

NEWS BRIEFS

Informational Newsletter for Wyoming Hospitals

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WHA Calendar:

Wyoming Legislature Convenes	1/8
WHA Board Meeting	2/11
HFMA Spring Meeting Casper	3/20- 3/22

Other Events:

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

WHA Leads Coalition in Favor of Medicaid Expansion

A coalition of healthcare groups led by the Wyoming Hospital Association urged the Wyoming Legislature to approve expansion of the federal Medicaid program during a press conference in the Capitol last week.

The Wyoming Coalition for Medicaid Expansion held an event Tuesday in the state Capitol to draw attention to the issue.

WHA President Dan Perdue spoke at the coalition's event in favor of expanding Medicaid.

He said the Wyoming Department of Health has concluded the state would see \$47 million in savings by expanding the program over seven years because of offsets to existing programs.

"Simply put, the expansion of Medicaid will allow the state to alter, reduce or eliminate programs that the state already pays for from the state General Fund," Perdue said.

"So in essence, if we do nothing, it will cost us \$79 million over seven years. However, if the state chooses to accept the expansion, the state will gain \$47 million for the same seven-year period. And this represents a swing of \$126 million."

Perdue said Wyoming hospitals provided more than

\$200 million in uncompensated care in 2011.

"I think that's just because of the economic times, and the fact that people don't have health insurance and they still face some very serious medical challenges, but they just don't have the means to pay those bills," Perdue said.



He said increasing Medicaid eligibility would reduce that by reducing emergency room visits.

Later in the week, the Senate Labor Health and Social Services Committee voted against passage of a bill that would allow for the expansion of Medicaid.

However, the committee moved the bill on for further debate, despite failing to support the bill.

Sen. John Hastert, D-Green River, sponsored the expansion bill.

"I think it's critically important at this time," he said of the expansion.

"We're going to be able to insure well over 30,000 more people in the state of Wyoming, and it would save the state some money."

Gov. Matt Mead and some key lawmakers have said they oppose expanding the program. Mead has recommended that lawmakers reject a proposed \$50 million federal Medicaid expansion.

Recently, Gov. Mead has said that given the federal government's financial problems, he doesn't believe Wyoming can trust federal promises to pay 100 percent of Medicaid expansion costs over the next few years, after which it promises to pay 90 percent.

Sen. Charles Scott, R-Casper, is chairman of the Senate Labor Health and Social Services Committee. He said he also opposes expanding the program.

"My personal opinion is that given the financial mess in Washington, the feds, no matter how much they want to keep that promise are going to be unable to do so," Scott said Tuesday.

"I don't think they can afford it. I don't think they can get the debt ceiling increases needed to do it."



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 Gadget Saves Time, Footsteps

Campbell County Memorial Hospital (CCMH) has made some hidden changes at the Hospital.

CCMH has installed a system of pneumatic tubes that connect the lab to the emergency room, outpatient surgery, pharmacy and medical records.

Before the tube system was installed, physicians and lab technicians had to walk across the building. Now, all employees have to do is

push a button, place the item into a canister and insert the canister back into the wall.

The item then flies through the ceiling in the tube system and lands at its destination across the hospital.

Not only does it save employees time, it allows patients to get in and get out quicker. It also helps ensure that patient information is kept confidential.

The technology has been

around for a while, but it seems to be making a comeback.

Whether it's old or new, it's saving the hospital lot of hassle and time.



Medicaid Providers Can Sign Up For CCD Viewer

The Wyoming Total Health Record (THR) project provides patient and healthcare providers with secure online access to patient health records, conditions, and treatments.

The goal of the THR system is to promote better patient outcomes and make provider services more efficient.

Providers can now sign up for the THR CCD viewer. The CCD Viewer allows authorized users to search for and retrieve a Patient Summary—

Continuity of Care document (CCD) for current Medicaid recipients over the web.

The CCD document is used to supplement the patient's clinic health record.

The CCD is a HITSP standard patient summary document that contains all of the information from the THR HIE when available for the patient: problems, family history, social history, medications, alerts, allergies, immunizations, vital signs, results, procedures, encounters and providers.

To request THR CCD Viewer access, please send an e-mail containing business name, address, phone number, provider names and primary contact to: THRCCDViewerAccess@acs-inc.com

For more information on the THR project or to request a demo of the THR EHR, please contact Lindsay Riggle, Outreach Coordinator at 307-203-8430 or e-mail Lindsay.riggle@xerox.com

The Wyoming Total Health Record website can be accessed at www.wyomingthr.com.

HPP Coordinator Named

Brittany Wardle has been named the Hospital Preparedness Coordinator for Wyoming. Brittany's first official day was the 22nd of January.

Brittany has been overseeing the State Partnerships Grant program within the Wyoming Department of Health.

The Wyoming Hospital

Preparedness Program works with hospitals and other medical facilities as well as ambulance services to ensure that Wyoming's medical community is as prepared as we can be!

For additional information, please contact Brittany Wardle, 307-777-904; bjones1@wyo.gov



Brittany Wardle