



NEWS BRIEFS

Informational Newsletter for Wyoming Hospitals

Volume 43, Number 09

March 1, 2013

WHA Calendar:

WCAHN 3/5
Quarterly Meeting
Conference Call

Flex Planning 4/2
Meeting
Casper

WHA Board 5/16
Meeting
Riverton

Trustee Education 5/17
Program
Riverton

Other Events:

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

HFMA Spring 3/20-
Meeting 3/22
Casper

Legislature Wraps Up With Flurry of Health Issues

The 2013 General Session of the Wyoming Legislature wrapped up on Wednesday, following a flurry of last-minute deal making on bills that impact healthcare in Wyoming.

In the end, 429 bills were prepared for introduction, with 206 bills passing both the House and the Senate and making their way to the Governor's office.

Among those bills was House Bill 203, a bill that will create a select committee to study the creation of a health benefit exchange in Wyoming. An amendment added to the bill in the Senate would have prevented the state from proceeding with the optional expansion of Medicaid until 2015.

That change required the House and the Senate to meet in a conference committee to negotiate an agreement on the bill. The conference committee ultimately did agree on an approach that took out the specific 2015 date, but that will not allow the optional Medicaid expansion without the prior approval of the Legislature.

During a separate but related debate on the House floor, members of the House argued that the state will ultimately choose to expand Medicaid to the optional population.

The amendment to House Bill 203 simply ensures that legislators will have the opportunity to debate and vote on that expansion first.

Similarly, Senate File 60, a bill that takes steps to reform Wyoming's Medicaid program, passed both houses on the final day of the session, but not before a conference committee convened to work out concerns about House amendments.

Meanwhile, the Legislature's Management Council met on Tuesday to determine the topics each legislative committee will study during the interim.

Much of the interim work of the Joint Labor, Health, and Social Services Committee will result from issues discussed during the 2013 session. For example, the committee will monitor implementation of the Affordable Care Act, with a focus on the possibility of Medicaid expansion and the impact of the ACA on state-funded health programs.

The committee will also consider reports regarding the potential for Medicaid managed care in Wyoming, a study regarding the Wyoming Life Resource Center, and the redesign of Medicaid waiver programs.

The Wyoming Hospital Association thanks our members for their commitment and engagement during the legislative session. And we would like to thank the nurses from around the state who volunteered for our Nurse For A Day program – the program would not be possible without your willingness to serve.

2013 Nurse-For-The-Day

Anne Raga, Campbell County Memorial Hospital
Debra Dawson, Ivinson Memorial Hospital
Penny Iekel, Sheridan Veterans Affairs Medical Center
Angela Lawrence, Wyoming State Hospital
Natan Gama, Wyoming State Hospital
Karilyn Adams, Memorial Hospital of Sweetwater County
Ann Harris, Platte County Memorial Hospital
Ann Davin, Wyoming Medical Center
Annetta Cantlin, Wyoming State Hospital
Heidi Pearce, Wyoming Hospital Association
Cynthia LaBonde, State Board of Nursing
Toma Nisbet, Mobile Health Service
Cindy Woods, Platte County Memorial Hospital
Kimberly Glasscock, Castle Rock Hospital District
Peggy Hyslope, Castle Rock Hospital District



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



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MHCC Installs State-of-the-Art Nurse Call System

Memorial Hospital of Converse County (MHCC) installed a state-of-the-art nurse call system in February.

The Telligence Staff Console Annunciator by Ascom is the first of its kind in Wyoming. It helps the hospital create a safer environment and improved experience for patients.

The new patient notification system does much more than the former nurse call system. Some of the Telligence system's more popular features allow the hospital to track patient call and nurse response times, automatically alerts the nurse

station if a patient gets out of bed, and can lock down the entire Birthing Center if the infant protection system is triggered.

"It's much more than a nurse call button," said Missy Swanson, Med/Surg. Nursing Care Coordinator. "This new system allows the Healthcare Unit Coordinator to track our staff's location on the floor. Each time a nurse or patient care tech enters or exits a patient's room, the times are logged and alerts are sent to a main console at the nurse sta-

tion."

The hospital spent more than two years researching upgraded call systems before deciding on Telligence. The \$130,000 system is being installed in the Emergency Department, Birthing Center, and in all inpatient rooms.



Converse County's Smith Takes Seat on WHA Board

Ryan Smith, CEO of Memorial Hospital of Converse County in Douglas, will fill a vacant seat on the Wyoming Hospital Association Board of Directors.

His term begins immediately, and will run through October 2013.

Mr. Smith takes over the seat that became vacant with the departure of Chris Smolik, former CEO of Riverton Memorial Hospital.

The other director seats are currently held by Vince DiFranco, CEO of Community Hospital in Torrington, and Carol Dozier, CEO of Ivinson Memorial Hospital.

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 Educational program is being scheduled in conjunction with the Board meeting for May 17th in Riverton.

WHA Welcomes New Chief Financial Officer

Barry Burkart took over on March 1 as the Wyoming Hospital Association's new Chief Financial Officer. Mr. Burkart replaces Jody Kohl, who moved on from the WHA in February.

Mr. Burkart comes to the WHA with significant experience in finance, including more than 20 years as the controller at the Unicover Corporation in Cheyenne.

He will be responsible for all WHA budgeting and accounting, as well as oversight of the WHA's data programs.

Mr. Burkart is married and has four children, ages 27, 25, 18, and 16. He can be reached at 307-632-9344 or barry@wyohospitals.com.

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