



Wyoming Hospital Association

NEWS BRIEFS

Informational Newsletter for Wyoming Hospitals

Volume 51, Number 24

July 10, 2020

CHIP Program Change Means Savings, Benefit Improvements



The Wyoming Children's Health Insurance Program, known as Kid Care CHIP, will change as the Wyoming Department of Health (WDH) takes over the program's direct benefits administration and claims processing later this year, leading to reduced costs to the state.

WDH has been contracting with a private insurance company to administer the program in Wyoming for many years. No private insurance or managed care companies responded to a recent request for program proposals distributed by WDH. The contract for the existing vendor expires September 30.

"We are going to incorporate Kid Care CHIP into the processes and procedures we already have

in place to manage Wyoming Medicaid," said Teri Green, Division of Healthcare Financing senior administrator with WDH.

Green said the change will begin October 1 and will lead to an expected \$1.8 million annual cost savings in state general funds. Nearly 3,300 children are currently enrolled in the program, which is supported by a combination of state and federal funds.

"By taking advantage of existing Medicaid capabilities, we anticipate a reduction in the cost to manage the program and we will not need to add any staff," Green said.

To allow for a streamlined adoption, some program changes are planned to help make the Kid Care CHIP program more con-

sistent with Wyoming Medicaid. "We're planning for lower copays and increased service coverages for our Kid Care CHIP recipients," Green said.

Because Wyoming Medicaid is widely accepted among the Wyoming healthcare providers, it's expected very few individuals will need to change providers.

Wyoming providers and recipients will receive ongoing communication as the change approaches. Regular updates are also available on the Kid Care CHIP Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/KidCarechip>. More information on the Kid Care CHIP program can be found at <https://health.wyo.gov/healthcarefin/chip/>.



State Plan Amendment Submitted and New UPL in the Works

During the COVID pandemic, the WHA has been busy working with the Wyoming Department of Health and with the Joint Labor Committee in behalf of WHA members. The Wyoming Department of Health has completed the State Plan Amendment (SPA) for the Professional Services Supplemental Payment (provider UPL). The SPA has been submitted to CMS for their approval and now CMS has 90 days to review the application and respond to the state. This new program is the work of the WHA with the legislature during the 2019 session and much work has been done since the legislature approved moving forward with the new UPL. When enacted, the new UPL will bring an approximate additional \$5 mil-

lion annually to hospitals in the state.

The WHA also introduced the concept of another new UPL for EMS services during the first interim Joint Labor Committee meeting in June. Chairman Scott instructed the LSO to work with the WHA and have a draft bill ready for the committee to review during their August interim meeting that would enact the new UPL program benefiting EMS services all across the state. The WHA has been working closely with their legal team, the EMS Association, the State EMS and the LSO to put together the requested draft bill. Eric Weatherford, a partner at Husch Blackwell has been an incredible resource and has helped the members of WHA benefit from

the private hospital UPL, and is working closely with the WHA on the two new programs. The EMS UPL will be presented to the JLHSS Committee at the end of August and once approved the bill will move to the regular legislative session in January.

With the budgetary issues the state is facing and knowing that there are tough times ahead for healthcare providers, the WHA is pleased and excited to be able to find additional sources of revenue and to advocate and work in behalf of members. These two new programs, if approved will bring much needed financial assistance and allow hospitals and EMS services to continue to deliver high quality healthcare to the patients they serve.

2020 PAC Contributions

Eric Boley
Barry Burkart
Carol Solie
Doug Faus
Heidi Baskfield
Doug McMillan
Tim Thornell
Maureen Cadwell
Margie Molitor
Bren Lowe

Hertz Wins 2020 Ambassador Award



Karl Hertz, Chief Operating Officer of Memorial Hospital of Converse County was recently recognized by the Association of Nutrition & Foodservice Professionals (ANFP) with the 2020 Ambassador Award.

The Ambassador award is dedicated to an industry col-

league such as an administrator or dietitian, who demonstrates continuous commitment to the CDM, CFPP credential through mentoring and support of the nutrition and foodservice department leader within their facility. Congratulations and way to go Karl Hertz!

Karl Hertz is the Chief Operations Officer at Memorial Hospital of Converse County (MHCC) in Douglas, WY. Karl has advocated for the CDM, CFPP credential and MHCC's foodservice department by ensuring the CDM, CFPPs have financial support to maintain the credential.

He ensures financial support is available for staff members who are currently enrolled in education programs that will allow them to pursue the credential. Through Karl's support, many of the foodservice department staff members have had the flexibility to serve on ANFP boards and committees, both at the chapter and National level.



BCBSWY Commits to Ending Hunger in Wyoming

Making sure kids are fed three times a day is a reality for parents. Worrying about where to find that next meal shouldn't be – but it is for 1 in 6 Wyoming kids. With new changes and unexpected challenges facing families today, it's important to know where to find the community programs that are available to help. Nourished kids, healthy families, and thriving communities are the goals of the Wyoming Hunger Initiative and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Wyoming.

The Wyoming Hunger Initiative is at nohungerwyo.com.

This state wide resource has up to date information for finding

local food programs – including those offering perishable food items such as meat, dairy, fruits, and vegetables.

“Food security is near and dear to our hearts because it's hard to stay healthy if you're hungry. Now, with so many of our Wyoming neighbors struggling to make ends meet, partnering with the Wyoming Hunger Initiative is one more way we can help,” said Diane Gore, president and CEO of BCBSWY.

Hunger should not be something that Wyoming families worry about. That's why BCBSWY supports the work of the Wyoming Hunger Initiative to

end childhood hunger in Wyoming. Our small state thrives when all of us come together to help our neighbors and community. We are #WyomingTogether.



PCMH Summit III

The Wyoming Primary Care association is facilitating a Patient Centered Medical Home virtual training September 14 – 18, 2020.

The Program is a Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) – Supported NCQA 2020 Training Event titled “NCQA's Introduction to PCMH

Program & Advanced PCMH Program.”

There is no cost and continuing education credits will be available.

For questions, please contact Brenda, at brendal@wypca.org.

More information is available at the following website: <https://www.wypca.org/pcmh-summit-iii/>

