

NEWS BRIEFS

Informational Newsletter for Wyoming Hospitals

Volume 46, Number 9

March 6, 2015

WHA Calendar:

WHA Trustee Education
Riverton 5/21

Other Events:

HFMA Conference
Casper 3/18-3/20

AHA Annual Meeting
Washington, DC 5/3-5/6

National Nurses Week 5/6-5/12



Message from the President

What a wild and crazy ride this legislative session has been. With things wrapping up, I figured this was a good time for a recap.

We had two huge battles going in to the session. We thought we were going to lose with the bill to allow surgery centers to open convalescent care centers and unbelievably we defeated that bill in committee.

Then we thought we had a fighting chance to get Medicaid expansion, and while we made more progress this year than in years past, the Senate defeated the bill strongly and it never really got off the ground in the House.

A few weeks ago a new bill to help offset our uncompensated charity care costs was introduced and passed the Senate with \$5 million to be distributed to all hospitals and then this week it made it to the House where the bill was gutted and came away with \$1 million to go to only

a few of our critical access hospitals.

The million dollars came from the Critical Access Endowment Challenge fund which was about to sunset in July and had passed the house with an extension on the sunset date, but when it got to Senate appropriations, Chairman Ross decided to sit on the bill and not have it heard, which killed the bill.

Luckily, we became aware of his plan and we were able to get that money re-appropriated to help our critical access hospitals, instead of having the money go back in to the general fund.

On Thursday, a conference committee was held to discuss the uncompensated charity care bill and after committee, we came away with \$2 million dollars that will be distributed to all hospitals in the state based on their prorated share of uncompensated charity care costs, with 1/3 of the \$2 million going to PPS hospitals and 2/3 going to CAHs.

In addition, there will be a grant program for CAHs already reporting having consistently less than 100 days cash on hand over the past six months to access the other \$1 million dollars that was left over from the endowment challenge program.

A late twist came in the committee's negotiations to meet in the middle, as they tightened the criteria for participation in those funds.

This resulted in \$506, 839 being calculated for distribution to the five CAHs meeting the criteria.

It is our hope that these funds will give our facilities that are really struggling a bit of relief and stability to get them through.

This isn't exactly what the sponsors of the bill wanted but at least we got a little relief.

The one good thing is that I believe the legislators are more aware now, than at any other time, the tremendous pressure (financially and regulatory) our facilities are facing.

I appreciate your help during this session, in reaching out to your legislators and making your voices heard.

I would encourage you to thank those legislators that really were champions for our cause and did all they could to help us during this session.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



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



Jeff Mengershausen

Wyoming Hospital Association

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

www.wyohospitals.com

307.632.9344

WMC Earns ASA's Highest Honor for Stroke Care

Wyoming Medical Center (WMC) won the American Stroke Association's (ASA) highest level of recognition at the 2015 International Stroke Conference Feb. 10-12 in Nashville, Tenn.

WMC achieved Target: Stroke Honor Roll – Elite Plus status for quick treatment of stroke patients in the Emergency Room.

This is the first year the ASA has awarded hospitals the Elite Plus status.

Out of about 1,000 stroke centers in the country, WMC was one of just about 30 to achieve the highest possible designation.

"Among my proudest professional achievements is leading an amazing team that has built our Primary Stroke Center from the ground up. This is only possible in our small town because of the passion for quality and excellence exhibited by team members from every part of Wyoming

Medical Center," said Dr. David Wheeler, medical director of the Primary Stroke Center and a neurologist at Wyoming Neurologic Associates.

Wyoming Medical Center has also earned the ASA's Get With The Guidelines®-Stroke Gold Plus Award for meeting or exceeding standards in stroke care for three consecutive years.

Sundance Welcomes Mengershausen as CEO

Crook County Medical Services District (CCMSD) has announced a new Chief Executive Officer Jeff Mengershausen who started his new role February 16.

"Jeff brings exceptional leadership skills and a proven track record in operating a health care system in rural communities to provide access to high quality health care and positioning organizations for exponential growth," said Sandy Neiman, Chairman of the Board.

Mengershausen is a decorated service-disabled com-

bat veteran and former U.S. Navy SEAL.

In 2008, he began building a distinguished track record of successful progressive business leadership supporting U.S. Government agencies performing as a Director of Business Resources and Acquisition for a major defense services firm.

Mengershausen is a knowledgeable business professional, who has led numerous multimillion dollar contract operations domestically and internationally.

"I am extremely excited about this opportunity to lead the CCMSD through this ever changing health care environment. I believe CCMSD has a very positive future with well thought-out change, which will only increase access to high quality patient care and enhance the financial viability of CCMSD, Mengershausen said.

"I am passionate about the mission of the CCMSD, and look forward to working with the rich heritage that has long been established."

Grant Writing Opportunity

The Wyoming Office of Rural Health is pleased to offer tuition reimbursement for staff working in local Wyoming health and human services agencies.

The 9 week webinar course is offered through the National Organization of State Offices of Rural

Health and begins April 2, 2015.

The Office of Rural Health will provide reimbursement to qualifying participants once they have completed the course, June 26, 2015.

More information on the course is available at [http://](http://nosorh.org/grant-writing-institute/)

nosorh.org/grant-writing-institute/

Please contact Sharla Allen, MSHA, Manager of the Wyoming Office of Rural Health at sharla.allen@wyo.gov or call 307-777-7293 for more information on this opportunity.