

NEWS BRIEFS

Informational Newsletter for Wyoming Hospitals

Volume 43, Number 07

February 15, 2013

WHA Calendar:

Wyoming Legislature Convenes	1/8
HFMA Spring Meeting Casper	3/20- 3/22

Other Events:

RPB Meeting Scottsdale, AZ	3/7-3/8
-------------------------------	----------------

Medicaid Reform Bill Awaits a Hearing in the House

As the 2013 General Session of the Wyoming Legislature begins to wind down, one major healthcare-related bill awaits a hearing in the House of Representatives.

With the failure of the bill that would have expanded Medicaid in Wyoming – the attention of healthcare associations now turns largely to Senate File 60, the Medicaid reform bill.

Senate File 60 would implement major changes in the way Wyoming's Medicaid program operates, with dramatic adjustments in healthcare services and developmental disability services, and with somewhat more modest changes proposed in long-term care.

The bill sailed through the Senate with only a few minor amendments, but its pace slowed a bit when it was heard by the House Labor, Health, and Social Services Committee last week.

Nevertheless, the central elements of proposed reform in healthcare services, notions such as medical homes, incentives for patients and providers, and an evaluation of the feasibility of managed care in Wyoming, remain intact.

Senate File 60 passed the House Labor Committee, as well as a hearing in the House Appropriations Com-

mittee, and is now awaiting a hearing in the full House. As of mid-week, it had not been scheduled for debate in the House.

Although other elements of the Joint Labor, Health, and Social Services Committee's interim study of the costs and potential reforms of Medicaid are still winding their way through the process, Senate File 60 is the last major piece of legislation from that effort that has not been dealt with.



While the WHA continues to prepare for the Medicaid debate, it succeeded in passing a bill that could make it easier for Wyoming's smallest hospitals to form special hospital districts.

Senate File 19, sponsored by Sen. Gerald Geis, R-Worland, proposed to change the threshold in current statute that was necessary to put the question of the creation

of a hospital district on the ballot.

The measure would allow county commissioners, by resolution, to put the question on the ballot and allow voters to vote on whether they want to tax themselves through a mill levy to support healthcare in their communities.

Like Senate File 60, the special hospital districts bill moved through the Senate quickly and with little opposition. It also passed the House Corporations Committee unanimously, on a 9-0 vote.

A small group of Representatives opposed the measure in the House, however. Despite that opposition, the bill passed on by a 41-17 margin, changing a hospital district statute that has been the subject of major concern for more than a decade.

In addition to the WHA, the Wyoming County Commissioners Association, county clerks in three counties, and administrators and physicians in Hot Springs, Washakie, and Carbon Counties worked hard to get the bill passed.

The pace of legislative action slowed somewhat this week, with both houses disposing of a number of bills and completing their work on a number of others. Legislative leaders expect the session to conclude by February 28.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Elkhorn Valley Rehabilitation Hospital (EVRH) in Casper recently celebrated the 5 year anniversary of its opening January 2013.

EVRH continues to be ranked in the top 10 percent of inpatient rehabilitation facilities ranked in the IRF database of Uniform Data System for Medical Rehabilitation (UDSMR). This distinction is based upon EVRH patients' functional gains and discharge to the community, which continue to exceed the national

benchmark.

EVRH attributes this success to its passionate patient caregivers and to the hard work and determination of its patients and their families.

EVRH provides comprehensive physical medicine and rehabilitation services to patients with functional deficits resulting from injury or illness, with specific focus on:

- Stroke (CVA)
- Spinal cord injury
- Amputation

- Major multiple trauma
- Fracture of femur
- Brain injury
- Neurological disorders
- Active polyarthritis or severe or advanced osteoarthritis
- Knee and/or hip joint replacement
- Orthopedic dysfunction

EVRH extends its thanks to its our medical community for its continued support during the celebration of the facility's 5th Anniversary.

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



Carol Dozier

Iverson's Dozier Takes Seat on WHA Board of Directors

Carol Dozier, CEO of Iverson Memorial Hospital in Laramie, will fill a vacant seat on the Wyoming Hospital Association Board of Directors. Her term begins immediately, and will run through October 2013.

Ms. Dozier takes over the seat that became vacant with the departure of Bob Morasko, former CEO of Campbell County Memorial Hospital.

The other director seats,

currently held by Vince DiFranco, CEO of Community Hospital in Torrington, and Chris Smolik, CEO of Riverton Memorial Hospital, also expire in October of this year.

Despite this change, the Board's executive committee remains unchanged. The WHA board is chaired by Eric Boley, CEO of South Lincoln Medical Center in Kemmerer. Rich Schroeder, CEO of North Big Horn Hospital in Lovell, is the

WHA's chair-elect.

Vickie Diamond, CEO of Wyoming Medical Center in Casper, is the Board's past chair, and Mike McCafferty, CEO of Sheridan Memorial Hospital, is the secretary/treasurer.

The WHA board's next meeting is scheduled for May 16. The Trustee Education program is being scheduled in conjunction with the Board meeting for May 17th in Riverton.

AHA Annual Meeting to Focus on Journey to Excellence

The transformation of the American healthcare system continues as states and the federal government work to unwind and implement the details of the Affordable Care Act.

That transformation is a marathon, not a sprint. And it is the theme of this year's American Hospital Association Annual Membership Meeting, scheduled for April

28 – May 1 at the Washington Hilton Hotel in Washington, D.C.

During the meeting, organized around the theme 'Journey to Excellence, hospital leaders from across the country will hear from the nation's foremost experts in patient safety, quality, dealing with disasters, partnering with insurers, and much more.

The lineup includes such healthcare luminaries as James Orlikoff, James Skogsbergh, president and CEO of Advocate Health Care, and Alan Aviles, president of the New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation.

The online registration deadline for the annual meeting is April 26.

Wyoming Hospital Association

**2005 Warren Ave.
Cheyenne, WY
82001**

www.wyohospitals.com

307.632.9344