



**Wyoming
Hospital
Association**

NEWS BRIEFS

Informational Newsletter for Wyoming Hospitals

Volume 46, Number 21

May 29, 2015

WHA Calendar:

WHA PAC Golf Tournament	9/1
WHA/Leading Age Annual Meeting & Convention Casper	9/2-9/3

Other Events:

Joint Labor Health and Social Services Committee Casper	6/8-6/9
Appropriations Committee Cheyenne	6/23-6/24

President's Message

This past month a delegation from Wyoming attended the AHA Annual Membership Meeting in Washington DC. We were treated to some great sessions including break out sessions for small/rural hospitals; Consumerism, Technology and You: How Hospitals Are Responding to a Changing World; Beyond Partisanship: Breaking Washington's Political Gridlock; How Changing Hospital Markets Benefit Consumers; Engaging Trustees and Communities in Redefining the H and many other timely topics.

We received updates on many important legislative topics and we were even treated to listen to World Champion Sugar Ray Leonard speak about his work with childhood diabetes.

Rick Schroeder was honored at the investiture ceremony as he commences his second term as the Chairman of the Wyoming Hospital Association Board of Directors.

Rich Umbdenstock gave his final address at these meetings as he prepares to retire from the AHA and Rick Pollack was announced as the new President of the American Hospital Association. I have really admired Rich and know he is looking forward to retirement. I also

think that Rick Pollack is a great choice to lead the AHA in the future and look forward to working with him.

Our delegation was able to make visits with aids for Representative Lummis and Senator Enzi and we all got to meet with Senator Barrasso. Our visits came right on the heels of the SGR fix, so they were all flying high.

We discussed the need to have reform with Meaningful Use, RAC reform, the two midnight rule, direct physician supervision and the 96 hour rule. Senator Barrasso had already signed on to a bill to get rid of the 96 hour rule. We encouraged them to sign on to bills to help us and all three agreed to take close looks at upcoming legislation to help us get relief from many of the other mandates.

We discussed the need to protect the critical access hospital program and the need to quit balancing the budget on the backs of hospitals.

The elephant in the room during our visit was King vs. Burwell. The outcome of this lawsuit will have a huge impact on the Affordable Care Act and if it goes in favor of King could create what many are calling the death spiral. Not a death spiral to the ACA but to the insurance exchanges and many of the insurance companies that offer their plans through the exchange. The Senate is working on a plan that would not eliminate the subsidies immediately, but would phase them out over time giving the market and states (like Wyoming) that are on the federal exchange the ability to adapt and make necessary changes. The ruling is expected by the end of June and it will be interesting to see what the courts decide.

I was appreciative having so many of our member hospitals represented in DC and encourage all members to consider attending the meeting next Spring.





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

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CRMC Transitional Care Unit Receives Five-Star Rating

Cheyenne Regional Medical Center's transitional care unit (TCU) has been given a top five-star rating by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) based on the overall quality of care it provides to patients.

CMS is the federal agency that sets and enforces standards for nursing homes and other long-term skilled nursing care facilities that receive payment under the Medicare or Medicaid programs.

The five-star rating is included in the U.S. News & World Report's consumer website Best Nursing Homes, which highlights the top nursing homes in each state and the District of Columbia.

Of the 38 nursing homes or long-term care facilities in Wyoming rated by CMS in 2015, eight earned a five-star rating.

CRMC's TCU is a 16-bed unit that provides transitional care for patients who need skilled nursing or other

supportive care before they return home. The unit cares for more than 400 patients each year. This is the third consecutive year that CRMC's TCU was awarded a five-star rating by CMS.

CMS bases its overall rating on how well a nursing home or long-term skilled care facility scores in three separate categories: quality of medical care, state-conducted health inspections and how much time nurses spend with residents or patients.

Congress Urged to Maintain Limits Physician-Owned Hospitals

National hospital groups have urged Congress to oppose H.R. 2513, legislation that would loosen current restrictions on the growth of physician-owned hospitals.

"By steering their most profitable cases to facilities they own, physician-owners inflate health care costs and drain essential resources from community hospitals, which depend on a balance of services and patients to provide indispensable treatment, such as behavioral

health and trauma care," the organizations wrote. "Since the bipartisan Medicare Modernization Act of 2003, Congress has supported ending these egregious and costly arrangements.

However, H.R. 2513 would allow countless new arrangements of this type to proliferate.

This would be a giant step backwards for patients, taxpayers, employers and community hospitals. For these reasons, we urge you

to oppose H.R. 2513."

In addition to the American Hospital Association, signers of the letter include America's Essential Hospitals, the Association of American Medical Colleges, Catholic Health Association of the United States, Children's Hospital Association, Federation of American Hospitals, Premier healthcare alliance, and VHA Inc.

Nursing Workforce Conference June 10-12 - Denver

The Vanderbilt University Center for Interdisciplinary Health Workforce Studies is partnering with The National Forum of State Nursing Workforce Centers, to host their 2015 Annual Conference at The Grand Hyatt in downtown Denver, Colorado, June 10-12.

This conference focuses

on the "State of the Nursing Workforce in an Era of Health Care Reform: Data, Trends, and New Collaborations."

The conference will bring together nursing, health care, and workforce research leaders from across the country to discuss important issues and insights, develop key objectives and strategic

planning related to the current and future nursing workforce and the impact of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) on the workforce.

For more information, please visit the Center's website at www.healthworkforcestudies.com or to register, go to www.nursingworkforcecenters.org.