

# NEWS BRIEFS

Informational Newsletter for Wyoming Hospitals

Volume 44, Number 46

December 6, 2013

## WHA Calendar:

Healthcare Effective Communication Webinar **12/11**

Healthcare Leadership Training **12/13**

WCAHN Meeting **12/17**

## Other Events:

WDH/HMA Interview/Focus Group **12/12**



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## Governor's Budget Does Not Recommend Medicaid Expansion

State employees could be getting their first raise in years if the Legislature accepts a \$3.3 billion two-year spending plan that Gov. Matt Mead presented Friday.

Mead included a nearly \$50 million request in his 2015-16 biennium budget proposal for pay raises.

The governor said the state's inability to give raises during the past four years has hurt Wyoming's ability to recruit and retain its best workers.

"We are seeing the consequences of our failure to address the most valuable asset of any business - its employees," Mead wrote in his budget message to lawmakers. "Employee turnover is on the rise. No business succeeds without a qualified, motivated workforce."

The Governor is asking the Legislature to approve a number of other items, including:

- \$175 million in aid to local governments - an increase over the \$135 million he requested in the current 2013-14 budget.
- \$60 million for construction projects at the Wyoming State Hospital in Evanston, the Wyoming Life Resource Center in

Lander and the Veterans Home of Wyoming in Buffalo.

- \$10.1 million, along with an equal federal match, to reduce the waiting list for the state's Medicaid developmental disabilities and acquired brain injury waivers.

Mead also left \$219 million in available revenue "on the table" for the Legislature to spend on other projects or put into savings.

Mead is also asking the Legislature not to fund several programs.

This includes recommending, once again, that lawmakers hold off on accepting an optional expansion of the state's Medicaid program.

The measure originally was a key requirement of the Affordable Care Act. But the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that states could choose whether to accept the expansion.

Wyoming is among the nearly two dozen states that have not accepted the expansion. More than 16,000 Wyoming residents could gain health insurance if the state accepted the expansion.

The federal government has pledged to pay for all the costs of the expansion group

until 2017. At that point, states would be responsible for paying 5 percent of the costs and then would have to pay 6 percent in 2018, 7 percent in 2019 and 10 percent in 2020 and beyond.

But Mead said he still has too many concerns about the implementation of the new health-care law.

He said the recent troubles surrounding the rollout of healthcare.gov, the Obamacare website used to sign up for health insurance through the new exchanges, is just one example of the flaws in the health-care reforms.

"The problem with the (Affordable Care Act) is that, in large part, it presumes the exchange is going to work and you are going to get a lot of young, healthy people in the exchange, and in doing that you are going to cut the costs for everyone," Mead said. "And when you see the exchange, in my view, kicking more people off than actually getting them on, the whole pretext of how this is going to work is in doubt."

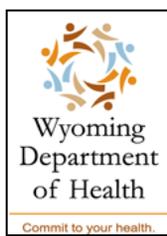
Mead's budget will now be passed along to the Legislature's Joint Appropriations Committee.

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



John Goettler

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



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## St. John's Hospital Foundation Names New President

The board of St. John's Hospital Foundation is pleased to announce that it has named John G. Goettler as its new president.

Mr. Goettler will assume the role vacated by former director Liz Finegan, who was responsible for hospital fundraising since 2008.

Established in 1999, the mission of the Foundation is to broaden the community's understanding of and sup-

port for St. John's Medical Center.

According to St. John's Medical Center CEO, Lou Hochheiser, "The Foundation has played a major role in fundraising for the hospital, raising \$25 million to provide staff education opportunities, purchase lifesaving equipment, and support critical facilities expansions."

Mr. Goettler brings with

him over 25 years of experience, including many years as president of Goettler Associates, a fundraising consulting firm that has served more than 1,500 non-profit organizations since its founding in 1965.

Over the course of his career, he has provided capital campaign planning services, major and planned gift counsel, annual fund evaluation and analytics.

## Title VI and Health Disparities Webinar

On December 11 there will be a webinar to provide a refresher of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and discuss Title VI in the context of health disparities.

We will discuss specific examples of health disparities commonly seen in minority populations and discuss the differences between disparities that are caused by legally prohibited discrimination and those that are not.

In addition to providing an overview of the legal requirements, we will discuss one of the technical

assistance programs that the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has established to reduce the impact of HIV/AIDS on minority populations.

Specifically, we will address/accomplish the following with respect to HIV/AIDS:

- Reducing health disparities is one of the three goals of the National HIV/AIDS Strategy which was unveiled by Obama in July, 2010
- Foster a better understanding of how one HHS program addresses

health inequities in regards to HIV/AIDS

- Examine the epidemiology of Wyoming and how social determinants of health impact the spectrum of engagement in HIV/AIDS
- Specific examples will be shared about HIV/AIDS Awareness Days and other biomedical and behavioral interventions to address prevention and access to care efforts

To register, contact Rose Fishback at 307-632-9344 or [rose@wyohospitals.com](mailto:rose@wyohospitals.com)

## Interview/Focus Group

In 2013, the Wyoming Legislature enacted legislation, Senate Enrolled Act No. 82, which requires the Wyoming Department of Health (WDH) to study the use of managed or coordinated models of care for some or all of the people enrolled in Wyoming Medicaid.

WDH has contracted with Health Management

Associates (HMA) to assist with this study.

As part of its stakeholder input process, you are invited to participate in an interview/focus group. This interview with hospital representatives will be held on December 12th, 2013 at 1:00p.m. at the WHA.

If you are unable to attend in person, please consider calling in to the inter-

view using the conference line provided by the Wyoming Hospital Association: Conference line: 888-537-7715; pass code: 85739689#

If you are unable to attend or call in, but would like to provide input, send your comments to: [coordinatedcarestudy@healthmanagement.com](mailto:coordinatedcarestudy@healthmanagement.com).