



NEWS BRIEFS

Informational Newsletter for Wyoming Hospitals

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October 16, 2015

WHA Calendar:

HFMA Meeting Laramie	11/18- 11/19
WHA Board Meeting Lander	11/23

Other Events:

Labor, Health & Social Services Committee Buffalo	10/19- 10/20
LeadingAge Wyoming Board Meeting	11/10

President's Message

There is a great deal of interest amongst our members when it comes to the Title 25 program and the hearings that have been taking place this year. The third Joint Committee Hearing was held this week in Cheyenne and I thought you might like to know what the committee has been doing so far.

There has been some draft legislation proposed by a subcommittee regarding modifying the program and utilizing more outpatient therapy and crisis stabilization facilities as opposed to inpatient treatment and involuntary hospitalizations. The new legislation all works on the premise that there will be gatekeepers in each community that will be qualified and available to conduct independent examinations and that those examiners will have no conflict of interest as to where the patient is placed. There will also be emphasis placed on having designated hospitals be more compliant with the rules that already exist. I believe the changes are good and will create set expectations and policies for billing. The changes will also allow the state to gather more accurate data on a statewide basis helping them gather data and understand the growing demand for mental/behavioral health services. The problem is not just localized to Wyo-

ming but is a national problem.

Estimates show that the state will be \$12 million over budget by the end of the year in paying for the treatment of these patients and with the shrinking tax revenue, the budget is going to be tight for the next several years. The Department of Health is looking for ways to drive costs out of the system, while still providing appropriate care in appropriate settings. The Community Mental Health Centers in our state believe they may be part of the solution and that they can provide outpatient treatment to many of those needing help and keep them from being hospitalized.

The state will also be investing a great deal of money into their facilities and are trying to determine what the State Hospital and the Resource Center should look like after renovations, while still meeting the demand within the state.

Our facilities play an important role in the treatment of the mental ill. There are no proposed changes to how we do business now and the state realizes we are necessary. The increase in utilization for Title 25 services is staggering and has grown exponentially



over the past few years. I don't think we will see the numbers start to decrease and it is our duty to treat all illnesses as they present.

One important thing for us to consider...the shortfall of the state budget to treat Title 25 patients would be eliminated and extra money would be infused in to the system if Medicaid expansion had been adopted. Expansion is still a solution and as we enter the budget cycle and legislative session, we need to let our local representatives know that expansion is important. Last session we let the legislators know what expansion would do to help our hospitals. This session we need to let them know what expansion would do to help their constituents, their communities and the state budget. We need to get in front of our legislators and let them know we support expansion.

There will be another hearing on Title 25 on November 30 and I promise to keep you all informed.



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



Jennifer Simon

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WMC Opens New Clinics in West Casper

Wyoming Medical Center (WMC) is opening a pair of new clinics on the fast-growing west side of Casper, adding primary and immediate care to the area in a new \$5.4 million, 10,000-square-foot facility.

“The west side of Casper doesn’t have a lot for medical services,” said spokeswoman Kristy Bleizeffer in a phone interview. The hospital – the second-largest in the state – will be hosting an open house for the two new clinics, which will share a

new building at 3632 American Way.

The first clinic, Mesa Primary Care, has been established in a temporary facility for about a year to build up clientele while WMC built the new facility. It will have a “med-ped” on staff – or a doctor trained in both medicine and pediatrics.

“There has been some need for more pediatrics in town and intensive internal medicine,” Bleizeffer said.

The second clinic will be

called Immediate Care, which will offer care for minor sprains and broken bones, sicknesses, infections and burns, lacerations, etc.

While competitors to this facility operate on a cash basis, Immediate Care will differentiate itself by accepting Medicare, Medicaid and other insurance.

When fully staffed, Bleizeffer said, the clinics will have 23 employees, including five physicians and six family nurse practitioners.

Jennifer Simon Recognized as Grassroots Champion

The American Hospital Association (AHA), in partnership with the Wyoming Hospital Association has awarded Jennifer Simon of St. John’s Hospital in Jackson, with the American Hospital Association Grassroots Champions Award.

As a 2015 Grassroots Champion Simon was recognized for her exceptional leadership in generating grassroots and community activity in support of a hos-

pital’s mission.

The American Hospital Association Grassroots Champions Award was created to recognize those hospital leaders who most effectively educate elected officials on how major issues affect the hospital’s vital role in the community, who have done an exemplary job in broadening the base of community support for the hospital, and is a tireless advocate for the hospital and

its patients.

“We depend upon strong voices like yours to help tell the story of hospitals as cornerstones of the communities they serve,” said Rich Umbdenstock, AHA president and CEO. “This award is a small token of our appreciation for your hard work and dedication to improving health and health care in America.”

Say Yes to Organ Donation

The Wyoming Department of Health (WDH) and its Wyoming Cares/Wyoming Shares program encourage all state residents to sign up as designated organ donors.

The simple act of checking ‘yes’ when asked about organ and tissue donation on your driver’s license form can have a

dramatic impact on the lives of others,” said Cherame Serrano, Wyoming Cares/Wyoming Shares program manager with WDH. “One donor can help save up to eight lives through organ donation and help heal more than 100 others through tissue and eye donation.”

Serrano said about 180 Wyoming residents are wait-

ing for organ transplants and anyone can be a potential donor regardless of age, race or medical history.

According to Donate Life America, Wyoming ranked in seventh place for donor designation rate with 59.5 percent in 2014.