



Wyoming Hospital Association

NEWS BRIEFS

Informational Newsletter for Wyoming Hospitals

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Enzi Joins Effort on Price Transparency

In a move to empower patients and lower healthcare costs, U.S. Senator Mike Enzi, R-Wyo., joined Senator Mike Braun, R-Ind., in introducing the PRICE Transparency Act.

The legislation would codify the two health care price transparency rules that came out of President Donald Trump’s Improving Price and Quality Transparency in American Healthcare

Executive Order—which requires hospitals and insurers to reveal their low, discounted cash prices and negotiated rates to consumers before they receive medical care.

“Americans often leave their health care visits frustrated not knowing what price to expect on the bill,” Enzi said. “But for many procedures, if you can know the cost beforehand, you can choose the hospital that fits your needs. The Administration issued these no-nonsense health care price transparency rules. I am glad that our legislation would help cement them so patients can stay informed about the real cost of their treatment before they receive the care they need.”

Last November, the Trump Administration issued two separate regulations requiring price trans-

parency for hospitals and health insurance companies. The hospital regulation, scheduled to take effect in January 2021, was challenged in court by the hospital lobbies that sued to keep their prices and negotiated rates secret. The hospital lobbies lost this legal battle—with a federal judge upholding the legality of the hospital transparency rule intended to expose private, negotiated rates with insurers—and noting in the opinion that the rule would “allow patients to make pricing comparisons between hospitals.”

Other original cosponsors of the legislation include Senator Joni Ernst, R-Iowa, Senator Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, Senator John Kennedy, R-La., and Senator Kelly Loeffler, R-Ga.

2020 PAC Contributions

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

Cheney Introduces Legislation to Continue Telehealth

Liz Cheney, Wyoming’s lone U.S. House Representative, introduced legislation to continue access to telehealth for seniors around the country, even after the relaxed requirements for it end when the COVID-19 emergency declaration ceases.

The spread of COVID-19 has created unprecedented challenges for all Americans, one being the facilitation of a safe environment for our seniors to receive high quality health care. Increasing access to telehealth services, especially in our rural communities, has literally been a lifesaver for America’s seniors since the first outbreak of COVID-19.

The legislation, known as the Advancing Telehealth Beyond COVID-19 Act, will continue the telehealth policies implemented by the Trump Administration and through the CARES Act. This bill will allow seniors to utilize telehealth services even after the emergency declaration has ended.

Congress has worked with the Trump Administration to remove many of the barriers that prevented seniors from utilizing telehealth services from the safety of their homes.

As a result, telehealth use among seniors has continued to rise and this legislation would continue this successful trend well after the pandemic is over, while

allowing Medicare to adapt to the ever-changing innovation in medical technology.



Member Spotlight

South Big Horn Hospital New Mission Statement

The South Big Horn County Hospital District has announced their new mission statement, :Improving Health to Improve Our Communities.”

The district presented the 2025 vision plan to make the hospital complex the best in the area in diagnostic and treatment. “Great care should not be limited to cities and urban areas. We believe that patients in rural Wyoming deserve the best care possible and we plan to provide it,” stated CEO Tadd Greenfield.

“We are very excited about our new journey as a new and significantly improved health care system in South Big Horn County that is laser focused on providing more services and

improved healthcare to our community.”

Greenfield presented the strategic plan from 2020 to 2025. He spoke of the first stage, the “Fix It” stage. Through 2019 the goal was to fix multiple, fundamental problems with the existing operations of the organization.

Beginning in 2020 and progressing through 2022 is the “Grow It” stage. This is to develop the organization into the provider of choice in the Basin. They want to acknowledge the mistakes of the past and demonstrate the commitment to significant and lasting improvements in quality and customer services going forward.

Along with the vision, is a renaming of the hospital complex. The hospital district wants to get the community involved in the name change by placing contest ad in the paper to name the hospital.



Wyoming Flex FY20 Activities

Wyoming Flex FY20

The Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility Program (Flex) FY20 Activities including training, scholarships, and professional development is changing due to the public health emergency. Scholarships for in-person training and travel reimbursement is minimal. Therefore the WY Flex Program is hosting the following training, education, and professional development opportunities.

Custom Learning Systems:
Win Back Our Customers July 23, 2020, 10:30 am MST Contact Bruce Lee for registration brucel@customlearning.com

Survival Index August 13, 2020, 10:30 am MST Take the Survey <https://savingruralhospitals.com/>

The Community Interpreter® International Training
(Interpreter training, at this moment, is in person) August 7,8, 9, and 15, 16, 2020 Time: 8:30 am to 5:30 pm MEETING LOCATION: 2221 West Elm Street, Rawlins, WY 82301 Contact Lillian Zuniga for information at lillian.zuniga@wyo.gov and contact Kyle.cameron@wyo.gov for a reimbursable scholarship application.

Crucial Conversations August 24-28, 2020 (2-hour virtual sessions for five consecutive days) Registration: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1AcgwTCgFS4-OwOOQLGtdpy9GOTmAm2xLt-Z8VyTx6Qk/edit>

Information on the Wyoming Flex program can be directed to Kyle Cameron , Program Manager/Flex and SHIP Grants, Office of Rural Health , Wyoming Department of Health 307-777-8902

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The pandemic has affected us all in many different ways, including our mental health. Remember that you are not alone and your mental health is just as valuable and important as your physical health.

Wyoming 2-1-1 provides free and confidential health services to help individuals during this difficult time. To reach them, call (888) 425-7138 or simply dial 2-1-1.

