

NEWS BRIEFS

Informational Newsletter for Wyoming Hospitals

Volume 43, Number 03

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WHA Calendar:

Wyoming Legislature Convenes	1/8
HFMA Spring Meeting Casper	3/20- 3/22

Other Events:

WyICN Membership Meeting	1/25
Rural Healthcare Leadership Conference Phoenix, AZ	2/10- 2/13
RPB Meeting Scottsdale, AZ	3/7-3/8

Legislature Continues to Work Major Healthcare Issues

The 62nd Wyoming Legislature continued its work on a number of important healthcare issues during its second week, and one significant piece of legislation emerged for the first time.

The full expansion of Medicaid allowable under the Affordable Care Act has been the Wyoming Hospital Association's top legislative priority, and the Joint Appropriations Committee acted on that priority last week.

During its mark-up of the Department of Health's supplemental budget request, the appropriations committee debated, and ultimately rejected, a motion to restore \$50 million to the budget to pay for full expansion.

Rep. Ken Esquibel, D-Cheyenne, and Sen. John Hastert, D-Green River, argued in favor of the expansion, noting that the mandatory partial expansion will cost the state some \$79.4 million over seven years, while the full expansion could save the state as much as \$47.4 million over the same period.

Although the effort through Appropriations Committee failed, Sen. Hastert also filed Senate File 122 last week, a measure that would expand Medicaid.

The bill has been referred to the Senate Labor, Health,

and Social Services Committee, where it will likely be heard in the next several days.

Meanwhile, a bill that would reform the state's Medicaid program passed through the Senate Labor Committee and the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Senate File 60 provides for a number of reforms, including incentives to encourage Medicaid recipients to maintain healthy lifestyles, incentives to encourage providers to meet measurable performance outcomes, and incentives to decrease emergency room use for non-emergent situations.

The bill also calls for a study of feasibility of managed care in Wyoming. Should the bill pass, the bill will evaluate the use of managed care with some or all of the Medicaid population to deliver care of equal or higher quality, but at a reduced cost.

Senate File 60 also provides for enhanced prenatal services and expanded behavioral health services,

among a number of other provisions.

Also, late last week, the Senate Corporations Committee approved a bill by a 5-0 vote that would change the way special hospital districts are created. Senate File 19 would alter the process from a more complex one that requires a petition and landowner approval to a more simple process that would allow county commissioners to simply put the question on the ballot.

If the bill passes, it should help small hospitals take the issue of creating a hospital district to the voters in their counties.

These healthcare issues are among the highest-priority items facing legislators this session. Recognizing this, the House Labor, Health, and Social Services Committee hosted two educational sessions for new members of the committee and other legislators.

One of the sessions provided background information on managed care, while a second session was intended to help educate legislators about health information exchanges.

The Wyoming Hospital Association will continue to advocate on behalf of Wyoming's hospitals regarding these and other healthcare measures that have been and will continue to be filed.

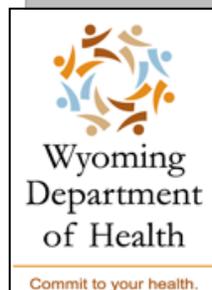




MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



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



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Hospital Seeks Patients for new Advisory Council

Cheyenne Regional Medical Center (CRMC) is the process of putting together a patient advisory council.

The council will be a group of current and former patients and their family members as well as some hospital staff.

The idea is for the council to meet monthly to discuss topics related to members' experiences at CRMC. The goal is to come up with ways to improve its turnaround time, communications and other areas that impact

patients.

"We wanted to get patients and family from all different areas of the hospital, both inpatient and outpatient, lab, radiology, ER—we wanted a wide variety of representatives," said Cheryl Crumpton, who is spearheading recruitment for the council.

Crumpton said the council will meet once a month starting in late January. Topics of discussion will be up to council members.

It is not meant to be

based on individual grievances, she said, but rather collective concerns the members have.

"There are some things we won't be able to do because we're under a lot of rules and regulations, she added. "But a lot of it is about comfort, time frames, communications, those kinds of things."

"It's more for quality, process and improvement and the satisfaction of our patients and family members."

Organ Donation in Wyoming

Signing up to be an organ and tissue donor is a generous way to perhaps someday help save or transform other lives, according to a Wyoming Department of Health representative.

There are currently about 150 Wyoming residents are waiting for transplants.

Residents can check their licenses to see if they are included in the donor registry. Most Wyoming licenses have a small red heart symbol in the upper

right hand area to indicate someone wishes to be a donor.

Wyoming remained 4th in the nation with 59.1 percent of individuals with driver licenses and ID cards joining the donor registry in 2011.

Wyoming is a first person consent state, meaning that residents registering as donors are making an advanced directive to be honored at the time of death. "If you are eligible to be a donor, your family will be informed of your decision at

the time of your death and will be asked to provide information about your history," Serrano said.

"Organ, eye and tissue donation are considered only after you are deceased," Serrano said. "If you are sick or injured, the top priority is to save your life."

There are no extra costs to the donor or the donor's family for organ or tissue donation, and those wishing to only donate certain organs and/or tissue may list restrictions.

Wyoming SHARP

Wyoming Workers' Safety (WWS) has a program which was designed to be advantageous to hospitals.

The program is the Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program, or SHARP.

SHARP is a recognition program which provides incentives and support to

smaller, high-hazard businesses to work with their employees and WWS Consultation to develop, implement, and continuously improve the effectiveness of their workplace safety and health programs.

Priority is given to those sites with less than 250 employees at the facility/site to

be covered.

Once you have met all SHARP requirements, you will receive a certificate, valid for one or two years, which includes compliance inspection exemption.

If you have any questions, please call 777-7786 and ask to speak to a Consultant.