

NEWS BRIEFS

Informational Newsletter for Wyoming Hospitals

Volume 47, Number 15

May 6, 2016

WHA Calendar:

WHA Board of Directors Meeting Cody, WY	5/18
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WHA CEO/Trustee Educational Program Cody, WY	5/19
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Other Events:

LeadingAge Wyoming Spring Meeting Cody, WY	5/17-5/18
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President's Message

It's been a very busy month with the first Joint Labor, Health and Social Services Committee hearing being held in Casper, followed by the AHA Annual Convention in DC. There are a lot of topics that were discussed at both meetings, with a lot of good information shared.

The JLC meeting agenda was very large and included many topics during the two day session. While there was lengthy discussion about each item on the agenda, the meeting started off with a somber report from the DOH that due to a worsening state budget the Department had been instructed to cut another \$117 million, which compounded with the federal match will actually equate to close to a \$200 million cut. I believe many times the DOH is told to do things without those giving instruction really thinking about the true cost when federal matches are included.

There was no real clear direction from Director Forslund on where the cuts would be made and what we can expect as providers. The directive had just been communicated and the DOH hadn't had time to sit down and begin their arduous task. We'll do our best to be involved in their decision making and let you know what is happening.

During the JLC, Title 25

and mental and behavioral health was a topic that took a great deal of time. The Joint Task Force has been reauthorized for another year and the JLC will be watching their work. Representatives from the local mental and behavioral health centers were there to talk about their plans to try and meet our needs as gate keepers and to discuss their ability to be more involved in directed outpatient treatment. There is still a long way to go and a lot of changes needed to make the Title 25 program function well in Wyoming. There are a couple of pilot programs starting in Natrona and Fremont counties.

The other agenda item that was of particular interest was the licensing application process and timeliness and responsiveness of the DOH. As many of you know, there have been problems over the years with plan review and approval. We have been proactive and have met with the DOH many times regarding these issues, including a big meeting with Director Forslund and Heather Babbit a couple of years ago in Casper. Since then, the DOH has made many internal changes to try and be more efficient and to communicate better with us and our facilities. From my perspective, there has been marked improvement, alt-

hough there are still problems and bugs to be worked out. Another bright spot is that there has been turnover in the staff at the DOH that does plan review and I think some of the obstructionist behavior has been removed.

I testified that I would like to continue to work collaboratively with the DOH and try to solve the remaining problems without legislative intervention or involvement and the JLC agreed to allow us to do this on our own. With that said, I have a great relationship with Pat Davis and Heather Babbit and feel like I can act as mediator to help resolve many of the problems and to expedite plan reviews, but I can only intercede and help if you make me aware of problems. Please let me know early and often if you are experiencing problems so that I can get to work on them quickly and before they turn in to major and expensive problems. I would really rather try to work with the DOH on our own as opposed to getting the legislature involved.

The AHA Annual Convention was excellent this year with a great deal of focus on the upcoming election cycle and what it could mean to healthcare.

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President's Message (continued)

There were breakout sessions regarding cyber-security, health plan consolidation and the small and rural get together to talk about redefining the H. We were unable to make any visits to our

Congressmen and Woman because they were on recess, although I did have a nice visit with Jay Eberle from Senator Barrasso's office. The general consensus from the AHA is that we need to continue to work hard but there is a great deal of un-

certainty until the election is over. With Rick Pollack at the head of the AHA there are changes taking place and I have confidence in his ability to help us negotiate the new environment of delivering care as we move forward in to the future.



SMH to Participate in Billings Clinic Residency Program



The Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust announced two grant awards made to Billings Clinic totaling \$4.3 million. One award will be used to fund the Helmsley Rural Healthcare Scholars program and the other will support a rural rotation program that involves Sheridan Memorial Hospital (SMH).

SMH recently entered into an agreement with the Billings Clinic Internal Medicine Residency program to provide their internal medicine physician residents with a rural rotation experience. Sheridan Memo-

rial Hospital and Livingston Healthcare in Montana are the only two hospitals participating in the rural rotation program.

The primary goal of the Internal Medicine Rural Rotations Project is to broaden the physician residents experience and training in a rural setting. One of the things that make Sheridan Memorial Hospital particularly attractive is that its Big Horn Mountain Medicine Internal Medicine practice functions under a hybrid model in which physicians care for their patients in both the hospital and clinic set-

tings using a Core Team Model approach.

"This is the best way to expose new physicians to the unique aspects of practicing rural medicine and a great opportunity for them to experience our hospital and community," stated Mike McCafferty, CEO of Sheridan Memorial Hospital.

The internal medicine physician residents who will come to SMH for this rural rotation have already graduated from medical school and will be in their advanced training stages (either 2nd or 3rd year of residency).

HIPAA Enforcement, Business Associates and Breach Notification

HealthInsight, Health Technology Services, a department of Mountain-Pacific Quality Health, HealthIE Nevada and HIPAA One® have teamed up to help you face the challenges of HIPAA compliance by offering a HIPAA Privacy and Security Solutions webinar series.

The intention with this webinar series is to not only teach what you need to know about HIPAA but, also, what you need to do about HIPAA.

The May HIPAA Enforcement, Business Associates and Breach Notification webinar is designed to update HIPAA privacy and security officers and administrators on the latest HIPAA enforcement activities and to educate them on requirements for managing business associates and breach notification.

The webinar is **Tuesday, May 10, 2016 from 1 to 2 pm MDT**

The agenda includes

- Updates and infor-

mation regarding Office for Civil Rights enforcement

- Introduction to managing business associates
- Introduction to breach notification requirements .

The featured speaker is Mark Norby is a Certified HIPAA Professional with more than 13 years of HIPAA and health care IT experience.

To register go to: <https://goo.gl/q19e7H>

Wyoming Hospital Association

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