

NEWS BRIEFS

Informational Newsletter for Wyoming Hospitals

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May 18, 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**

DOH Planning for Budget Cuts, Working on Medicaid Study

Although the 2012 Wyoming Legislature filled a gaping hole in Medicaid funding and made the Department of Health 'whole' for the first year of the upcoming biennium, the Department is planning for significant potential cuts on the horizon.

The Department is already preparing for 4 percent required cuts, or about \$22 million, for state fiscal year 2014.

Additionally, however, the Department must plan for 8 percent cuts in the next biennium—a figure that could reach \$88 million in total reductions.

Those amounts represent state general fund dollars. Because the Medicaid program is a 50/50 match with the federal government, each dollar cut from the state's Medicaid program will result in an additional dollar reduction in federal Medicaid funding.

Department of Health Director Tom Forslund has said that health officials are reviewing each of the Department's 70 programs, as well as its five state facilities, to find opportunities to reduce costs.

However, Medicaid repre-

sents about 68 percent of the Department's budget.

Director Forslund has said that nothing is off the table at



this point with respect to developing a plan to deal with the budget shortfall. That plan is due to the Joint Interim Labor, Health,

and Social Services Committee and the Joint Appropriations Committee by the fall of 2012.

Meanwhile, the Department of Health is simultaneously working on a longer-term plan to reform the state Medicaid program.

That effort was mandated by the Legislature through the Medicaid Options Study it authorized in 2011.

While budget cuts necessitated by declining state revenues are immediate, the results of the options study should provide a roadmap for changes that can be made to the Medicaid program over time.

The options study is being conducted in three phases. The first phase is intended to identify the primary cost drivers in the Medicaid pro-

gram. Today, the most expensive aspects of the program, in order, are developmental disability waivers, hospitals, nursing homes, and physicians.

Department officials will present the results of the first phase of the study to the Joint Interim Labor, Health, and Social Services Committee at its meeting in Casper on May 31.

The second phase of the study—the development of options to address those cost drivers—will begin immediately following the committee meeting.

Provider groups and other stakeholders will have the opportunity during Phase II to provide specific suggestions for altering the Medicaid program to help reduce costs.

Finally, the Department will provide recommendations to the legislative committee at its meeting in Cheyenne in December.

Joint LHSS Committee Schedule

May 31– June 1	Casper
Sept. 6–7	Lovell
Oct. 8–9	TBD
Dec. 12–13	Cheyenne

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



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



Charlie Button

CCMS Celebrates Grand Opening of Expansion

Campbell County Memorial Hospital (CCMH) celebrated the Grand Opening of the Expansion last Friday. After almost three years of construction, the CCMH Expansion is about to open for employees, patients and visitors.

The \$68 million project began almost three years ago with the construction of a 284-space parking garage, which was completed in October 2010. The new helipad on the roof of the ambulance bay was finished in

March 2011 and includes access directly into the second floor of the hospital.

Visitor lobbies on the 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th floors of the hospital have also been remodeled.

The Grand Opening on May 18 showcased Phase 2 of the project; featuring a new Main Entrance and Lobby with a covered, climate-controlled walkway from the parking garage, a Coffee Shoppe, grand staircase to the Dining Room and private patient registra-

tion offices.

The highlight of this phase is four new surgery suites, two endoscopy suites and spacious outpatient surgery department with separate rooms for patients to prepare for, and recover from surgery in privacy.

The ground floor of the project houses a new Administrative suite, Human Resources, Information Systems and expansions to the kitchen and Plant Operations.

SVMC Announces New Chief Executive

The North Lincoln County Hospital District Board of Trustees has named Charlie Button as the new CEO and President of Star Valley Medical Center.

Mr. Button began his tenure as CEO on May 14.

He is transitioning from his role as CEO at Columbia County Health System in Dayton, Washington.

Mr. Button had served in that role for four years, and his leadership had resulted in significant growth and stability for the health system.

Prior to his work at Columbia County Health System, Mr. Button was CFO in hospitals in Alaska, Idaho, and Wisconsin.

He graduated from Oregon State University, and he

holds an MBA from Southern Oregon State University.

Mr. Button brings with him to Star Valley a strong passion for rural health, having served on the boards of the Washington Rural Health Association and the Association of Public Hospital Districts.

He has also been a member of the rural committee of the Washington State Hospital Association.

Perdue Named to Rural Hospitals Governing Council

Wyoming Hospital Association President Dan Perdue has been named to serve on the American Hospital Association's Small or Rural Hospitals Governing Council.

The AHA's Section for Small or Rural Hospitals ensures that the unique needs of this segment are a national priority.

Working side by side with state and regional associations and with counsel from its governing council, the Section monitors the issues and concerns facing its constituents, develops policy, and identifies solutions to their most pressing problems.

The AHA's Small or Rural Hospitals Section has more than 1,600 members.

To be a member, hospitals must have 100 or fewer beds, 4,000 or fewer admissions, or be located outside a Metropolitan Statistical Area.

The Section provides representation and advocacy, communication, education and management strategies, and collaboration with state associations.

Wyoming Hospital Association

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