

NEWS BRIEFS

Informational Newsletter for Wyoming Hospitals

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May 11, 2012

WHA Calendar:

Joint Labor, Health, Social Services Committee Casper	5/31-6/1
Annual Meeting & Convention Little America Cheyenne	9/26-9/27

Other Events:

Western Regional Trustee Symposium Big Sky, MT	6/13-6/15
Western Region Flex Conference Park City, UT	6/14-6/15

Report From AHA Annual Meeting—Washington DC

The American Hospital Association held its annual conference in Washington D.C. this past week.

Wyoming hospitals were well represented among participants from across the country – Vickie Diamond, CEO at Wyoming Medical Center, and current WHA Board Chair, Eric Boley, CEO South Lincoln Medical Center, Ryan Smith, CEO at Converse County Memorial Hospital and Gary Trauner, COO at St. John’s Medical Center all attended with Dan Perdue and Neil Hilton from WHA.

The conference began on Sunday with an agenda of opening keynote speakers and a variety of breakout sessions. A special session with focus upon specific rural challenges covered the political and fiscal concerns regarding several key programs – including Critical Access Hospitals, as well as Medicare-dependent and Sole Community designated hospitals.

There were multiple occasions to voice concern regarding any unnecessary or reactionary determinations via CMS that would damage the viability of these im-

portant programs.

AHA leadership certainly received clear and consistent messaging from those of us representing rural states.

Monday’s schedule included a wide variety of political perspectives from several DC pundits from both sides of the political aisle.



Dan Perdue, Vickie Diamond and Ryan Smith

The balance of the 2012 calendar year will prove to be very interesting in determining the future landscape of healthcare reform.

Speculations regarding the upcoming determinations to be made by the U.S. Supreme Court and the dynamics of the campaign season ahead for the Presidency, as well as Congressional races were of obvious interest during the conference.

Several panel discussion sessions were very well attended throughout the confer-

ence, providing attendees the opportunity to participate in open forum dialogue with key leadership individuals.

Marilyn Tavenner, as Acting Administrator of CMS, led a very interesting discussion regarding the environment of policy and fiscal challenges facing Medicare and Medicaid.

Issues surrounding the long-term programmatic goals of both programs continue to weigh heavily in federal budget negotiations.

As the new Chairman of the AHA Board of Trustees, Teri Fontenot took active part in several forums as well. Ms. Fontenot is President/CEO of Women’s Hospital in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

The Wyoming attendees also took the opportunity to make scheduled visits to Senators John Barrasso and Mike Enzi, as well as Representative Cynthia Lummis.

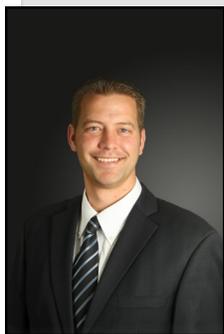
The discussions included their respective members of health policy staff and were productive in sharing common concerns and specific challenges facing hospitals in Wyoming.

WHA expresses its appreciation for those having made the time to attend this annual conference and will continue to facilitate timely contact with AHA leadership in appropriately addressing the issues present in the current agenda from Wyoming’s perspective.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



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



Ned Hill

3 Wyoming Hospitals Reach Final Level of EMR Adoption

Community Hospital in Torrington, Platte County Memorial Hospital in Wheatland, and Washakie Medical Center in Worland, all Banner Health facilities, have achieved Stage 7 the final stage in the adoption of electronic medical record (EMR) as acknowledged by HIMSS Analytics.

HIMSS is a wholly owned nonprofit subsidiary of the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society.

HIMSS Analytics monitors and recognizes levels of EMR adoption and meaningful use in hospitals in the United States, Canada and other countries.

Banner Health's Stage 7 hospitals are among only 82 hospitals in the nation at this top level of EMR use.

"While achieving HIMSS Stage 7 is an important organizational achievement, the most important beneficiaries are our patients," said Banner Health's Executive

Vice President/Chief Medical Officer John Hensing, M.D. "

In order to obtain the final stage in the EMR adoption, hospitals must be paperless and be able to share clinical information with other health care facilities, networks, clinics, employers, payers and patients.

At this stage, health care organizations also can store and analyze data to use to improve clinical outcomes and patient experience.

Memorial Hospital of Carbon County Names New CEO

The Board of Trustees of Memorial Hospital of Carbon County (MHCC) in Rawlins has appointed Ned Hill as the hospital's new chief executive officer.

Mr. Hill began working at MHCC on May 7.

Mr. Hill most recently served as chief operating officer for Medical Center of Southeastern Oklahoma in Durant, OK.

Hospital Board Chair Loren Simmitt said, "As I spoke with Ned and re-

viewed his qualifications, I was impressed with his ability to involve his entire team to handle tough challenges.

He is a firm believer in training and involving his staff to take the hospital to the next level. Quorum Health Resources (QHR) conducted a national search for this position, and worked closely with us to identify the right candidate for our hospital and community."

Prior to his position in Oklahoma, Mr. Hill has had 10 years of senior leadership

experience in the Western United States, and served as CEO for an Intermountain Healthcare hospital in Utah.

Mr. Hill received his Bachelor's degree in Behavioral Science and Health as well as his Master's degree in Public Administration/Health Service Administration at the University of Utah.

With family in the area, he and his wife and 4 children look forward to relocating to Rawlins.

Nomination Forms Available for WHA Awards

Nomination forms for the Norman S. Holt Award for Nursing Excellence and the Auxiliary of the Year have been mailed to each Wyoming hospital.

The Norman S. Holt Award for Nursing Excellence is presented annually to honor one outstanding nurse in Wyoming.

Each hospital may submit on candidate per year.

The Auxiliary of the Year is presented to a Wyoming hospital auxiliary to recognize their outstanding service.

All nominations must be received at the WHA office by July 2, 2012.

The Wyoming Hospital Association Annual Meeting and Convention is scheduled for September 26-27, 2012

at the Little America Hotel and Resort in Cheyenne.

The WHA PAC golf tournament is scheduled for September 25 in Cheyenne.

If you would like more information on the Norman S. Holt Award for Nursing Excellence or the Auxiliary of the Year, please contact the WHA office at 307-632-9344 or e-mail rose@wyohospitals.com

Wyoming Hospital Association

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