

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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Legislative Joint Opioid Addiction Task Force

By Chrissy Suttles, Wyoming Tribune Eagle

Members of the Legislature's Joint Opioid Addiction Task Force held their first meeting in Riverton to discuss Wyoming prescription opioid abuse.

The temporary task force was established during this year's legislative session with Senate File 78.

The bill, sponsored by Sen. Eli Bebout, R-Riverton, was introduced with the goal of identifying excessive painkiller dependence in medical facilities throughout the state using existing prescription drug monitoring programs.

The task force addressed issues of opioid education in the state, working with health care providers, pharmacists and law enforcement to address significant improvement areas.

Members of the task force include: Bebout; Sen. Fred Baldwin, R-Kemmerer; Rep. Scott Clem, R-Gillette; Rep. Albert Sommers, R-Pinedale, and a number of statewide health care and law enforcement officials.

Opioids include illegal drugs such as heroin, synthetic opioids such as fentanyl, and pain relievers available by prescription such as oxycodone, hydrocodone, codeine and morphine.

During the meetings, members compiled more than two dozen recommendations to possibly include in future legislation.

A primary consideration was updating mandatory education for providers and dispensers.

"We discussed putting pressure on licensing boards to increase education about opioid addiction for doctors, physicians, nurse practitioners and pharmacists," said Clem.

The task force also outlined ways to better enforce the use of the state's Prescription Drug Monitoring Program and shorten prescription durations, while allowing state boards the authority to make exclusions in special circumstances.

"We would want to excuse palliative care hospice or inpatient surgery so doctors could use opioids," said Clem. "With these exceptions, we talked about limiting prescriptions to seven days for acute symptoms and 14 days for surgical operations.

Steve Woodson, director of the Wyoming Division of Criminal Investigation, outlined potential changes to child endangerment laws during a presentation, illustrating a need for increased penalties for opioid-related abuse or neglect cases.

Recent data from the University of Wyoming's Survey and Analysis Center indicates that opioid abuse - both prescription

and illicit - may be on the decline as related poisoning death rates stabilize.

Between 2014 and 2016, Wyoming averaged 42 overdose deaths from opioids. This number has remained mostly stagnant since 2012, and is well below the national average.

Sommers said he believes the group's role is less about establishing new laws and more about focusing on substance abuse treatment.

The task force will submit a preliminary summary to the Joint Labor, Health and Social Services Interim Committee, Joint Appropriations Committee, Management Council and the governor by Oct. 1, and a final report by Oct. 1, 2019. Per subsection, it will ultimately dissolve on Dec. 31, 2019.

"As we think about this, the opioid piece may pale in comparison to the meth piece, but it is all related," Clem said.

WHA Calendar

WHA Golf Tournament Laramie	9/4
WHA Annual Meeting & Convention Laramie	9/5-9/6

PAC CONTRIBUTORS 2018

**Irene Richardson
Heidi Baskfield
Barry Burkart
Wyo Behavioral Institute
Eric Boley
Doug Faus
Shelby Olind
Doug McMillan
Andy Fitzgerald
Margie Molitor
Ryan Smith
Mike McCafferty
Maureen Cadwell**

**Annual Goal
\$8500**

Iverson Memorial Hospital Launches New Website



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

Iverson Memorial Hospital is proud to announce the launch of their new website. Earlier this year, the hospital teamed up with Gridwork, LLC a web design company based in Seattle, WA to redesign the site.

"We believe that this new site will give our patients and families the access they need to find information about our exceptional service lines and providers," said Holly Zajic, Chief Operating Officer for Iverson Memorial

Hospital.

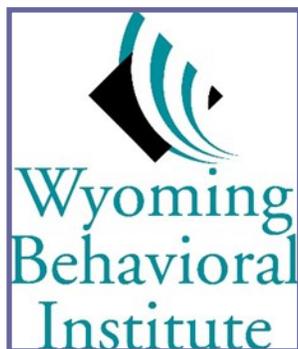
The goal of the redesign was to create a user-friendly experience enabling the ability to navigate quickly and easily in order to find the desired information. The innovative and responsive website includes: a provider directory, advanced search capabilities, a magazine quality blog, and a separate and integrated microsite for the IMH Foundation.

Users will notice the revised sitemap is more advanced compared to previous versions, with the home page

consisting of 3 basic ideas – patient care, our providers, and guest info.

"Our team was forward-thinking when they came up with the design concept. The focus was to improve the functionality for our mobile users and ease the burden on families who use advanced technologies to make informed healthcare decisions," said Zajic. "We invite you to take a look around and note the exciting changes that are occurring at Iverson."

WBI Benefit Raises \$8,300 for Iris Clubhouse



Wyoming Behavioral Institute funded and coordinated the second annual 5K/10K/Family Fun Run and Obstacle Course benefiting the Iris Clubhouse.

More than 100 people walked and ran in the event, which raised over \$8,400 for the Clubhouse, a community collaborative initiated locally about two years ago with support from WBI. The mission of Iris Clubhouse is to save lives, remove barriers,

and build success stories for people with mental illness through meaningful work and employment opportunities. Iris Clubhouse empowers people with mental illness to engage in meaningful, sustainable, and transformative community partnerships.

WBI has funded and coordinated Be Kind to Your Mind events to bring together mental health providers with other community partners to support the Clubhouse's success in the community.

Joe Gallagher, WBI's CEO, said he was impressed by the number of volunteer hours employees dedicated to planning and carrying out the event. Mr. Gallagher said, "I am proud to work with the many individuals employed at WBI are making a difference in the community. This event is great example of what Casper and WBI can do together and I look forward to seeing an even bigger Be Kind to Your Mind 2019."

\$313M Medicare Admin Contract Goes to Noridian



Noridian Healthcare Solutions has retained its contract to process Medicare claims and root out fraud on behalf of the CMS. The contract has one base year and six option years and is worth more than \$313 million, according to an award

notice.

The CMS chose Noridian to continue work as the Medicare administrative contractor for Alaska, Arizona, Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington and Wyoming, home to 3.1 million Medicare fee-for-service beneficiaries,

according to the CMS. More than 500 hospitals and 74,000 physicians are also under this contract

The contract's request for proposals process began in March 2017. Under the agreement, the company will provide Medicare claims processing and payment services.