



# NEWS BRIEFS

Informational Newsletter for Wyoming Hospitals

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## WHA Calendar:

WHA PAC Golf 9/23  
Tournament

WHA Annual 9/24-  
Meeting & 9/25  
Convention  
Cheyenne

## Other Events:

Leading Age 9/17-  
Wyoming Fall 9/19  
Conference  
Jackson, WY



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## Labor Committee Hears Cost-Shift Study at Lovell Meeting

The Joint Labor, Health & Social Services Committee of the Wyoming Legislature held an interim meeting in Lovell this past week.

The two-day agenda included a review of reports on issues including Medicaid managed care considerations, hospital cost-shifting analysis, ambulatory surgery centers' interest in licensure as convalescent care centers, changes to the State's disability waiver program and the nursing loan repayment program.

The opening day of the session heard multiple reports from agencies involved in the Developmental Disabilities Waiver Program – the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services, the Department of Health and the Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities all reviewed their respective roles in implementation of adjustments to the waiver programs and status of the changes to date.

Wyoming Department of Health staff presented a report of their analysis of managed care options for Wyoming Medicaid.

Inherent within the analysis was a focus on the segment of Medicaid participants that are extensive utilizers of healthcare services.

In recognition that Medicaid enrollees experiencing chronic medical conditions need careful attention, the conclusions focused on potential managed care modeling for this population.

Because the population was so small, however, and because the potential savings to the state were potentially so nominal, no specific recommendations were acted upon during the meeting.

WDH staff presented their hospital cost shift study, recently completed in attempt to quantify the impacts of Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement shortfall, the increasing exposure to bad debt, charity care write-offs and uncompensated care in general.

While the analysis was extensive, WHA viewed this report to have provided a significant degree of misguidance in the conclusions drawn in the hospitals' ability to effectively establish charges and price services in a manner that is deemed fair and equitable.

WHA provided committee members with a formal memo highlighting these concerns and testified to those concerns before the committee.

Also of concern to WHA, representation from a collection of ambulatory surgery centers in the state presented a proposal to the committee regarding a new licensure provision to establish "convalescent care centers" in Wyoming.

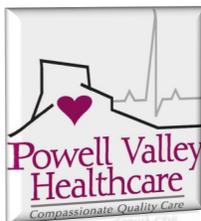
A primary element of this proposal would allow such licensure an expanded length of stay to 72-hours, well beyond the scope provided at the 23-hour threshold currently in place with ambulatory surgery centers.

WHA expressed concern with such an expansion in scope and the potential impact upon hospitals and patients receiving surgical services and care in our state.

The LHSS Committee concluded their full two-day meeting without taking specific action involving the cost shift study, nor the ambulatory surgery considerations.

The next interim meeting is scheduled for October 16-17 in Evanston, at which time the committee will further refine the bills it will consider for sponsorship during the 2015 legislative session.

## 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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Every month, Powell Valley Healthcare (PVHC) employees raise money for local nonprofit organizations through a jeans day-giving dollars so they can wear denim at work.

The minimum amount an employee has to donate to wear jeans is \$1, said Jim Cannon, PVHC spokesman. He said quite a few employees participate, and “we

## Denim for Dollars

hope that the program continues to grow.”

Over the past year, the staff raised \$5,004.50. PVHC matches donations dollar for dollar, bringing the total to \$10,009 over 15 days since July 2013.

Organizations that the PVCH supported were Powell Troop Support, Powell Valley Loaves and Fishes, Make-A-Wish Wyoming, Caring for Powell Animals,

Heart Mountain Volunteer Medical Clinic, Serenity Pregnancy Resources Center, Boys and Girls Club in Powell, Powell Medical Foundation, Women’s Wellness, Powell Senior Center, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Park County, Children’s Resource Center and Crisis Intervention Services, Mountain Spirit Habitat for Humanity and Big Horn Enterprises.

## Sheridan VA Director to Retire

Sheridan VA Healthcare System Director Debra L. Hirschman will retire on Oct. 31, 2014, after serving in the health care field for 45 years.

According to a press release from the VA, the decision was made over a year ago.

“It has been an honor and a privilege for me to serve veterans in the VA for the past 24 years,” Hirschman said in an email to staff Thursday. “I feel strongly and passionately that our mission of caring for our

nation’s heroes is the most noble of missions.”

Hirschman was appointed as director of the Sheridan VA Medical Center in January 2007.

Prior to this, Hirschman served as one of two associate directors at the Southern Arizona VA Health Care System.

During her time at Sheridan, Hirschman oversaw \$70 million in infrastructure improvements and capitol construction to the Sheridan VAMC bringing the facility and grounds up

to date and functional for 21st century medicine.

Hirschman joined the VA in 1990 and held a variety of positions while at the VA Sierra Nevada Healthcare System.

Hirschman is a critical care nurse by background, receiving her nursing certificate from St. John’s McNamara School of Nursing in Rapid City, South Dakota. She received her bachelor’s and master’s in nursing from the University of Nevada.

## Child Passenger Safety Awareness Week... Boost Til 9

Safe Kids Wyoming, in partnership with the Wyoming Department of Transportation, will kick off Seat Check Saturday on September 13, 2014 by encouraging parents to know the Wyoming law.

This is the 6th annual “Boost ‘til 9” statewide initiative.

25 booster seats were checked and 32 were dis-

tributed last year in fourteen locations across the state through the “9-9-09: Boost ‘til 9” project.

Trained and certified child passenger safety technicians will be at each location to help with compatibility issues and to answer questions.

Booster seats will be available at each site with technicians assisting families to know if a booster is right for

their child and then which booster is appropriate for the child and the vehicle.

For more information on child passenger safety or the date, time and location of a check in your area, call (307) 432-2679 or 1-800-994-GROW (4769) or visit [safekidswyoming.org](http://safekidswyoming.org).