



Wyoming Hospital Association

NEWS BRIEFS

Informational Newsletter for Wyoming Hospitals

Volume 50, Number 41

November 22, 2019

WHA Calendar	
WHA Board Meeting	11/25
Thanksgiving	11/28

Legislative Update

November has been a busy month for interim committee meetings in Cheyenne. The Joint Labor, Health & Social Services (JLHSS) Committee met on November 6th and 7th, and the Joint Revenue Committee met on November 11th and 12th. As always, the Wyoming Hospital Association was present for both meetings to advocate on behalf of its members.

On the first day of the JLHSS meeting, the committee discussed a bill draft which directs the Wyoming Department of A&I to review the State Employee Insurance claims to identify opportunities for the plan to enter into bundled payment arrangements with Wyoming providers. The WHA explained Wyoming hospitals are eager to participate in new payment models, and many are doing so currently, and encouraged the committee to advance the legislation. While there were some concerns voiced by members of the committee the bill passed out of committee.

The JLHSS Committee additionally considered a bill to create Senior Health Care Special Districts. This bill would allow for the establishment of senior health care districts and would be governed and operated in the same manner as a rural health care district. Senior health care districts, however, would be permitted only 2 mills compared to the 4 mills permitted to a rural health care district. Again, the WHA voiced its support of the legislation to support senior services in our communities.

Finally, the JLHSS committee heard a presentation by Milliman reviewing the Hospital Cost Study they were contracted to complete. While some of the specific data reported does not appear to be accurate, the report largely confirmed what many of our hospitals already know...the loss of volume to other states harms the stability of the healthcare system in Wyoming. Furthermore, Wyoming faces challenges relative to capital costs, physician wages and recruitment, and lacking the group purchasing power like that of large systems. Your WHA highlighted for the committee the challenges you face and what is currently being done to provide best in class care while responsibly managing cost. On balance, the conversation portrayed hospitals in a positive light, and recognized hospitals as critical partners in caring for Wyoming residents.

The Joint Revenue Committee covered two topics of particular interest to Wyoming Hospitals. The first issue started as two bills which would levy a tax on property held by County Memorial and Hospital District facilities which was either vacant or not being used for a "governmental purpose". The other bill would force government owned hospitals to dispose of vacant land or buildings, or other property which had not been used for a "governmental purpose" for 10 or more years. Unfortunately, the committee

voted by a narrow margin to advance the bill which would impose a tax on certain hospital owned properties. These include both vacant land (regardless of how long it has been vacant), and housing units owned by the hospital for hospital employee use even if rent is charged to the employee. If passed into law, this would negatively impact many of our members. The WHA will be encouraging members to reach out to their local representatives to encourage them to defeat this bill should it be introduced in the 2020 Budget Session. The WHA will soon be distributing information and talking points which may be used to inform those discussions. WHA staff will continue to work with Revenue Committee members and individual policy makers to ensure this ill-considered policy does not advance any further.

On the positive side, a bill allowing the Departments of Health and Insurance to investigate, and make recommendations to the Governor, regarding Medicaid Expansion passed the Revenue Committee by a vote of 8-5. While there is a long way to go before a Medicaid Expansion could be implemented in Wyoming, this is a positive step in the right direction.

Up next in the interim session will be the Joint Appropriations Committee who is meeting twice in December to discuss the Governor's proposed budget which was released publicly on November 18th.

- 2019 PAC Contributions**
- Barry Burkart
 - Bren Lowe
 - Margie Molitor
 - Doug Faus
 - Andy Fitzgerald
 - Maureen Cadwell
 - Dr. Carol Solie
 - Tim Thornell
 - Eric Boley
 - LifePoint
 - Robin Roling
 - Irene Richardson

CCH Chief Nursing Officer Elected to ACHE Council of Regents

Misty Robertson, RN, BSN, MSA, FACHE, Chief Nursing Officer at Campbell County Health (CCH), has been elected to the Council of Regents, the legislative body of the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE).

The Council of Regents serves as the vital link between ACHE and members by approving governance and membership regulations as well as promoting ACHE programs, services and activities within their respective areas.

Ms. Robertson will take office at the Council of Regents meeting March 21, 2020, during ACHE's 63rd Congress on Healthcare Leadership at the Hyatt Regency Chicago. As a Regent, she will represent ACHE's membership in Wyoming.

Ms. Robertson has served as the Chief Nursing Officer at Campbell County Health in Gillette, Wyoming since January 2019. Prior to this position, she was the Chief Nursing Officer at Bonner General Health in Sandpoint, Idaho.



Merritt Hawkins White Paper Examines Growing Need for CRNAs

Each year, Merritt Hawkins, a WHA Resources, Inc. endorsed partner, releases a report examining physician and advanced practitioner recruiting trends.

The firm's 2019 Review of Physician and Advanced Practitioner Recruiting Incentives includes a list of the 20 medical and advanced practice specialties for which it received the most recruiting requests. This "top 20" list provides a key indicator of which types of doctors and advanced practice professionals are in the most demand. For the 13th consecutive year, family medicine was at the top of the list, followed by psychiatry,

which was second for the fourth year in a row.

The 2019 Review shows that the number of CRNA searches the firm was engaged to conduct more than doubled year-over-year while the number of anesthesiology searches grew by about 80%.

What is driving demand for CRNAs, how many are there, what are they paid and what are the best strategies for recruiting them?

These questions are addressed in a new Merritt Hawkins' white paper entitled, CRNA Supply, Demand

and Recruiting Trends. The white paper includes a review of CRNA history and scope of practice, identifies demographic and other trends driving demand for CRNAs, and includes recommendations for how best to recruit them.

It is a timely resource that hospitals can use to enhance their knowledge of CRNA market trends and to more effectively recruit these in-demand practitioners. For a copy of the white paper, contact Corey Johnson of Merritt Hawkins at corey.johnson@merrithawkins.com.

State Trauma Program Updates

The National Trauma Data Standard is an effort to standardize the data in the National Trauma Data Bank. As you all should be aware, a new updated version of the NTDB Dictionary is released every year.

The Wyoming Trauma Program is in the process of making the necessary changes to comply with the 2020 National Trauma Data Standard. One of the biggest changes will be to the Trauma Inclusion Criteria.

As of January 1, 2020 patients who sustain a traumatic injury that falls within the accepted ICD-10 injury code range within 14 days of their initial hospital encounter, and was transferred from one acute care facility to another acute care facility (regardless of the mode POV, EMS, ect.) meet the NTDS Patient Inclusion Criteria.

The Wyoming Trauma Program will be making

changes to the Trauma Inclusion Criteria, the Wyoming Data Dictionary, and the Patient Registry to ensure compliance with the upcoming changes.

If you have any questions regarding changes to the NTDB Dictionary, please contact the Trauma Program staff Kelli Perrotti, or Aundrea Brown, kelli.perrotti@wyo.gov or Aundrea.Brown@wyo.gov.