

NEWS BRIEFS

Informational Newsletter for Wyoming Hospitals

Volume 43, Number 12

March 22, 2013

WHA Calendar:

Flex Planning Meeting Casper	4/2
WHA Board Meeting Riverton	5/16
Trustee Education Program Riverton	5/17

Other Events:

WSHE Spring Meeting Casper	5/22-5/24
NE Wyoming Skin and Wound Symposium Sheridan	6/7-6/8

Sen. Barrasso Introduces Bill to Repeal Health Insurance

U.S. Senators John Barrasso (R-WY) and Orrin Hatch (R-UT) have reintroduced legislation to save jobs and prevent health insurance premiums from skyrocketing for America's small businesses and families.

The Jobs and Premium Protection Act, eliminates the health insurance tax (HIT) included in the President's health care law.

"Over the last three years, Americans and small businesses have watched their health premiums increase under the President's healthcare law. Now, they're set to get hit again unless Congress repeals the costly health insurance tax," said Barrasso.

"Ultimately small businesses and their employees are the ones who are going to end up paying this unfair tax. Washington needs to focus on helping small businesses grow, not burdening them with new job-crushing taxes. It's time to eliminate this bad policy that will only increase health insurance premiums for families and cost thousands of Americans their jobs."

Senators Richard Burr (R-NC), Dan Coats (R-IN), Mike Crapo (R-ID), Jim Inhofe (R-OK), Johnny Isakson (R-GA) and Mike Johanns (R-NE) are original cosponsors

of the Jobs and Premium Protection Act.

"American families and job creators can't afford the cost or consequences of this ObamaCare health insurance tax. Higher insurance costs, fewer jobs and smaller paychecks is not what President Obama promised when he signed the largest expansion of government into law nearly three years ago, but that's exactly what's already happening in no small part because of this tax," said Sen. Hatch.



"Raising taxes on health insurance can only ever lead to higher health care costs, because the price of the tax will be passed onto consumers. In this economy and with families and businesses struggling to succeed, it's time we repeal this egregious tax once and for all."

The Jobs and Premium Protection Act repeals Section 9010 of the President's health care law, known as the health insurance tax (HIT).

If the HIT is not repealed, starting in 2014, health insur-

ance companies will be taxed based on their net premiums written in the fully-insured market—where 87 percent of small businesses purchase their coverage.

Small businesses are the backbone of the American economy, but this tax will directly impact their ability to create the jobs this economy needs.

The National Federation of Independent Business predicts that this tax will force the private sector to eliminate between 146,000 and 262,000 jobs by 2022, with 59 percent of the job losses coming from small businesses.

Families will also experience higher premiums because of this tax. A study by former Congressional Budget Office Director Douglas Holtz-Eakin shows the average employee with a family plan will see their take-home pay reduced by \$5,000 over the next 10 years due to this tax.

The Joint Committee on Taxation expects that eliminating this tax would save an average family \$350-\$400 in 2016.



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



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

Wyoming Hospital Association

2005 Warren Ave.
Cheyenne, WY
82001

www.wyohospitals.com

307.632.9344

Black Box Prepares CCMH to Deal with Disaster

If a disaster were to strike, Campbell County Memorial Hospital is fully prepared to organize and act.

It has the supplies and staff. And it has a secret weapon: a big box on wheels.

It's a glorified storage chest, a big black box that stays safely tucked away in a closet in the hospital's administrative offices, unless it is needed.

It doesn't look like anything special, but it's part of the first, and most important, step the hospital would take

in an emergency situation: getting organized.

It is a mobile command center on wheels, and it houses just about every resource hospital administrators would need to tackle just about any situation.

When folded open, the front half of the large box turns into a table, while electrical outlets sprout from the top, and drawers pull out to reveal step-by-step emergency procedures and codes. It also includes radios, batteries, and vests designating the various leadership roles

necessary when reacting to a crisis.

"It's all about being prepared and knowing who is responsible for what," said Veronica Taylor, CCMH infection prevention, professional development, and disaster preparedness specialist.

She said crisis situations typically develop suddenly, and you can't afford to wait until something happens to develop a plan.

"We have to be prepared for anything," she said.

ONC Offers Resources for Critical Access, Rural Hospitals

The Office of the National Coordinator has launched the first in a series of web pages tailored to meet the health IT needs of Critical Access Hospitals (CAH) and small, rural hospitals.

This effort is in support of the ONC's goal to see 1,000 CAHs and small, rural hospitals obtain Meaningful Use by the end of 2014. The pages are packed with resources, lessons from the field, health IT implementation support tools and more.

Federal funding oppor-

tunities for health IT infrastructure (e.g., hardware, software, broadband) are also available on the site. To access these web pages, visit: <http://www.healthit.gov/ruralhealth>.

"Last year, we witnessed CAHs and small rural hospitals make great progress—591 received a CMS Meaningful Use incentive payment by the end of 2012. A key strategy for supporting CAHs and small, rural hospitals is convening the Rural Community of Practice."

"This tremendous group of leaders and experts from

across the country is dedicated to identifying the most pressing barriers that rural safety-net hospitals face, developing tools and resources for overcoming these challenges and then hand-picking the best among these tools to make available on healthit.gov," said Leila Samy, ONC's Rural Health IT Coordinator. Follow this link to the challenge and then scroll to the bottom of the page to "Leave a Reply." <http://www.healthit.gov/buzz-blog/meaningful-use/critical-access-hospitals/>

Save the Date—WHA Trustee Education Event

This year's WHA Trustee Education event is set to be held at the Riverton Holiday Inn – on Friday, May 17.

WHA has secured two attorneys, Kim Stanger and Bradley Cave from the firm Holland & Hart, LLP to

serve as speakers for the program. Mr. Stanger is located in Boise, Idaho and Mr. Cave with the firm's location here in Cheyenne.

WHA is currently working with them in finalizing specific topics in which to focus our agenda and have

had occasion to review timely topics of interest identified by the members of our WHA Trustee Education Council.

WHA will be distributing the final agenda and registration details in the near future.