



Wyoming Hospital Association

NEWSBRIEFS

Informational Newsletter for Wyoming Hospitals

Save The Date

WHA Annual Meeting & Convention
September 5-6, 2018
Laramie, WY

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WHA Spring Trustee Educational Session



On May 17 hospital CEOs and trustees from all over the state met at The Inn at Lander in Lander, Wyoming for the WHA Spring Trustee Education Session. Based on evaluations and feedback the event was successful. Attendees heard from national experts, received legal ad-

vice and counsel and had the chance to interact and learn from a panel of seasoned board chairmen. Attendees also had the chance to participate in an open and frank discussion with a panel of state legislators, as well as meet gubernatorial candidate Sam Galeotos.

The day started with attendees hearing from Kurt Mosley, VP of Strategic Alliances at Merritt Hawkins and Staff Care. Kurt gave two presentations during the morning session beginning with the topic of poverty and uncompensated care, an issue all healthcare providers are facing across the nation and one with which Wyoming hospitals are constantly dealing. Kurt also gave a thought provoking presentation about the challenges of physician burnout including causes and discussion was had on innovative ideas to help combat this issue.

Both Chairmen from the Joint Labor, Health and Social Services Committee took part in the legislative panel. Senator Charles Scott

and Representative Eric Barlow were joined on the panel by Senator Cale Case and Representative Lloyd Larsen. The attendees were given the opportunity to discuss with the panel issues that hospitals are facing. Topics included the opioid epidemic, Medicare discrimination, the facilities task force and the plans for the two state facilities; the Wyoming State Hospital and the Wyoming Life Resource Center. An important conversation was had regarding looking at what other states have recently done with Medicaid expansion and considering similar models for Wyoming. Violence against healthcare workers was also discussed. The first Joint Labor, Health and Social Services Committee meeting agenda was reviewed as was a list of interim topics.

Brad Cave, a partner with Holland & Hart LLP presented to the attendees and gave ideas and counsel on recruiting new and qualified board members to serve as hospital trustees. He also talked about best practices for orientation and training of new board members, as well as expressing the need for ongoing training for seasoned board members. He talked about the importance of strong board by-laws and

policies and procedures that both dictate board conduct and protect boards as they are adhered to and utilized. Mr. Cave also moderated a panel discussion in which Dr. Lenox Baker, Mike Jones and Larry Parker participated. Dr. Baker serves on the board at Cody Regional Health. Mike Jones is the board chairman at SageWest and Larry Parker is on the board at Powell Valley Health. Their expertise and service were evident and allowed for the attendees to learn from some of the most seasoned trustees from around the state. Ideas were shared about getting the right people to run for board position and then tried and true methods for engaging those individuals once they joined the board. Experiences and ideas were shared for monthly board training in conjunction with monthly board meetings. The Best on Board program was discussed and highlighted as a good starting point for all trustees.

All the information from the spring meeting is available at the WHA website at www.wyohospitals.com.



Read News Briefs online at www.wyohospitals.com

Weston County Health Services Re-Dedication of Hospital



April 11, 2018 was a windy but sunny day in Newcastle during the Weston County Health Services Re-Dedication

Ceremony held in front of the completed building project.

The parking lot was filled with community members, past physicians and local politicians eager to celebrate the end of the two and a half year venture.

Weston County Health Services Chief Executive Officer Maureen Cadwell welcomed everyone to the ceremony. Behind the cornerstone a time capsule was placed with items from the Grand Lodge, information about the construction, a current staff list, and memorabilia from this time period. In addition, the time capsule from when the hospital was built in 1986 was also placed along with the 2018 time capsule items.

The residents of Weston County were thanked for the support they gave for the building project.

For words of encouragement and unwavering financial support the State of Wyoming Land and Investment Board, Governor Matt Mead, Secretary of State Ed Buchanan, State Auditor Cynthia Cloud, State Treasurer Mark Gordon, Superintendent of Public Instruction Jullian Balow were also acknowledged.

The program ended with a ribbon cutting with the Newcastle Area Chamber of Commerce Director Holly Borton and a pair of giant scissors.



Pregnancy Feature Added to Health App

With new features focused on pregnancy, the free health tracking and management mobile phone app offered by the Wyoming Department of Health has been updated to be a more useful tool for Wyoming families.

“Within the Family Health app, you can now switch from the ‘General Health’ view used for all

family members to a new, specialized ‘Pregnancy View’ for an expecting mom,” Bush said.

Specialty features added to the Family Health app for pregnant women include: Weekly and daily updates based on the baby’s due date; Tracking tools such as kick counter, weight tracker, due date calculator and baby boost; Milestones for each

trimester and postpartum based on clinical guidelines; and Personalized articles on pregnancy experiences.

The app can be downloaded by texting “Family” to 307-317-0819. More information about the free Family Health app is available from WDH at <https://health.wyo.gov/health-care-fin/medicaid/familyhealth/>.

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**Annual Goal
\$8500**

Senate Bill to Reauthorize Preparedness Clears Committee

The Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee today voted 22-1 to approve the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness and Advancing Innovation Act (S. 2852), legislation that would reauthorize the Hospital Preparedness Program and Public Health

Emergency Preparedness Program through 2023, among other provisions. Without reauthorization, the preparedness programs are set to expire Sept. 30.

In a letter yesterday to the committee, AHA expressed support for the bill's provision reauthorizing the HPP, but

urged the committee to increase the program's authorization level to at least \$515 million for fiscal years 2019 through 2023, which it called "a more appropriate level of investment in emergency preparedness as threats and risks continue to emerge."