

NEWS BRIEFS

Informational Newsletter for Wyoming Hospitals

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WHA Board Chairman/ President Attend Policy Forum



**George Sigounas
HHS Administrator**

As the debate in the Senate heated up in DC, WHA Board Chairman, Ryan Smith and WHA President, Eric Boley attended the second annual AHA Rural Hospital Policy Forum. They heard from Senator Chuck Grassley of Iowa, who is a champion of rural healthcare in our country and has helped pass legislation to protect rural healthcare.

Attendees also heard from AHA President Rick Pollack and Vice President Tom Nickels regarding the ACA repeal and replace efforts.

Protecting coverage for those that have gained insurance and the changes to Medicaid were of course huge concerns.

George Sigounas, Administrator of HHS and Tom Morris, Associate Administrator for HRSA were also presenters and spoke about their willingness and efforts to try work with providers to ease regulatory burdens and to find solutions moving forward. The AHA prepared a list of rural regulatory advocacy items that the WHA delegation took and presented to Senators Barrasso and Enzi and Rep. Cheney.

Suffering through a heat index of 106 degrees, Smith and Boley were able to meet with Wyoming law makers on Capitol Hill. As opposed to saying no to everything that Congress is trying to do with the ACA, the approach was to offer solutions. Senators

Barrasso and Enzi explained the work they had done to try and get additional funding to the state of Wyoming through changes to the DSH program. These changes would benefit Wyoming and the providers here to the tune of over \$100 million over several years. There would also be an estimated \$16 million a year in federal funds paying for IHS claims at 100% , adding money back in to the general fund. Boley and Smith thanked the senators for the positives but also explained there were still real concerns about affordable and sustainable coverage issues and fear of changes to the Medicaid program.

A great deal of time was spent expressing the need to get regulatory relief. With President Trump’s directive to help ease the burden of excessive rules and regulations, the WHA expressed the need to have a permanent solution to the 96 hour rule, the direct supervision rule and relief from stage 3 meaningful use. The conversation also centered on how ineffective the HITECH Act has been and the billions of dollars that have been cycled through the system without true interoperability and transformation. Medicare and Medicaid extenders was also discussed at length but the strongest message delivered was the need to keep

the Critical Access Hospital program intact and that the 2% reduction the program took during sequestration years ago needs to be restored to keep Wyoming CAHs solvent. The need to keep the 340b program functioning, without the changes that are being considered and the financial impact that program has had in allowing facilities to deliver better care and offer services that could not be afforded without the program rounded out the key advocacy points delivered.

With so much riding on the decision the Senate will make in the upcoming few weeks and then the possible conference committee with the House, the timing of the congressional visit to Washington DC couldn’t have come at a better time. Members of the WHA are encouraged to continue to make your voices heard. Encourage your board members and your staff to reach out to Senator Barrasso, Senator Enzi and Representative Cheney. There is much at stake and the long term impact of the upcoming debate and decision is of great concern. No matter what, Wyoming hospitals will stand ready to serve their communities and to provide care to all that seek service and treatment.

WHA Calendar:

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



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



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West Park Hospital Receives Jeff Martin Gold Award

West Park Hospital has been awarded the Jeff Martin Gold Award for Excellence for eight consecutive years.

The Yellowstone Insurance Exchange, RRG - Risk Management Recognition Award is designed to recognize and reward exemplary hospitals for their efforts to enhance patient safety and overall safety for families, staff and the communities

served by Yellowstone member hospitals.

Best practices developed by the winning hospitals are made available to all Yellowstone member hospitals to the direct benefit of patients, families, and staff across the Yellowstone footprint.

“We are proud to receive this award recognizing WPH and our staff for our continuous commitment to Patient Safety and Care”

Our staff has done a great job implementing our post-operative cardiopulmonary treatment program insuring every patient is seen by our cardiopulmonary staff within 30 minutes of being admitted following surgery,” states West Park Hospital CEO, Doug McMillan.

This year the hospital won the award for putting in place a clear protocol to enhance post-operative cardiopulmonary treatment.

Patient Centered Medical Home Summit

The Wyoming Primary Care Association in partnership with the Wyoming Department of Health is offering the Patient Centered Medical Home Summit to engage all Health Centers and other primary care practices in the 2017 PCMH redesigned recognition process and standards.

This training will be facilitated by a nationally recognized PCMH expert, Shannon Nielson MHA, PCMH CCE of

Centerprise, Inc.

In addition, the State of Wyoming's Medicaid PCMH team will provide program updates on how your practice can benefit from participating in the PCMH PMPM program and the Wyoming Department of Health will provide a brief update on their related programs.

The Summit will be held at Little America in Cheyenne on September 12 & 13, 2017.

Whether your organiza-

tion is recognized under the various iterations of the NCQA PCMH standards, or not yet recognized; the training will cover the available options for NCQA PCMH recognition or renewal. Participants will understand how the 2017 concepts affect operations, the intent of each concept and how to put them into practice.

For questions about this opportunity please email Brenda Burnett of the WYPCA at brenda@wypca.org

WHA Silent Auction

The Wyoming Hospital Association PAC Silent Auction is just around the corner! The Silent Auction will be held during the Annual Meeting & Convention at the Sheridan Holiday Inn, Wednesday, September 20, 2017.

As you are all aware, advocacy is one of the main responsibilities of the Wyoming Hospital Associ-

ation. We have have done a tremendous job during the past several years in representing you and your organizations. Without your contributions to the PAC, our advocacy efforts will become more difficult.

You may help by donating item's for this year's auction. Last year we had a lot of great items that were donated from all around the

state and to showcase different Wyoming communities.

Those that participated seemed to really enjoy the new addition to the annual meeting. Several intense bidding wars took place and made the event even more fun.

To donate to this year's auction, please contact call 307-632-9344 or rose@wyohospitals.com