



Wyoming Hospital Association

NEWS BRIEFS

Informational Newsletter for Wyoming Hospitals



**CEO/Trustee
Program
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Casper**

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Management Council Hears Interim Topic Suggestions

On March 22nd, the Management Council heard suggestions from all standing committees on possible interim session topics. The Joint Labor, Health & Social Services (JLHSS) Committee proposed several topics of interest to Wyoming Hospitals. A number of topics were suggested and or supported by the WHA and LAW including Wyoming's aging population and mental health and substance abuse.

Priority area #1 for JLHSS is Wyoming's Aging Population. The committee is planning to explore changes to Medicaid to support individuals in long-term care, the financial viability and service availability of LTC facilities, and LTC workforce issues.

The committee will additionally review the rebasing of funding for long-term care facilities.

Mental Health & Substance Abuse is listed as Priority #2 for JLHSS and includes looking at a Medicaid behavioral health waiver for adults, and adolescent mental health, especially acute care and post-acute care placements. The committee will once again study issues surrounding the Title 25 process with a focus on those patients who find themselves stranded in community hospitals for lack of an appropriate, step-down placement, and community-based services.

The committee plans to monitor federal legislation related to healthcare, and closely follow

pending litigation as it pertains the constitutionality of the Affordable Care Act (I.E.: Texas v. United States, Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals). The committee will also monitor the implementation of HB 194 (Air ambulance coverage-Medicaid).

The interim committee meetings are currently scheduled for:

- June 13-14, Casper
- September 23-25, Evanston
- November 6-8, Cheyenne

Updates to topics and meeting dates/locations can be found online at: <https://www.wyoleg.gov/Committees/2019/J10>

WHA Calendar	
AHA Annual Meeting Washington, DC	4/7-4/10
CEO/Trustee Educational Program Casper	5/16
HFMA Spring Meeting Casper	5/22-5/23

Barrasso Sponsors Legislation to Repeal CAH 96 Hour Rule

Senator John Barrasso (along with Senators Tester, Bennet, Murkowski, Baldwin, Inhofe, and Rounds), has introduced legislation which would repeal the Critical Access 96 hour physician certification requirement for inpatient critical access hospital services under Medicare. The bill was introduced and referred to the Committee on Finance on February 27th, 2019.

The CAH 96 hour rule creates a condition of payment requiring a physician to certify a patient can reasonably be expected to be discharged or transferred within

96 hours. CAHs already must meet a separate condition of participation, which requires acute in-patient care provided to patients not exceed 96 hours per patient on an average annual basis.

The Wyoming Hospital Association feels rural patients should be allowed to seek care in a familiar setting, closer to where they live, if that care can be provided safely and appropriately in the CAH setting. The WHA applauds Senator Barrasso for bringing forward this legislation to remove an

unnecessary burden on our rural hospitals and physicians.



2019 PAC Contributions

Barry Burkart
Bren Lowe
Margie Molitor
Doug Faus
Andy Fitzgerald

Wyoming State Hospital Has New Administrator



A new administrator is on board at the Wyoming State Hospital (WSH) in Evans-ton, which is a Wyoming Department of Health (WDH) healthcare facility.

Bill Rein, the new WSH administrator, has extensive experience working in the mental health field. He most recently served as superintendent of Larned State Hospital in Kansas, which operates three hospital programs (a general psychi-atric hospital, a criminal forensic hospital and a sexual preda-

tor treatment program) with approximately 450 patients and 800 employees. He has also worked as an attorney and an administrative law judge, and in several positions with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment and the Kansas Department of Aging.

“With such a deep back-ground and extensive mental health administration ex-perience, we believe we are fortunate to have Bill join our department,” said Chris New-man, Behavioral Health Divi-

sion senior administrator with WDH. “The state hos-pital plays a key role in serv-ing the needs of Wyoming citizens and we look forward to Bill’s leadership of this important healthcare facili-ty.”

WSH, part of the WDH Behavioral Health Division, is Wyoming’s only state-operated psychiatric hospital and has been providing men-tal health services in Evans-ton for state residents since 1887.

IMH Named a Top Rural Community Hospital



Ivinson Memorial Hos-pital in Laramie has been named one of the top 20 rural community hospital winners.

The National Rural Health Association has named the 20 highest-ranked prospective pay-ment system hospitals in the country based on an evaluation by The Chartis

Center for Rural Health using iVantage Health Analytics’ hospital Strength Index.

The determining factors for the top 20 rural communi-ty hospitals were based on eight indices: inpatient mar-ket share, outpatient market share, quality, outcomes, pa-tient perspective, cost, charge, and financial stabil-ity.



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



Acute Care Interest Survey

The Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program with the University of Wy-oming’s Fay W. Whitney School of Nursing is ex-ploring the development of an adult-gerontology acute care nurse practitioner (AG-ACNP) option.

AG-ACNPs “provide care to adults and older adults with acute, critical and complex chronic phys-ical and mental illnesses across the entire adult age

spectrum from young adults (including late adolescents), to adults and older adults (including frail older adults).

AG ACNPs are prepared to provide services ranging from disease prevention to critical care to stabilize the patient’s condition, prevent complications, restore maxi-mum health and/or provide palliative care”. (NONPF & AACN, 2016).

In order to offer an AG-ACNP option, it is critical

that we have buy-in from the state’s facilities and are con-ducting this survey to assess statewide interest.

The survey should take 5-10 minutes to complete and is available at this link: <https://app.keysurvey.com/f/1395758/4989/>

For questions about this survey, please contact Ann Marie Hart at anmhart@uwyo.edu.