



NEWS BRIEFS

Informational Newsletter for Wyoming Hospitals

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June 12, 2015

WHA Calendar:

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

Other Events:

Appropriations Committee Cheyenne	6/23-6/24

President's Message

The first interim meeting of the Joint Labor, Health and Social Services Committee was held this past week in Casper. The first half day of the two day session was devoted to the hospital study. The survey that 14 of our 27 members completed was presented by LSO staff as well as a report compiled by the LSO legal staff regarding our hospitals responsibility to provide care to all comers. There has been some question as to whether or not we really need to provide care to anyone that walks through our doors and I think that question has finally been put to bed....we do need to care for anyone that presents to our emergency room, despite their ability to pay.

A lengthy discussion was had regarding some of the survey results and much time was spent educating legislators on cost reports which were used by those compiling the report for the committee. Ideas were discussed regarding finding innovative ways to deliver primary care in a more cost effective and efficient manner, including a grant program to start some experimental programs in some of our communities.

A lengthy discussion was held regarding physician owned hospitals and the need to level the playing field. I encouraged a discussion about reenacting the Certificate of

Need. We also had a long conversation about King vs. Burwell and the concern hospitals have of their patients who now have coverage losing their insurance if King wins the case. The decision is expected at the end of the month and there really is no plan at this point, from a state perspective, on what the state will do in the event that King does win. The second day of testimony at the JLHSS meeting the state insurance commissioner spent time on this subject and was told to wait and see what happens with the case.

I believe for all intents and purposes that Medicaid expansion is a dead issue for this session. The JLHSS committee is not even discussing expansion nor is there a plan from the Department of Health or the Governor's office to work on this issue during the interim. The plight of our hospitals and the amount of uncompensated care is still a huge issue and much of the discussion during the committee meeting was spent understanding the numbers.

I was told after the legislative session this Spring that there were legislators that didn't believe the figures that were used during testimony. They didn't believe that we deliver over \$100 million of uncompensated care each year and that is just our costs. The

report presented by the LSO validated those figures, so I'm hopeful that the legislators that doubted our numbers will realized this is a problem and believe the figures now that they came from their own staff and not us.

We are going to be working with the JLHSS committee to draft legislation this year to limit free standing ERs from being built unless they are affiliated with a Wyoming hospital. With the emphasis the AHA is putting on redefining what the "H" stands for and with some hospitals around the country downsizing to just an ER, we want to ensure that the legislation will not hamper the ability of some of our hospitals, if they choose that a free standing ER in their community is all that is needed and decide to convert to that model of care.

I also had conversation with Senator Craft from Sweetwater County about helping pass legislation that would allow memorial hospitals to be able to borrow money without county commission approval. She is very keen on this and I would welcome member feedback on this issue as we work on draft legislation.

Keep up the good work. Our state is blessed to have you, your staff and your facilities serving your communities.



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



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Johnson County Hospital Named One of the Top CAH

The 20 highest ranked critical access hospitals (CAHs) in the country, as determined by iVantage Health Analytics, were recently announced by the National Rural Health Association (NRHA).

The determining factors for the Top 20 CAHs were based on 10 indices of strength including competitive strength, competitive intensity, market size and growth, population risk, cost, charge, quality, outcomes, patient perspectives, and financial stability. This

elite group was selected from iVantage's Top 100 CAH list, which was released earlier this month.

Sixty "best practice" designations were also given to facilities that have achieved success in one of three key areas of performance, based on iVantage's tabulation:

- Quality index: A rating of hospital performance based on the percentile rank across the five categories of the company's Hospital Compare process of care measures.
- Patient perspective index:

A rating of hospital performance based on the percentile rank on two Hospital Compare HCAHPS measures ("overall rating" and "highly recommend").

- Financial stability index: A rating of hospital performance based on the percentile rank on a set of balance sheet and income statement financial ratios.

Johnson County Healthcare Center in Buffalo is this year's winner of the Best Practice Recipient for Financial Stability.

2015 Wyoming Safety and Workforce Summit

A compelling lineup of speakers will be featured at the third annual Wyoming Safety and Workforce Summit on June 24-25 at the Little America Hotel and Resort in Cheyenne.

The summit is a tool for business owners and managers, human resource managers, workforce development specialists, training providers, administrators at all levels and workers looking to improve their safety skills and overall on-the-job per-

formance.

The June 24 evening banquet will recognize Wyoming employers who have demonstrated a strong safety culture and excellence in safety and health programs. Recognition will also go to Wyoming employers and individuals who have made exceptional contributions to improving the skills and abilities of Wyoming's workers.

More than 70 breakout sessions will be offered this

year such as Workforce Development; Hard-Wiring Employee Engagement; Workplace Safety; Weather Emergency Preparedness; Does Your Workplace Have a Plan To Respond to a Violent Intruder? Plus many more.

Please visit wyoming-workforce.org or call (307) 777-8716 for information on sponsorship opportunities, or to register.

Nursing and Volunteer Nominations Due July 1

Nominations are due by July 1 for the Norman S. Holt Award for Nursing Excellence.

Each Wyoming hospital may submit one candidate per year with the individual institution determining its own method of nominating and selecting their candidate.

Nominations are also due by July 1 for the Auxiliary of the Year Award.

The award recognizes the outstanding volunteer service of an auxiliary to enhance the hospital's services.

To be eligible, the auxiliary must be a member of the Wyoming Healthcare

Volunteer Organization.

All application forms may be sent to the Wyoming Hospital Association at 2005 Warren Avenue, Cheyenne, WY 82001, fax 307-632-9347 or e-mail rose@wyohospitals.com.