



NEWSBRIEFS

Informational Newsletter for Wyoming Hospitals

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WHA Calendar

HFMA Fall Meeting Cody, WY	11/14-11/16
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Volunteer Health Services Program Offers Liability Option

A new program aims to support providers and facilities interested in offering volunteer healthcare services to low-income patients through a new legal liability option.

The creation of Wyoming’s Volunteer Health Services Program was approved earlier this year by the Wyoming Legislature.

“Many healthcare providers and facility operators may be concerned with legal liability for volunteer services,” said Sen. Tara Nethercott (R-04). “Those type of concerns should not be a barrier for someone who wants to share their expertise and time by offering needed medical help.”

The program allows licensed healthcare providers and medical facilities to provide volunteer services for low-income Wyoming residents while being protected from liability for medical negligence under the state’s sovereign immunity.

By entering into a contract with the state, volunteer providers are deemed public employees and facilities are deemed state medical facilities for purposes of what’s known

as the Wyoming Governmental Claims Act. “Any malpractice claim arising from uncompensated services rendered to eligible patients would be defended and paid by the state under the Governmental Claims Act,” said Tom Forslund, Wyoming Department of Health director.

Any healthcare provider, including physicians, dentists, physician assistants, nurses, pharmacists, optometrists, psychiatrists and psychologists, who is licensed or certified by Wyoming law is eligible to enter into a contract under the program. Eligible facilities include hospitals, clinics, medical offices and nursing homes.

Services provided under the program are intended for low-income persons. An eligible patient:

- Has income at or below 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Level
- Is not covered under a health insurance or healthcare policy, contract or plan

- Is covered under a health insurance or healthcare policy, contract or plan, but was denied coverage by the policy, contract or plan

Eligibility is determined by volunteer providers or facilities based on information from patients.

More information and important forms can be found on the Wyoming Department of Health website at <https://health.wyo.gov/admin/wyomings-volunteer-health-services-program/>.



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
- Cheyenne Regional Medical Center
- Patrick Madigan
- Bren Lowe
- Carol Solie, MD
- Michele Chulick

Total to Date \$6,550

Annual Goal \$8,500

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

Auxiliary Provides Newborns With Their First Spoon

Do you still have your baby spoon?

They are treasured by many. That's why the Auxiliary of Memorial Hospital of Sweetwater County thought it would be nice if each of the more than 500 babies born at Sweetwater Memorial each year could go home with their first spoon.

"Many of us still have our baby spoons and our children's baby spoons," said Janae Gale, volunteer

services director. "It's just one of those keepsakes that bring a smile to our faces, generation after generation." In fact, 90-year-old MHSC volunteer Gloria Tomich says she still has her baby spoon and fork.

The providers, nurses and staff of Sweetwater Memorial's obstetrics department are excited about the auxiliary's generous donation and look forward to providing a spoon to all future newborns.



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Garcia One of the WY Women of Influence for 2018



Tracy Garcia, CNO/VP

Each year the Wyoming Business Report hosts the Wyoming Women of Influence symposium and banquet to honor Wyoming women who have had a substantial and positive impact on the people, communities and institutions of our state.

Earlier this summer

Cheyenne Regional Medical Center's Chief Nursing Officer and Vice President of Clinical Services, Tracy Garcia, was announced as one of this year's Wyoming Women of Influence nominees in the healthcare category.

Tracy was then selected as the overall honoree in the healthcare category and was presented with her award at

the Wyoming Women of Influence banquet in August.

Tracy, who has devoted her working life to healthcare, has served in many different roles and capacities, from frontline nurse to educator to manager, director and administrator and now CNO/VP.

Health Committee Considers Bills on Opioid Abuse

A state legislative committee has voted to move forward with two bills aimed at slowing opioid abuse and deaths in Wyoming. Two other proposals will receive further legislative consideration later this year.

The four bills were the product of Wyoming's Opioid Addiction Task Force, which was created by the Legislature in March. Lawmakers on the task force told members of the Joint Labor, Health

and Social Services Committee, that the proposals focused on education and prevention.

The opioid group originally had nine pieces of legislation but "whittled" them down to four.

One expands some language in a bill passed in 2017 that attempts to distribute naran — which can stop an opioid-related overdose in its tracks — to more people, like first responders and ordinary people whose relatives may be at risk. Another bill looks

to writing a 14-day script for "opioid naive patients," or people who hadn't had an opioid prescription in the previous 45 days.

The bill also leaves the door open for exemptions for certain patients, like those with chronic pain or who are receiving cancer treatment.

There were concerns about people who live in rural Wyoming and can't get to a doctor every two weeks to have their prescriptions refilled.