

NEWS BRIEFS

Informational Newsletter for Wyoming Hospitals

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WHA Calendar:

WHA PAC Golf **9/29**
Tournament
Sheridan

WHA Annual **9/30-**
Meeting & **10/1**
Convention
Sheridan

Other Events:

HIDI Partner **9/2**
Meeting
Kansas City, MO

Joint Labor Health **9/10**
& Social Services
Committee
Sheridan

NRHA Critical **10/7**
Access Meeting
Portland, OR

HFMA Fall **10/22-**
Meeting **10/23**
Cheyenne

Sen. Enzi Hosts Healthcare Reform Discussion in Gillette

The town hall-style healthcare reform discussion came to Wyoming last week, with an event sponsored by the Gillette Chamber of Commerce that featured Wyoming's Senior Senator, Mike Enzi.

Wyoming Hospital Association President Dan Perdue participated on the panel at the event, clarifying and representing hospitals' concerns about the current reform proposals. Sen. John Barrasso also attended the forum.

The town hall meeting followed immediately on the heels of a WHA Regional Meeting, which gave hospital executives and board members from Gillette, Casper, Lusk, Douglas, and Sheridan the opportunity to attend Sen. Enzi's event.

According to reports, about 500 people attended the event to hear Sen. Enzi, ranking Republican on the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee and a member of the Senate Finance Committee talk about healthcare reform.

Sen. Enzi is one of six senators who comprise the Finance Committee's so-called Gang of Six: three Republicans and three Democrats who are working to negotiate a bipartisan healthcare package.

He drew some criticism

from state Rep. Timothy Hallinan, R-Gillette, who asked Sen. Enzi to stop negotiations with Democrats and vote against their reform proposals.

As the conversation continues in the states during Congress' August recess, the reality on the ground in Washington continues to change. The death of Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-MA, last week, was a blow to the leadership of the healthcare reform effort.

Sen. Kennedy's death also has more practical implications. First, his senate seat will remain unfilled until Massachusetts can hold a special election to elect a new senator. And second, without Sen. Kennedy, the Democrats no longer have the 60 votes they would need to pass a bill despite Republican opposition.

Additionally, Sen. Robert Byrd, D-W.Va., is ill and in the hospital, potentially costing Democrats another critical vote.

As a result of the uncertainty in the Senate and declining public support for

many current proposals, rumors have begun to circulate that Democrats are considering a two-bill strategy in order to get a healthcare reform bill passed.

Using such a strategy, Democrats would send a bill to the Senate floor that contains the less controversial aspects of reform and that would require 60 votes to pass. A second bill would include elements like the public option, and that bill would be tied to the budget reconciliation process so that it would require only 51 votes to pass.

Democrat leaders have said previously that they would use whatever options are available to them to get a bill passed this year. The two-bill strategy, however, is still only an idea that has been floated, and it remains to be seen how Congressional leaders will proceed when Congress reconvenes on Sept. 7.





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

Platte County Hospital Awarded Accreditation

By demonstrating compliance with The Joint Commission's national standards for health care quality and safety, Platte County Memorial Hospital (PCMH) has earned the Joint Commission's Gold Seal of Approval.

"We sought accreditation to demonstrate our commitment to patients' safety and quality care," says Eric McVicker, CEO. "We view obtaining Joint Commission

accreditation as another step toward achieving excellence."

According to the Joint Commission, the national standards are intended to stimulate continuous, systematic and organization-wide improvement in an organization's performance and the outcomes of care.

The Joint Commission conducted an unannounced, on-site evaluation of PCMH

on July 16 and 17. The accreditation award recognizes the hospital's dedication to complying with the Joint Commission's state-of-the-art standards on a continuous basis.



Lander Regional Hospital Gets New Chief Executive



J. Ben Quinton

J. Ben Quinton, MHA, has taken over as chief executive officer of Lander Regional Hospital (LRH) effective August 17.

"The process of selecting Ben Quinton for Lander's CEO was very thorough with approximately 15 people involved in the day-long interview, board meeting and social event," said Cathy Guschewsky, chairman of the board of trustees for LRH.

Quinton most recently served as chief operating

officer of Corona Regional Medical Center, a two-campus 240-bed tertiary care hospital in California with more than 1,100 employees and 350 medical staff members. Before that he served from 2006-2008 as CEO of Evanston Regional Hospital.

A graduate of Brigham Young University where he earned a bachelor's degree in psychology, Quinton earned a master's degree in health administration from the University of Missouri in

Columbia.

"I am thrilled that my family and I will be moving to the beautiful Lander community, and especially excited about becoming part of the Lander Regional Hospital family," Quinton said.

He is a member of the American College of Healthcare Executives and Rotary International. Quinton and his wife, Cathleen, have six children.

Board of Nursing To Give Update at Convention

Mary Kay Goetter, Executive Director of the Wyoming State Board of Nursing will be speaking at the Wyoming Hospital Association Annual Meeting and Convention in Sheridan.

Goetter will be speaking to the Wyoming Organization of Nurse Executives at

their breakfast meeting on Thursday, Oct. 1, at 7 a.m.

Issues to be addressed include an update on statistics, the proposal for CNA II with Medication Administration capability, and most importantly, how hospitals can work with the Wyoming State Board of Nursing to

assure their nurses are licensed and safe to practice.

More information on this year's Annual Meeting and Convention is available online at www.wyohospitals.com or by calling WHA at 307-632-9344.

Wyoming Hospital Association

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