



NEWSBRIEFS

Informational Newsletter for Wyoming Hospitals

Volume 50, Number 08

March 1, 2019

2019 Legislative Session

The 2019 General Session of the Wyoming Legislature has adjourned. After nearly two months of focused work, and collaboration with all our members, Wyoming hospitals can be proud of the results. Of particular note this session was the passing of the Physician Upper Payment Limit (UPL), which will benefit every hospital in the state that employs or contracts with providers and are responsible for their billing and collections. This new UPL will allow for hospitals to recover the difference in payment they received for services provided to Medicaid patients and what Medicare would have paid for the same service. Early estimates show this will bring approximately \$7 million additional dollars every year into Wyoming hospitals.

SF96 – Repeal Hospital Records and Information Statutes was passed into law and signed by Governor Gordon, eliminating confusion and conflict between the Wyoming law and HIPAA. The work on this bill is an excellent example of hospitals joining forces with their local legislators and legal counsel to craft a solution to an identified problem. This bill passed with nearly unanimous support in both chambers of the legislature and removes redundant regulation from state law.

SF57 – Public Records was passed after weeks of debate, amendments and, finally, more amendments. Your Wyoming Hospital Association worked closely with other groups to help craft leg-

islation which would serve the public interest while protecting hospitals from unreasonable requests and potential criminal penalties. The final version of the bill is a sensible compromise which should not place new, undue burden on our facilities.

SF67 – Hospital Cost Study passed and calls for an incredibly broad assessment of numerous factors which may impact the cost of hospital care in Wyoming. The WHA facilitated a meeting with two legislators and several hospital CEOs and CFOs in November 2018 to begin answering questions included in this study. The WHA further offered to facilitate continued discussions and working groups to provide the answers legislators are seeking, and to restate potential solutions which hospitals and the WHA have advocated for previously. The WHA Board also recently met with Governor Gordon and he expressed interest on working on solutions through his office. It is unclear at this point but the hospital cost study could be brought in to the Governors office. He could then create the work group he discussed with the WHA board. The legislature ultimately decided to appropriate \$200,000 to conduct a formal study, and we have committed to assisting in any way possible hopefully through working with the Governor’s Office.

Unfortunately, another effort to expand Medicaid to approximately 27,000 of our residents and neigh-

bors failed. A bill to study the potential cost and impact of Medicaid expansion also failed, however, the Wyoming Department of Health has been analyzing the experience of other expansion states and generating estimates of how many people expansion would cover in Wyoming, in addition to the general fund cost the state might be expected to pay. These data are updated regularly and will continue to provide reliable information to the legislature with the hope it will inform good public policy.

With the session now complete, we go to work on interim topics and preparation for the 2020 Budget Session. The WHA has offered interim topic suggestions which include reinvesting in the provider loan repayment program, workforce, reexamining the certificate of need for nursing homes and the limitations on nursing home expansion, and the re-basing of long-term care facilities. The WHA also suggested truly addressing problems with mental and behavioral health issues, including Title 25.

We look forward to working with all of our members during the interim to ensure we are addressing topics of critical importance which protect and strengthen hospitals in Wyoming. The staff at WHA want to thank all of our members for their continued support and partnership as we work together to make WHA the leader in healthcare.

WHA Calendar

HFMA Spring Meeting Casper	3/13-3/15
AHA Annual Meeting Washington, DC	4/7-4/10
Trusted Educational Program Casper	5/16

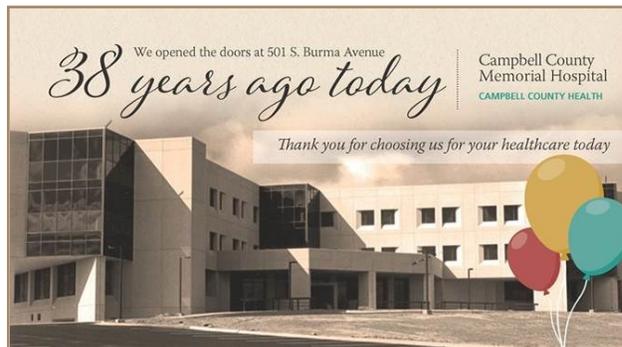
2019 PAC Contributions

Barry Burkart
Bren Lowe
Margie Molitor
Doug Faus

Campbell County Health Celebrates Birthday

Campbell County Health has just celebrated its 38th birthday!

The milestone was celebrated giving the employees a free Valentine's Day lunch, and by giving the patients discounts in the Coffee Shoppe and Gift Shoppe. Happy birthday!



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

Disease Management Option Offered

The Chronic Disease Prevention Program is partnering with the Wyoming Center on Aging (WyCOA) to bring the Healthy U chronic disease self-management program to people throughout Wyoming who have one or more chronic health conditions.

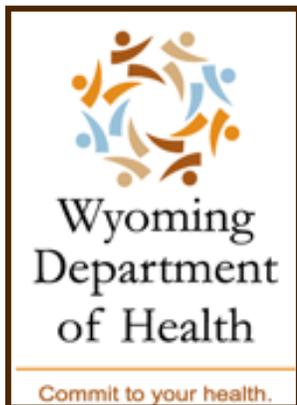
Healthy U is Wyoming's implementation of the renowned and widely-disseminated Chronic Disease Self-Management Program (CDSMP), which was created at the Stanford Patient Education Center in 1996. The program consists of six, 2.5-hour work-shop sessions delivered

once a week over the course of six weeks and focuses on giving people with chronic health conditions a variety of tools they can use to play a more active and productive role in the management of their health. Additionally, there are two alternate versions of the program that we are working to bring to Wyoming: the Diabetes Self-Management Program (DSMP) and the Chronic Pain Self-Management Program (CPSMP).

They are encouraging you to consider becoming a part of the Healthy U program and bringing CDSMP, DSMP, and/or CPSMP to your local communities. WyCOA is

hosting a facilitator training for the Healthy U program at the Inn at Lander in Lander on May 5-8. Training is free to attend and WyCOA will cover all travel, lodging and daily expense costs.

If you have any questions about the program or the upcoming training, please feel free to contact Dominick, the program coordinator, directly. Dominick can be reached via email at dduhamel@uwyo.edu or by phone at (307) 766-2765.



Ceballos Named Director of Department of Health

Governor Mark Gordon has appointed Mike Ceballos as the director of the Wyoming Department of Health.

Ceballos will replace Dr. Tom Forslund, who is retiring after this legislative session.

Ceballos brings a tremendous amount of corpo-

rate experience, retiring as the Wyoming State President for Qwest Communications International in 2011.

His career began in 1980 under the AT&T Bell System and served customers in the residential, business, public coin telephone, and wholesale markets. Ceballos's undergraduate education began at

the University of Arizona and he received a BSBA in 1980 from Northern Arizona University. In 1997, he received an MBA from the University of Colorado. Currently, he is completing a doctorate in Educational Leadership from the UW College of Education.

