

# NEWS BRIEFS

Informational Newsletter for Wyoming Hospitals

Volume 43, Number 32

August 16, 2013

## WHA Calendar:

WHA PAC Golf Tournament Sheridan	<b>9/17</b>
WHA Annual Meeting & Convention Sheridan	<b>9/18- 9/19</b>

## Other Events:

2nd Annual Quality Conference Casper	<b>8/21- 8/22</b>
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## Wyoming Medicaid Hosts Long-Term Care Redesign Session

The Wyoming Department of Health (WDH) conducted a day long Long-Term Care Redesign stakeholder session this week in Cheyenne.

As background for this meeting, WDH engaged this event as the result of a year-long effort to begin preparing our long-term care system for redesign and change.

As the largest payer for long-term care services in the state, Wyoming Medicaid has an interest in the strength of the system, the quality of services citizens receive, and the sustainability of the provider network.

As the population needing these services and supports continues to grow, the system will be strained to keep up with demand unless changes are made to prepare for the influx of new clients.

Senate Enrolled Act 82 from the 2013 Legislative Session requires the Department of Health, to the extent practical, to implement a number of reforms to Medicaid long-term care services that serve Wyoming's older adult and physically disabled populations.

These reforms include removing caps on the long-term care and assisted living facility waivers, development of an appropriate new medical necessity assessment tool,

and redesigning nursing facility reimbursements to reflect patient acuity, percentage of Medicaid occupancy, and regional economic factors.

To implement these reforms within a broader framework, WDH has added another component of focus to look at improving the coordination of services across the Medicaid system.

WDH Director Tom Forslund opened the stakeholder meeting with an overview of the intent of the redesign project, then turning to Jesse Springer, as Medicaid Special Projects Manager, to present details reports that have been prepared from consultant engagement as well as in-house WDH staff.

Stacey Obrecht and Melissa Erickson presented the initial findings that have been conducted via their consultant firm, Public Knowledge.

Their work has involved researching other states, visiting and surveying provider, and planning the basic framework for this project.

Additional facility assessment has also been recently conducted by Xerox Care and Quality Solutions, with Frank Spinelli presenting these findings as part of the morning's agenda.

This assessment included

on-site reviews at nursing facilities across Wyoming, in addition to the broader system including home health agencies, adult day care, assisted living facilities and senior centers – to explore current service delivery levels and gaps in availability of services.

All of these constituencies were present among the crowd of 120+ participating in this meeting.

The afternoon called for four separate breakout sessions, with specific strategies and tactics to be determined in each of the following areas of interest:

- Full Medicaid System Integration
- Medical Necessity Assessment (LT101)
- Barriers to Home and Community-based care
- Nursing Facility Rate Redesign

The Department of Health is very appreciative of the excellent participation in this initial Medicaid redesign meeting and the thoughtful input and feedback that has been offered by all providers and community stakeholders.



## Medical Center Completes Donor Wall

Star Valley Medical Center (SVMC) has installed a donor wall to recognize contributors to the Star Valley Medical Center.

“The donor wall was established on behalf of the Star Valley Medical Center Foundation, Board and Administration as way to recognize those who have shown their support through gifts and donations,” said Joel Johnson, SVMC Foundation Executive Director.

“The goal of the wall is twofold. First, to thank those who have donated and second to hopefully spur visitors to the medical center to consider donating to help support our continued growth and success.

Some donors do not want public recognition and we support that, but it’s also nice to be publically recognized for helping to make a difference in your community such as by contributing to the SVMC Charitable Foundation.”

SVMC continues to offer many different educational opportunities within the community,” he said.

“These programs provide a chance to learn about our services, other health care services in the area/state, and wellness tips to care for themselves,” he said.

Participating in health care classes and programs is a great way to become involved in what’s happening at Star Valley Medical Center, Johnson said.

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

## Diamond Honored as One of 10 'Women of Influence'

At the first Women of Influence Award Luncheon, the Wyoming Business Report recognized 10 women for their outstanding contributions to their respective business fields.

About 300 people attended the inaugural event at the Little America in Cheyenne.

A panel chose 25 finalists out of an initial list of 61 nominees.

The “Health Care” category winner was Vickie Diamond, Wyoming Medical Center, President and CEO.



## New Health Insurance Marketplace – Informational Updates

Open enrollment for the new Health Insurance Marketplace is quickly approaching, as scheduled to be unveiled October 1st. Consumers can access the information they need to understand their insurance plan options, apply for coverage, and enroll in a health insurance plan for coverage that will go into effect beginning January 1, 2014.

The marketplace will give millions of Americans who are currently uninsured, or who buy coverage on their own, a new way to shop for private health plans. For the first time, citizens will be able to access information from one

source to learn about their health insurance options and make side-by-side comparisons of private insurance plans’ benefits, quality, and price.

As the early enrollment period approaches, multiple opportunities for information and updates are being posted by a variety of organizations and related entities, both public and private sources.

Most notably for hospitals, the American Hospital Association has just announced a special conference call scheduled for Tuesday, August 27 at 1:00MT to provide such an update and give the AHA perspective. Member hospi-

tals are encouraged to take this opportunity to share strategies and concerns about outreach and enrollment initiatives, as these considerations are at hand nationwide.

The call will include review of resources available through “Enroll America”, presentation by several state hospital associations about the materials and strategies they’ve developed to prepare their members for the open enrollment period – and learn what additional resources from AHA or HHS would be helpful for hospitals to assist with outreach and enrollment efforts.

The August 27 call can be accessed at (800)247-5110, passcode 15804.

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