

NEWS BRIEFS

Informational Newsletter for Wyoming Hospitals

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February 8, 2013

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

Medicaid Reform – Legislative Measures Under Consideration

Through the course of the 2013 Legislative Session to date, a great deal of focus and attention has been given regarding the ultimate determination surrounding the issues of Medicaid Expansion.

While the decision to not commit the State of Wyoming to expanding the program at this time has been well documented via WHA and other sources it is also important to recognize that additional legislative bills are working their way through the session that address other implications for the Medicaid program as it exists today.

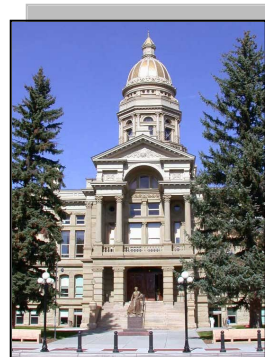
Most notably, Senate File 60 is sponsored and introduced by the Joint Labor, Health & Social Services Committee.

Many elements of study and analysis that have been conducted by the Department of Health over the past year have been reviewed in detail during the 2012 interim sessions of this committee.

Details of the proposed legislation are arranged in three specific sections – identified under “Health Care Services” and include the establishment of new incentives for program recipients as well as health care providers.

Healthy approaches to preventive activities and measures include renewed focus to target the unnecessary use of hospital emergency rooms for non-urgent care.

Enhanced provisions for prenatal services, appropriate behavioral health services, and particular attention to recipients with a variety of chronic conditions are all important areas contained within the bill.



As has been lightly explored on prior occasions, further evaluation of the potential for some degree of managed care options is also included – with the Department of Health expressing their desire to “explore the use of managed care for all or designated segments of the Medicaid population.”

WHA has taken the opportunity to voice particular interest in this area of the bill, recognizing that our member hospitals statewide will need the ability to take part in such an evaluation of managed care models.

As Director of the WDH, Tom Forslund has openly provided this assurance to the association, both privately and within the context of the Legislative Committee discussion as well.

The remaining sections of the bill pertain to “Long Term Care Services” and “Developmental Disability Services” programs.

Particularly as it relates to new parameters for long-term care, WHA is also focused on effective measures in this area in recognition that many member hospitals operate excellent nursing home and skilled nursing facilities as a significant component of service locally.

The bill proposes the development of a fresh assessment tool to replace the LT-101 form and redesign of reimbursements to more appropriately reflect patient acuity and care needs.

It will be imperative for WHA to continue to participate with the proposals contained in Senate File 60 and offer consistent, well-grounded perspective from our member hospitals.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



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



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Big Horn Basin Hospitals Complete Quality Training

Powell Valley Healthcare organized a valuable training session for local hospitals that focused on “quality curriculum for trustees.”

The 6-hour training session conducted by nationally recognized speaker Dr. John Combes of the American Hospital Association took place on January 23rd in Cody with the West Park Hospital serving as the host site.

Nearly 55 board members, administrative staff and physicians representing Hot

Springs County Memorial Hospital, North Big Horn Hospital, South Big Horn Hospital, West Park Hospital and Powell Valley Healthcare attended the training.

The curriculum was designed to give boards the tools to answer challenging questions and use the powers entrusted to them by their stakeholders to positively affect quality of care, their organizations’ clinical outcomes and their patients’ experiences.

The primary focus was on hospital boards’ authority and accountability as they pertain to assuring quality of care within hospitals.

This collaborative training was the first time the 5 hospitals have gotten together to work on a project and share ideas. “It is our goal to continue to work together to address changes required by reform and to better meet the needs of our patients and long term care residents,” said Bill Patten, Powell Valley Healthcare CEO.

Mountain Pacific Announces Two New Board Members

Mountain-Pacific Quality Health is proud to announce that Michael Tracy, MD, FAAP, FACP of Powell and T. Chris Muirhead, CPA of Casper has joined its board of directors.

Chris Muirhead has over 30 years of experience as a certified public accountant in Wyoming. He is currently the director of taxation at Porter, Muirhead, Cornia & Howard in Casper.

Dr. Tracy practices in-

ternal medicine and pediatrics in Powell. He is currently serving as president of the Wyoming Medical Society and the Wyoming Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Mountain-Pacific Quality Health – Wyoming is part of a four-state affiliation of similar organizations dedicated to quality patient care in Montana, Wyoming, Hawaii, and Alaska.

Mountain-Pacific is the quality improvement organization for Wyoming. The

staff works with healthcare facilities across the state to help ensure that patients are receiving the best care possible.

Mountain-Pacific's board of directors is responsible for overall policy direction of the organization. The board comprises 20 members from around the four states and has the authority to make final determinations on all major policies, review considerations, corrective actions and fiscal matters.

WHA CFO Stepping Down in February

After nearly six years at the Wyoming Hospital Association, the WHA’s Chief Financial Officer is stepping down.

CFO Jody Kohl’s last day at the WHA will be February 15. She is moving with her family to Nebraska.

In addition to developing and managing budgets and

overseeing the finances at the WHA, Ms. Kohl has also played a leading role in growing and managing the WHA’s data programs.

She was also integrally involved in developing and launching Wyoming Price-Point, the WHA’s price transparency web site, among other projects.

“Jody has been a true as-

set to the WHA and our members,” said WHA President Dan Perdue. “She has provided important financial leadership, and she has been critical to the development of our data and reporting programs. Her leaving will be a big loss for WHA”.

Ms. Kohl and her husband Thad have two children.