

NEWS BRIEFS

Informational Newsletter for Wyoming Hospitals

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2017 General Session of Wyoming Legislature Concludes



The Wyoming State Legislature brings to close its 40-day General Session at the posting

of this week's WHA News-briefs. We certainly appreciate our membership having provided us their time and attention to key issues pertaining to this year's session, as the priorities and perspectives on the various legislative proposals are clearly grounded in serving the needs of Wyoming hospitals and the patients they serve.

As the legislative session concludes, we are pleased to provide a summary of the primary points of interest to our WHA constituents.

The State's budgetary challenges certainly commanded a significant amount of deliberation and negotiation among the House and Senate members. As the supplemental budget debates transpired, the fiscal impacts of many proposals represented by legislative bills clearly came into consideration.

Several pieces of legislation were introduced pertain-

ing to Title-25 involuntary hospitalization issues. The work of the Joint Labor Committee and the special task force appointed to study these issues had resulted in legislation back in 2016, and carried forward with SF-66, SF-142, and HB-156 all being passed in this session. We are happy to see \$10M appropriation included in the final budget bill to provide supplemental funding to the Department of Health to cover Title-25 shortfalls as needed. We are also glad to say there are no additional cuts to hospitals or physicians factored into the budget.

While these current actions are helpful and necessary, we expect the challenges of the Title 25 program to be continued as a leading interim topic of the Joint Labor Committee.

As you are aware, the State EMS Licensure Compact was one of our major legislative issues. HB 112 protects Wyoming EMTs that cross state lines, allows EMTs from other compact state to work in Wyoming and alternately protects and saves lives. HB 112 now HEA 30 was signed into law by Governor Mead. We sincerely appreciate the great work of Andy Gienapp and his team at the WDH Office of EMS, and EMTs & Paramedics from around the state in supporting this effort.

Several additional pieces of legislation addressing professional licensing boards were enacted – including Wyoming Pharmacy act, Nurse Practice Act, and Telepharmacy amendments.

We were also happy to help support and work with legislators to pass SF 88 creating a Palliative Care Advisory Council. Several leading Wyoming hospitals have recently engaged in the implementation of Palliative Care programs and have been viewed to be of great value and benefit to patients and their family members. An advisory council established by this legislation is anticipated to provide leadership and useful documentation and reporting to gain further visibility and engagement.

In closing, WHA expresses its sincere appreciation to our member hospitals statewide for their ongoing support and engagement. In addition, we thank our colleagues with the Wyoming Medical Society, Wyoming Board of Medicine, the WYO Primary Care Association, EMS Providers, WYO Chapters of the American Heart Association & Cancer Action Network, among others, in recognition of a successful and rewarding 2017 Legislative Session.

WHA Calendar:

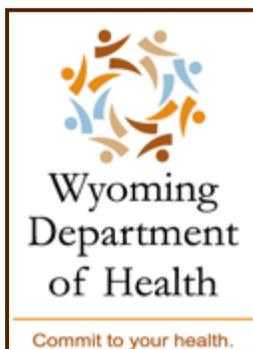
CAH Flex Planning Meeting Cheyenne	3/14-3/15
WHA CEO/Trustee Spring Meeting Casper, WY	5/19

Other Events:

HFMA Spring Meeting Casper	3/16-3/17
AHA Annual Meeting Washington DC	5/7-5/10



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



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Renovations Begin in Douglas Hospital ER

After years of planning the anticipated renovations have begun in earnest on the Emergency Department at Memorial Hospital of Converse County.

Including further privacy and a more modern design, the revised plans for the Emergency Department have been the source of much time and dedication for the Hospital administration and the larger community. Sev-

eral fundraising efforts have taken place over the course of the project planning phase, and now as renovations begin, MHCC prepares for transitioning to this new environment.

"We are thankful to the Converse County Hospital Foundation, our staff, providers and the community. Together we have raised more than \$350,000 towards the estimated \$800,000 renovation," said Memorial Hospital of Converse Coun-

ty CEO, Ryan Smith.

"We have worked with our staff and providers to ensure our Emergency Department patients still receive the best care during our renovations," stated Karl Hertz, Assistant Administrator who coordinates all construction and remodeling projects at Memorial Hospital. "The five month long project will be broken into several phases to ensure minimal disruption to services."

Community Interpreter Training Sessions Powell, Casper

The Wyoming Department of Health's Office of Health Equity is sponsoring training sessions to help healthcare professional and other Wyoming residents become "community interpreters." An April session is set in Powell and a May session in Casper.

"The need for what is known as community interpreting is growing in our state," said Lillian Zuniga, Office of Health Equity program manager.

"While family and friends have traditionally been a source of translation help, there is often a need for more specially trained help in critical situations."

Zuniga said the training sessions are intended to prepare interpreters to work in community interpreting, which focuses on healthcare, social services and education. The training will be led by Giovanna Carriero-Contreras of The Community Interpreter. Carriero-Contreras is a nationally

recognized expert in interpreter training and has worked in the language services industry for 25 years.

Two sessions are schedule for Wyoming: April 10-14 in Powell; and May 22-26 in Casper.

Zuniga said scholarships to help cover the training costs may be available from her office.

More information is also available from Zuniga by calling 307-777-5601.

Powell Medical Foundation Hosts Mardi Gras

The Powell Medical Foundation (PMF) hosted Fat Tuesday Mardi Gras at the Hospital. Tim and Lanae Seeley and crew wowed once again with a fantastic Cajun meal, and the Surgery Team and other staff at PVHC served it up hot. Thank you to all of the Powell Medical Foundation

Board members and Jennifer Tip-petts for organizing another great Mardi Gras event.

Finally, thank you to everyone who contributed to this important fundraising event for the Foundation!

