

# NEWS BRIEFS

Informational Newsletter for Wyoming Hospitals

Volume 39, Number 31

August 14, 2009

**WHA Calendar:**

- NOSORH Meeting 8/18  
Laramie
- WHA PAC Golf Tournament 9/29  
Sheridan
- WHA Annual Meeting & Convention 9/30-10/1  
Sheridan

**Other Events:**

- HIDI Partner Meeting 9/2  
Kansas City, MO
- Joint Labor Health & Social Services Committee 9/10  
Sheridan
- NRHA Critical Access Meeting 10/7  
Portland, OR
- HFMA Fall Meeting 10/22-10/23  
Cheyenne

## Wyoming Delegation Discusses Healthcare During Recess

The summer recess is underway for both houses of Congress, and Wyoming's Congressional delegation has headed home for a month of work on the ground in Wyoming.

Foremost among the delegation's recess priorities is the discussion about healthcare reform, which has turned less-than-civil in some areas of the country as members have hosted townhall meetings to discuss the current reform proposals.

Sen. Mike Enzi continues to be a crucial player in the national debate. As the ranking Republican on the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee and a member of the Senate Finance Committee, Sen. Enzi

has been central to the negotiation of proposals in both committees. What's more, Sen. Enzi is

a member of the so-called "Gang of Six" senators who continue to negotiate a bipartisan deal in the Senate Finance Committee. Sen. Enzi

has said that the committee is not close to reaching a bipartisan agreement.

During his visits around Wyoming in August, Sen. Enzi has scheduled at least five healthcare visits. Included on his schedule are meetings at Evanston Regional Hospital and Memorial Hospital of Sweetwater County in Rock Springs.

Sen. Enzi is also planning to visit the Community Health Clinic in Riverton and the Alzheimer Care Clinic in Jackson. He finishes the month with a Chamber of Commerce forum in Gillette on



Sen. Enzi discusses his 10 Steps plan for health reform during his statewide trip promoting the plan in 2008.

Aug. 24 that will focus on healthcare.

Wyoming Hospital Association President Dan Perdue will participate on the panel during the forum in Gillette as well.

Rep. Cynthia Lummis has scheduled healthcare visits and discussions during the recess as well. Among other stops, Rep. Lummis will tour the Goshen County Care Center in Torrington, and she has a meeting scheduled at Wyoming Medical Center in Casper on

Aug. 18.

Rep. Lummis has already toured the Rock Springs Senior Center, and she has hosted townhall meetings in Green River, Evanston, Wheatland, and Torrington.

Sen. John Barrasso has also spent his recess visiting with folks throughout Wyoming. His visits have included the Race for the Cure in Cheyenne, Dubois Volunteer Fire De-



Rep. Lummis tours Converse County Memorial Hospital in Douglas during a previous trip to Wyoming.

partment's Buffalo BBQ, Rotary Club meetings, a town hall meeting in Worland, the State Fair and visits to senior centers and service clubs.

"I am serving not only as one of Wyoming's Senators, but also as a doctor who has taken care of Wyoming people for 25 years," said Sen. Barrasso. "Washington's one-size-fits-all medicine will not work for the people of Wyoming. We must have access to high-quality, affordable healthcare like everybody else. I will continue to fight on behalf of Wyoming people."

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



### HSCMH Turns 50, Looks Forward to Next 50 Years

Hot Springs County Memorial Hospital (HSCMH) turns 50 this year, and the facility continues to evolve from the hospital that opened in Thermopolis in 1959.

Patients are now treated with state-of-the-art equipment, including electronic beds that can weigh patients, MRIs, a 64-slice CT scanner and digital mammography ó a service not offered in many other Wyoming hospitals.

In its early days, the hospital was designed for long-term patient stays. But

changes in the market and healthcare profession have dictated more outpatient care than extended stays.

And the facility has been upgraded to accommodate those changes, as well as to accommodate advances in technology.

In addition to celebrating the first 50 years, HSCMH leaders are looking to the next 50 years.

“The board has put money where it’s necessary and appropriate,” HSCMH CEO Charlie Myers told the Thermopolis Independent Record. “We’re in the proc-

ess of preparing for health-care reform.”

HSCMH has, in the past, relied heavily on traveling nurses, but that has changed to focus much more on permanent, full-time nursing staff. Additionally, hospital staff are focused on emphasizing patient satisfaction, giving each patient a satisfaction survey at the end of their stay.

And hospital leaders are considering two options for the future of their facility as well: complete renovation and expansion of the existing buildings, or the construction of a new hospital.

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

### AHA Quality Director To Offer Practical Reform Advice

The policy debate about healthcare reform continues to rage across the country, but several critical, practical questions remain largely unanswered:

How will the proposed reforms impact hospitals’ business models?

What impact will reform have on revenue streams, physicians, and the employment environment?

And finally, if the old maxim is true ó no margin, no mission ó what choices

will hospitals have to make to continue serving their communities?

Moving from the political to the practical, Dr. Stephen Mayfield, AHA Senior Vice President for Quality Performance Improvement and Director of the AHA Quality Center, will offer answers to these and other questions during the General Session of the 64<sup>th</sup> Wyoming Hospital Association Annual Meeting and Convention.

Dr. Mayfield will use

case studies to illustrate how some small hospitals are already effectively anticipating and dealing with dramatic changes. And he will lead a discussion about how hospitals in frontier areas can generate measurable results, despite the human resources and financial challenges they face.

Contact Rose Fishback at (307) 632-9344 with questions, or to register for the WHA convention.

**Wyoming Hospital Association**

**2005 Warren Ave.  
Cheyenne, WY  
82003**

**[www.wyohospitals.com](http://www.wyohospitals.com)**

**307.632.9344**

### WHRN Marketing Campaign Keeps Up With the Times

The physician shortage in Wyoming is well known, as are the challenges associated with recruiting new doctors to the Cowboy State.

But the Wyoming Health Resources Network (WHRN) is undeterred.

WHRN recently launched a new marketing

campaign, a new web site, and new brochures, all of which are intended to attract health professionals to Wyoming.

“We’re starting to do things to hit the younger generation of new incoming doctors, so we have a Facebook page, and we’re doing

social marketing to keep up with the times,” WHRN Executive Director Pennie Hunt told the Wyoming Business Report.

Hunt said Wyoming’s medical liability climate and high insurance rates are stiff recruiting challenges, as are the state’s wide-open spaces.