

NEWS BRIEFS

Informational Newsletter for Wyoming Hospitals

Volume 43, Number 27

July 12, 2013

WHA Calendar:

Paying for Healthcare: Finding the Right Incentives Casper	7/18
Healthcare Leadership Training	7/26
WHA Board Meeting	8/1

Other Events:

Judiciary Committee Lusk	7/19
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HHS Announces \$150M to Enroll Uninsured Americans

As the Obama administration delays a key part of the Affordable Care Act -- the requirement that businesses provide affordable insurance to employees -- it is moving aggressively on the requirement that all Americans buy health insurance or else pay a penalty.

On Wednesday, Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius announced \$150 million in grant awards to 1,159 health centers across the nation to enroll uninsured Americans in Obamacare's new insurance coverage options.

Four health centers in Wyoming have been awarded \$314,232 in grant money.

The health centers are expected to use the money to hire an additional 2,900 "outreach and eligibility assistance workers," who will help millions of people nationwide enroll in affordable health insurance.

Specifically, the health centers will help consumers understand their coverage options in the new health insurance exchanges/marketplaces, as well as the options available under Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program.

The outreach workers also will help people determine their eligibility and what financial help they can get; and

help sign them up.

"Investing in health centers means that people in neighborhoods and towns across the country have one more resource to help them understand their insurance options and enroll in affordable coverage," Sebelius said in a news release.

HHS says health centers serve 21 million patients annually and "have a long history of providing eligibility assistance to patients" in addition to delivering primary health care services.

The money is going to health centers in all 50 states, and the grant awards come in addition to the "Navigator" program, which is also getting taxpayer money to help people understand their options under Obamacare.

The announcement is part of the administration's broader effort to make applying for health coverage as easy as possible, HHS said.

"Health centers are excited to help individuals in their communities take advantage of the benefits of new health insurance coverage options that start January 2014," said Mary Wakefield, head of HHS' Health Resources and Services Administration.

Last week, the Obama administration announced it would delay for one year the law's requirement that busi-

nesses with more than 50 full-time employees provide affordable insurance to their workers or face hefty fines.

Republicans, and even some Democrats, said the Executive Branch cannot change the law without congressional action.

And many Republicans say the individual mandate, not just the employer mandate, should be delayed or scrapped.

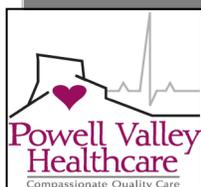
The Wall Street Journal reported on Wednesday that the Obama administration decided to delay the employer mandate by one year because it was unprepared to implement that part of the law.

Among other things, Obamacare requires companies with at least 50 full-time workers to report to the IRS how many employees they have, how much those employees earn, and how much they're paying for health insurance premiums.

But according to the Wall Street Journal, the systems for reporting that information to the government have not been set up, nor have the rules for setting up those systems been issued.

Wyoming residents can get information about applying for coverage through the HealthCare.gov website.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



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

Mountain-Pacific
Quality Health Wyoming

WYOMING QUALITY CONFERENCE:
Reaching Your Peak Performance
A FREE Learning & Action Networking Opportunity

Extra up to 1.5 CEU's provided by the Wyoming Hospital Association.

7:30AM-5:00PM
August 21 & 22, 2013
Best Western Ramkota Hotel
800 N. Poplar Street
Casper, WY

Wyoming Hospital Association

2005 Warren Ave.
Cheyenne, WY
82001

www.wyohospitals.com

307.632.9344

Powell Volunteers Celebrate 30 Years of Service

Back in 1983, two service organizations formed in Powell to support the growing health care services in the community.

These organizations, the Powell Medical Foundation and Powell Valley Healthcare Volunteers Services, are celebrating 30 years of service.

The Powell Hospital Auxiliary was formed in late 1982 to provide the Lifeline Home Monitoring System. Today the organization is

called Powell Valley Healthcare Volunteer Services, and it owns an services up to 130 Lifeline home units.

Volunteers continue to support community blood drives with United Blood Services and serve in many other ways—educational scholarships, gift shop, plant care and front desk greeters to name a few.

The Powell Medical Foundation began in 1983 with a \$10,000 donation

from First National Bank.

In 1985, the Foundation funded its first project—a new computer for the intensive care unit in the hospital.

Since that time, the Powell Medical Foundation has funded many projects within the hospital and care center.

In 2010, the foundation acquired a \$408,000 grant from the Leona M. & Harry B Helmsley Charitable Trust.

2nd Annual Wyoming Quality Conference

The 2nd Annual Wyoming Quality Conference will be held August 21 & 22 at the Bester Western Ramkota Hotel, Casper, WY.

“Reaching Your Peak Performance” will feature such topics as:

- Care Transitions
- Reducing Antipsychotic Drug Use in Dementia Care
- Preventative Health

- Reducing Adverse Drug Events

This is a free conference, including breaks and lunch. Registration is required to due to limited space. Please register online at www.uwyo.edu/geriatrics.

CEU's will be offered. Contact Pat Fritz, Conference Coordinator at 307-568-2797 or pfritz@wyqio.sdps.org.

This material was prepared by Mountain-Pacific Quality Health, the Medicare quality improvement organization for MT, WY, HI and AK, under contract with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), an agency of the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. Contents presented do not necessarily reflect CMS policy. 10SOW-MPQHF-WY-AA-13-03

Senator Enzi on Medicare “doc fix”

The Obama Administration should pay more than lip service to bipartisan ideas on how to make sure doctors get paid to care for Medicare patients, according to U.S. Senator Mike Enzi, R-Wyo.

The Medicare program reimburses physicians who provide care for roughly 40 million seniors by using the payment mechanism known as the Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR). Unless Congress intervenes to ensure

more predictable payments to physicians, seniors' care choices could be limited as fewer providers accept Medicare patients.

Enzi told Jonathan Blum, Deputy Administrator at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, that the Administration has continually wasted opportunities to work with others to solve the problem.

“The Administration elected not to fix the SGR when we were doing the

Affordable Care Act. The president promised a ‘doc fix’ in the state of the union speech when we were considering his reform package. He promised tort reform too. Neither showed up in the bill,” Enzi said.

Blum, who appeared before the Senate Finance Committee today, said the Administration has put forward numerous proposals to fix the problem and was willing to work with others to find a solution.