



NEWS BRIEFS

Informational Newsletter for Wyoming Hospitals

Volume 46, Number 16

April 24, 2015

WHA Calendar:

- WHA Board Meeting
Riverton **5/20**
- WHA Trustee Education
Riverton **5/21**
- WHA/Leading Age Annual Meeting & Convention
Casper **9/2-9/3**
- Other Events:**
- AHA Annual Meeting
Washington, DC **5/3-5/6**
- National Nurses Week **5/6-5/12**
- National Rural EMS Conference
Cheyenne **5/5-5/6**



President's Message

I wanted to give you all an update in relation to SF145, the Uncompensated Charity Care bill that was passed during the recent legislative session.

I have had meetings in the past week with both the Department of Health and the State Auditor's office. Both entities will be involved in the rule making and distribution process of the appropriated funds.

The rules making process is underway and we are hopeful that it will be a quick process and provide you access to the funds as quickly as possible.

Let me try to describe how the process is going to work.

There are two different pots of money available. There is \$2 million available to all of our hospitals with 1/3 of the money available to the PPS hospitals and 2/3 available to the critical access hospitals.

The amount of money each facility is allowed to receive will be based on your

settled 2013 cost report and will be proportional to your percentage of the whole, based on the figures reported on Worksheet S-10 line 23....."Cost of Charity Care".

The rules are being promulgated. The amount you are entitled to has already been decided based on your 2013 cost report, but you will have to prove that you are still delivering charity care going forward and as you qualify your patients for charity care, after July 1, 2015, you will be able to apply for your share of the appropriation on a quarterly basis.

It is my expectation that all facilities should be able to get their full amount of this pot of money within the first 6 months of the year. This part of the bill is going to be administered by the Department of Health.

There is a second appropriation, specifically for critical access hospitals, that has \$1 million available.

To be eligible for this pool of money, a critical access hospital must prove that they are delivering charity care in their community and must also prove that from July 1, 2014-December 31, 2014 their days cash on hand were less than 100 days.

This is going to be treated as a grant, requiring what I

hope is a very simple application, through the Auditor's Office and will be a one-time payment. This grant will allow those hospitals that qualify, based on your days cash on hand to receive up to \$200,000 but cannot exceed 75% of the uncompensated charity care amount shown on your 2013 settled cost report, whichever is less.

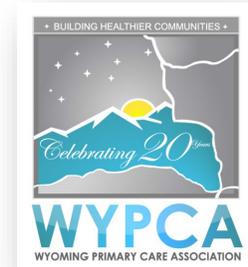
The uncompensated charity care amount is again derived from the same place on your settled 2013 cost report. Both departments are working very collaboratively with the WHA and I am doing all I can to make this as simple and quick as possible. I met with the Governor last week and I thanked him for not vetoing this bill, but he and I both agree that this is not a sustainable model going forward and really does nothing to address what Medicaid expansion would have done for our state.

I am hopeful that the legislators are prepared to work hard on a solution during the interim, because this problem is not going away and I believe it will only get worse.

We're working hard representing you and are trying to get you some relief from the growing amount of uncompensated care we deliver in our communities.



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



Wyoming Hospital Association

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National Volunteer Month

National Volunteer Week, a program established by Points of Light in 1974, is about inspiring, recognizing and encouraging people to seek out imaginative ways to engage in their communities.

It's about demonstrating to the nation that by working together, we have the fortitude to meet our challenges and accomplish our goals.

National Volunteer Week

is about taking action and encouraging individuals and their respective communities to be at the center of social change – discovering and actively demonstrating their collective power to make a difference.

The Wyoming Healthcare Volunteer Organization (WHVO) promotes volunteering all year.

This past week, the WHVO held a spring con-

ference in Casper. The conference is always open to every hospital volunteer group in the State. The group meets to learn new programs, and share best practices with each other.

For more information on the WHVO, please contact Lillian Wright at 307-237-7583.

Telehealth and Rural Health IT Funding Workshop

The Wyoming Office of Rural Health along with several collaborative partners is pleased to announce the Wyoming Telehealth and Rural Health IT Funding workshop on May 19th in Riverton.

This event is a follow up to the October 8, 2014 launch of the Wyoming Rural Health IT funding initiative and is specifically focused on the Telehealth status, barriers and opportunities in our state.

Morning presentations include updates from Wyo-

ming Medicaid, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Wyoming, HealthLinkNow and Cheyenne Regional Medical. Lunch will be provided for all registered attendees by the Office of Rural Health.

Rural Health Funding information will be presented in the afternoon from USDA, USAC and other state and local organizations.

Amy Hayes from The Office Assistant, LLC will provide instruction on billing Telehealth visits.

Questions regarding this workshop can be emailed to Deb Anderson at danderson@mpqhf.org.

Please use this link to register. [http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?](http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=ptvuzprab&oeidk=a07eav1c1sc16b7a7a4)

<http://telehealth.wyo.gov/education-training>

For more information call Deb Anderson at 307.772.1096.

WYPCA Annual Training Conference

The WYPCA Annual Training Conference is scheduled for May 5-7.

Speakers have been invited from national, state and local levels to provide useful and impactful information to assist Health Center leaders, staff and board.

Highlights of the conference include:

- Sessions entitled “Ensuring a Highly

Effective and Efficient Board – A Model for Success” and

“Upcoming ICD-10”

- Mike Holton is back to share updates and financial strategies
- Sessions including information about funding sources for Health Centers and updates on compliance issues
- And more.....

To register go to <http://www.wypca.org/> for registration.

Encourage your staff and board to register early for the 10% discount. Remember there is one-day pricing and scholarships are available.

Please let Kathy at the WPCA (kathy@wypca.org) know if you have any questions.