



# NEWS BRIEFS

Informational Newsletter for Wyoming Hospitals

Volume 48, Number 24

June 30, 2017

## FAQs Regarding the Better Care Reconciliation Act American Hospital Association

### WHA Calendar:

<b>WHA Annual Meeting Sheridan</b>	9/20-9/21
<b>WHA Golf Tournament Buffalo, WY</b>	9/19

### Other Events:

<b>Annual Wyoming Quality Conference Casper</b>	8/9-8/10
<b>LeadingAge Wyoming Annual Meeting Sheridan</b>	9/20-9/21

### 1. What parts of the Senate bill are most concerning for patients and hospitals?

Loss of health coverage has been the most urgent concern. Hospitals and health systems see the effects of lack of insurance in our emergency departments.

The two main objectives to the Senate bill are deep cuts to Medicaid and cuts to health insurance subsidies. The Senate bill inflicts devastating cuts to Medicaid, resulting in the loss of coverage for tens of millions of our most vulnerable, particularly children, the elderly and disabled.

The Senate bill does provide a few extra years in the Medicaid repeal transition, but it arrives at an even worse place in the later years.

On insurance subsidies, the Senate bill results in products covering less of the costs of insurance, making it more expensive for patients.

- Current law sets the actuarial value of insurance – a measure of the total average costs a plan will cover – on the exchange at 70 percent of such costs. The Senate bill reduces it to 58 percent.
- This shifts significant out-of-pocket costs to the patient. This is a low-income population; many will be unable to afford copays

and deductibles under the Senate bill.

The Senate bill makes age a factor in health insurance subsidy amounts for premium costs.

- It nearly doubles the amount 60-64 year olds must pay in premiums after getting a subsidy (from 9.69 percent of income under current law, to 16.2 percent of income).
- Also, their insurance can now cost 5 times more than what younger individuals pay (Senate retains this from House bill; current law is 3 times).
- Premiums alone will cost 16.2 percent of their income, and copays and deductibles are far higher (as actuarial value cut from 70 to 58 percent).

### 2. What changes would be made to Medicaid under the health bills in Congress?

Under the Affordable Care Act (ACA), states could expand the populations covered under Medicaid. The Senate and House bills would change the way the federal government pays its share of Medicaid costs, setting a per-person limit on spending that would adjust annually for inflation. The bills would end the ACA's

Medicaid expansion and would make deep cuts to program funding by setting this annual inflation rate for Medicaid far below actual costs to providers.

### 3. What are the key changes needed to the Senate bill?

- Eliminate the reductions to Medicaid funding and maintain the full federal match for the Medicaid expansion population.
- Allow non-expansion states to come to parity with states that expanded.
- Use waivers with safeguards for coverage and payment as the preferred method to provide flexibility to states rather than per-capita caps or block grants with government set pricing below the actual cost of providing care.
- Increase the available tax credits and better target assistance to those who need it.
- Maintain the federal essential health benefit standards.
- Restore the hospital payment reductions so hospitals have the resources they need to care for the newly uninsured.





Charlie Button

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

**Wyoming Hospital Association**

**2005 Warren Ave.  
Cheyenne, WY  
82001**

**[www.wyohospitals.com](http://www.wyohospitals.com)**

**307.632.9344**

## Charlie Button Steps Down as CEO

In a letter distributed to SVMC staff, Button said "I will be moving on to advance my career with another hospital. It was a very difficult decision to make because of the great people that are here in Star Valley. I feel extremely blessed to be able to have led Star Valley Medical Center and to experience this great community."

"Thank you for welcoming our family into your community five years ago. The people and beautiful valley will be deeply missed."

Bob Saunders, Chair of the Board, assures the community that "the medical center will continue to provide compassionate quality care and progress towards the outlined strategic goals of Star Valley Medical Center throughout this transi-

tion."

The board unanimously voted to conduct the search through SVMC's Human Resource Department rather than employ an outside company. A search committee will be formed and will include board members, administrative and medical staff, and other community members. Mike Hunsaker, COO of SVMC, will serve as the interim CEO.

## Norman S. Holt Award for Nursing Excellence

In 1983, the Wyoming Hospital Association Board of Directors, in honor and memory of Norm Holt, established the Norman S. Holt Award for Nursing Excellence due to his tremendous understanding and active involvement with the nursing profession.

The award is presented annually at the Wyoming Hospital Association Convention to honor one

outstanding nurse in Wyoming.

Each Wyoming hospital is allowed to submit one candidate per year. The individual institution is responsible for determining its own method of nominating and selecting the candidate who will be submitted for further consideration.

It is imperative to remember that every R.N. and L.P.N., regardless of position, should be considered

an eligible candidate .

The recipient of the award will receive a complimentary registration to the 2017 WHA Annual Meeting and Convention, including travel expenses, a recognition plaque and a monetary award.

This year's meeting will be held September 20-21 in Sheridan.

All applications for this year's award must be received no later than July 15, 2017.

## Hospital Auxiliary Award

An award to recognize the outstanding volunteer service of a hospital auxiliary will be awarded during the Annual Wyoming Hospital Association (WHA) Convention.

The WHA Board feels all auxiliaries work together providing a concerted effort on behalf of the auxiliary to enhance the hospital's services.

We would like to receive your entry this year

for the "Outstanding Auxiliary" award. Nominations may be made by the chief executive officer, the staff person responsible for volunteer programs or the hospital auxiliary. The winner will be selected by qualified judges.

Any WHA member hospital auxiliary is eligible for the award.

Each institution is responsible for determining its own method of nominating and selecting the program /

project that its auxiliary performed that warrants consideration for the award.

The recipient of the award will be announced at the Wyoming Hospital Association Annual Convention to be held in Sheridan.

All nominations must be received by July 15, 2017.

If you have any questions, please call 307-632-9344.