board Meeting 3/19

HFMA Meeting 3/25-3/26  
Riverton

WSHE Spring Meeting 5/7-5/10  
Casper

## Other Events

ACHE Congress/ Annual Meeting 3/22-3/25  
Chicago, IL

AHA RPB Meeting 3/9-3/12  
Scottsdale, AZ

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## Healthcare Debate Continues at Halfway Point of Legislature

At the halfway point of the 2010 Budget Session of the Wyoming Legislature, the debate on healthcare bills has begun to focus on a measure that would grant hospital admitting privileges to advanced practice nurses.

Senate File 50, sponsored by Sen. Charles Scott, R-Casper, would prevent hospitals from considering an applicant's degree in determining whether to grant that applicant admitting privileges. Further, the bill specifically adds APNs as providers to whom privileges must be granted.

The bill was headed for its third and final reading in the Senate on Thursday before being held back by Sen. Curt Meier, R-LaGrange.

In response to concerns about the increased liability that hospitals might experience if the bill passed, Sen. Meier planned to offer an amendment that would allow hospitals to consider increased costs and liability in making decisions about admitting privileges.

Because the bill represents a significant change to current practice, the Wyoming Hospital Association, Wyoming Medical Center, Cheyenne Regional Medical Center and the Wyoming Medical Society worked to defeat the bill in the Senate,

rather than dealing with amendments and working with the bill again in the House of Representatives.

The final status of Senate File 50 was not available at press time.

The Senate did pass last week a bill that would extend the Wyoming Investment in Nursing (WyIN) program, though not before hearing arguments that the program has outlived its necessity.

After being amended on the floor, Senate File 32 would extend the WyIN program through 2016. Funding for the program, about \$5.2 million for the biennium, is included in the budget bill.

The measure passed the Senate Labor, Health, and Social Services Committee on a 4-1 vote, with Sen. John Schiffer, R-Kaycee, representing the only no vote.

Sen. Schiffer argued that there is currently no nursing shortage in Wyoming, and that the capacity of the University of Wyoming and the community colleges is sufficient to meet current nursing needs without state subsidies for the WyIN program.

The Wyoming Hospital Association and the Wyoming Nurses Association argued that the WyIN program continues to serve Wyoming hospitals well by funding nursing instructors

and scholarships for nursing students.

Senate File 32 passed its third and final reading in the Senate on Thursday and now moves to the House for further debate.

A bill that would create a board of midwifery and allow for the licensure of midwives also emerged from the Senate Labor, Health, and Social Services Committee and its first round of debate on the Senate floor last week.

On the House side, a revised version of the Medical Review Panel passed its third reading and will now be heard in committee in the Senate. The bill attempts to reduce frivolous lawsuits and encourage use of the panel by making the work of the panel inadmissible in court.

The budget bill is expected to be introduced in both the House and Senate today.

### Legislative Service Office Resources:

On the web: <http://legisweb.state.wy.us>

Voter Hotline: (866) 996-8683

Messages for Senators: (307) 777-7711

Messages for Representatives: (307) 777-7852



## CPOE at Washakie Medical Center

December 1, 2009, brought Washakie Medical Center (WMC) one step closer to a fully integrated EMR with the go-live of CPOE (Computer Physician Order Entry), PowerNotes and I-Chart in the emergency department.

WMC's journey toward a paper-light environment began in 2005 with the implementation of Cerner Millennium for all patient information except the physician's entries.

Patient safety has always

been the driver of establishing an integrated EMR.

WMC's ability to implement all of these applications has been due in large part to Banner Health's decision to implement a franchise model.

EMR is in all Banner facilities ranging from 18-bed to 600-bed hospitals across 7 states. WMC was the fourth hospital in the system to make the transition to CPOE and learned several lessons that can be passed on to facilities in the

future.

The physicians have been great to work with. This has been a huge undertaking for them and they continue to become more comfortable with the programs everyday.

Over 85 percent of all orders are now being generated electronically by providers. This success is due to months of preparation with physicians and staff, additional on-site support after go-live and ongoing support by WMC clinical liaisons and super users.

*Don't forget to send us a story about your hospital so we can feature you in our Member Spotlight section!*

## Mental Health and Substance Abuse Plan to be Updated

Five Wyoming state agencies have launched a project to update the state's comprehensive plan for mental health and substance abuse services.

The initial plan document, developed and released in 2001, was called "Reclaiming Wyoming: A Comprehensive Blueprint for the Prevention, Early Intervention and Treatment of Substance Abuse."

Leaders of the Departments of Health, Education, Corrections, Family Services and Workforce Ser-

vices have been meeting regularly to discuss meeting the needs of children and families their various programs serve.

Roger McDaniel, Wyoming Department of Health deputy director for mental health and substance abuse services, said legislation and developments in behavioral health have significantly affected Wyoming's substance abuse and mental health system since 2001.

"We want the new plan to reflect input from students, parents, professionals

and others who have ideas about improving mental health in Wyoming."

Interested Wyoming residents are invited to participate in updating the plan by visiting [www.wyo-blueprint2010.com](http://www.wyo-blueprint2010.com).

A series of group meetings is also being scheduled around the state.

To participate or schedule a group meeting, please contact Nancy VanDeMark at [nrvandemark@com-cast.net](mailto:nrvandemark@com-cast.net) or 303-808-1960.

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## Education Programs Set for WSHE Spring Meeting

The Wyoming Society of Healthcare Engineering (WSHE) will be holding its spring meeting May 5-7 at the Parkway Plaza Hotel in Casper.

Educational sessions already scheduled include:

- Managing infection control during construction
- Security overview
- Fall risk assessment (pre-action vs. reaction)
- Wyoming Department of Health life safety code information

More information on the meeting can be obtained by contacting Chris Cooper at [ccooper@pvhc.org](mailto:ccooper@pvhc.org).

