

# NEWS BRIEFS

Informational Newsletter for Wyoming Hospitals

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## WHA Calendar:

WCAHN Quarterly Meeting Conference Call	<b>3/5</b>
Flex Planning Meeting Casper	<b>4/2</b>
WHA Board Meeting Riverton	<b>5/16</b>
Trustee Education Program Riverton	<b>5/17</b>

## Other Events:

RPB Meeting Scottsdale, AZ	<b>3/7-3/8</b>
HFMA Spring Meeting Casper	<b>3/20- 3/22</b>

## Senate Attempts to Further Block Medicaid Expansion

The Wyoming State Senate on Thursday adopted an amendment to HB-203, Health Benefit Exchange Study and Select Committee, that further restricts Wyoming's ability to pursue Medicaid Expansion efforts under the Affordable Care Act.

In a first reading amendment to HB-203, the Senate adopted language stating in part, "Neither the state nor any other agency of the state shall commit to an expansion of eligibility for the Medicaid program prior to April 15, 2015, except for the expansion mandated by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act..."

A hastily convened meeting of the Senate Rules Committee ruled that the amendment was germane to the bill, over the objections of Senator John Hastert, prime sponsor of the Medicaid Expansion bill killed earlier this month in the Senate.

House Bill 203 provides for a select Legislative Committee to study all aspects of forming a Wyoming Health Insurance Exchange, entering into an interstate compact or agreement with one or more other states to collaborate in an Exchange, or defaulting to a Federal Exchange.

While the Select Committee would presently have a sunset date of December 31, 2013, the restriction placed on the State to expand Medicaid would extend to April 15, 2015, well past the end of the 2015 Legislative General Session.



The bill is up on Second Reading on Friday, with the third and final Senate vote taken on Monday, February 25.

Should the bill survive with the amendment, the House would be asked to concur with the changes approved by the Senate.

Should the House not concur, a House and Senate conference committee would be appointed to work out the differences in the two versions of the bill.

The recent action of the Senate was somewhat surprising, since they have already turned down the Expansion for this year. Some of the Senators voting against the Expansion indicated that they would be willing to re-examine this issue during the interim in preparation for the 2014 Budget Session.

In a related turn of events possibly connected to the Senate action, at least two Representatives are poised to offer an amendment to SF60- Medicaid Reform that will direct the state to accept the Medicaid Expansion.

All the debates on this issue have occurred in the Senate this year, so it will be critically important to observe the discussion in the House.

A joint meeting of the Labor, Health and Social Services Committee will occur today to decide which topics they intend to forward to the Legislature's Management Council that will constitute their work load during the interim period.



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



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## Career Fair Introduces Students to Health Care Careers

The demand for healthcare workers is expected to increase as the American population grays and more people obtain coverage through health reform.

To address the need, several groups sponsored a health care career fair at the Parkway Plaza Hotel & Convention Centre in Casper this week hoping to introduce students to jobs in the medical field.

“With Obamacare, there will be more access to health care,” said Marivern Easton, director of the Wyoming Area Health Education Cen-

ter, which helped organize Wednesday’s event. “The reality is we don’t have enough providers to care for them. That’s not just true for Wyoming, but everywhere.”

Wyoming is expected to add 5,700 health care jobs during the current decade, according to a report produced last year by the state Department of Workforce Services.

Organizers try to present a variety of careers to the students, Easton said. Some might be looking for a profession that requires a two-year degree. Others are will-

ing to commit to more than that.

“We’re hoping that there is something for everybody here,” she said.

Even for students who have already decided on a specific career, the fair offered new experiences. Rock Springs High School sophomore Elizabeth Ha plans to become a pediatrician, but attended the fair to explore a broader range of health fields.

“I’m hoping to gain more knowledge on medicine,” she said.

## American College of Healthcare Executives – Wyoming

As a leading organization for healthcare executives nationwide, the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE) has recently unveiled new programs and educational offerings for 2013. ACHE is consistently charged with providing current information on leading edge topics for healthcare organizations.

The Wyoming Chapter of ACHE has experienced consistent growth in mem-

bership in recent years, with 107 total members statewide.

Cheyenne Regional Medical Center’s Dana Barnett recently fulfilled his 2-year tenure as Wyoming Chapter President – and a new roster of officers as been secured:

- President** – Neil Hilton, Wyoming Hospital Association
- Vice-President** – Judit Olah, Cheyenne Regional Medical Center
- Sec/Treasurer** – Robin Rol-

ing, Hot Springs County Memorial Hospital

In addition to these officers, important leadership to the Chapter membership at large is provided via the designated ACHE Regent – with Margie Molitor of Washakie Medical Center completing her excellent tenure as Wyoming’s Regent.

The membership is very pleased to have Bill Patten, CEO at Powell Valley Healthcare newly elected to this position.

## HFMA Spring Meeting

The Wyoming Chapter of the Healthcare Financial Management Association (HFMA) will be holding their Spring Meeting on March 20-22 in Casper, Wyoming.

Highlights of the meeting include programs on Leading and Managing the Change Process; Manage-

ment Skill Development; a special Thursday session for CFO’s and patient account managers; and Ralph Lawson from HFMA National on Innovation and Greater Value in U.S. Healthcare.

Other breakout sessions include reimbursement and regulatory updates, fiscal evaluation and managing a

physician practice and many more.

The brochure can be viewed at <http://www.hfmawy.org/>

Registration information can be obtained by calling Don Herbert, HFMA, 307-885-5964 or [dherbert@svmcwy.org](mailto:dherbert@svmcwy.org)