



Wyoming Healthcare Commission

Dixie Roberts, Chairman
Director

Susan Anderson,

Commissioners:
officio
Rex Arney
officio
Rod Barton
Barbara Cohee
Jack Glode, M.D.
Carol V. Jenkins
Lorraine Saulino-Klein
Steve Mossbrook
Barb Rea
Jack Speight
John H. Vandel

Brent B. Sherard, M.D., Wyoming Department of Health Director, ex-

Ken Vines, Wyoming Insurance Commissioner, ex-

Two-Month Report, Vol. 19

To: Governor Dave Freudenthal
Joint Labor, Health and Social Services Committee
Senator Charles Scott, Chairman
Representative Doug Osborn, Chairman

From: Dixie Roberts, Chairman

Subject: April 1, 2006 – May 31, 2006

Items Attached To Report:

April 10, 2006 Meeting Minutes
May 8, 2006 Meeting Minutes with Subcommittee Minutes
Strategies For Covering the Uninsured, Dr. Julia E. Robinson, MPA, DPA
America's Health Insurance Plans, Christian Jones

OVERVIEW:

The Wyoming Healthcare Commission has directed its efforts towards completing legislatively mandated studies with an emphasis on making recommendations to the Joint Labor, Health and Social Services Committee no later than November, 2006. In an effort to gather more expertise, we have added several citizens with relevant knowledge to assist the Commission on various committees.

We are at full staff with Beth Worthen as Assistant Director and Keith Hageman as Administrative Assistant. Susie Scott-Mullen has joined us on a contract basis to help with the subcommittees.

Two Commissioners terms will end June 30, 2006 – Steve Mossbrook and Carol Jenkins. The remaining Commissioners will have terms assigned to them effective July 1, 2006.

THE STUDIES:

MEDICAL SPECIALTY CENTERS STUDY in reference to Senate Enrolled Act 66, 2006.

The Commission has issued a Request For Proposal and selected the Center for Studying Health System Change, known as HSC. The contract is in the approval process.

- Wyoming Visit by the Research Team in early July
- Preliminary briefing – August 1, 2006
- Draft final report – September 1, 2006
- Final Report - October 1, 2006
- Cost of the study: \$169,390

RURAL HEALTHCARE DELIVERY STUDY in reference to Senate Enrolled Act 66, 2006.

A subcommittee has been formed and the following members have been named: Chairman – Jack Glode, M.D., Mary Burman, Professor, UW; Jerry Calkins, Phd, M.D.; Steve Mossbrook, Commissioner; Dan Perdue, Wyoming Hospital Association; Brent Sherard, M.D., Director, Department of Health; Jack Speight, Commissioner; Susie Pouliot, Wyoming Medical Society.

This study will review existing and future needs of health care services in light of Wyoming's rural nature and considering how to create efficiencies and opportunities that would improve health care delivery in the state. The Committee has:

- Determined a Scope of Work for the Study
- Issued a Request For Proposal for Phase 1 – Evaluate existing circumstances and Phase 2 to Design improved rural health care delivery systems
- Proposals are Due June 2
- A Contract will be issued within two weeks
- Estimated Cost \$300,000
- Progress Report Due on October 9, 2006
- Final report no later than May 1, 2007.

MEDICAID BENEFITS REDESIGN STUDY in reference to Senate Enrolled Act. No. 41, 2006.

A subcommittee has been formed and the following members have been named: Chairman- Rod Barton, Carol Jenkins, Commissioner; John Vandel, Commissioner, Lorraine Saulino-Klein, Commissioner; Barbara Cohee, Commissioner; Greg Gruman, Department of Health, Office of Health Care Financing; Teri Green, Department of Health EqualityCare Manager. The study will propose Medicaid benefits redesign. This study will move quickly to identify specific measures the State can take now to make its Medicaid system more responsive and efficient.

- Determined a Scope of Work for the Study
- Issued a Request For Proposal requesting specific benefit design suggestions for Medicaid in the areas of long term care and services for the developmentally disabled.
- Proposals are Due June 13
- A Contract will be issued within two weeks
- Estimated Cost \$250,000
- Draft report Due August 10, 2006
- Final report Due September 1, 2006
- Commission presents preliminary report to Legislature - October 1, 2006

ACCESS AND AFFORDABILITY STUDY in reference to Enrolled Senate Act 41, 2006, Section 3. A subcommittee has been formed and the following members have been named: Chairman-Rex Arney, Barb Rea, Commissioner; Ken Vines, Wyoming Insurance Commissioner; John McBride, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Wyoming; Lynn Birleffi, America's Health Insurance Plans, Wyoming Lodging and Restaurant Association; Rick Schum, Blue Cross Blue Shield; Beth Wasson, WINhealth Partners; Linda O'Grady, Department of Health Medicaid/EqualityCare; Darryl Bindschadler M.D. The study will examine ways to reduce the percentage of Wyoming citizens without health insurance and to reduce the cost of private health insurance. The Access and Affordability committee has done extensive research on Wyoming's population and demographics and has reviewed strategies from other states. This included a presentation, "Strategies for Covering the Uninsured." from Dr. Julia Robinson, President, J. Robinson Enterprises, Inc. and "America's Health Insurance Plans", by Christian Jones.

- The Committee is developing a Scope of Work and will continue to gather information from various sources, including the State Planning Grant Task Force Report on "Covering Wyoming's Uninsured" from December 2003 and data from Blue Cross Blue Shield.
- Preliminary Report by November 10, 2006
- Final Report by October 1, 2007.

HEALTH PROFESSIONS TRACKING STUDY with the University of Nebraska Medical Center's Health Professions Tracking Center is ongoing. The contract will be extended for one year. This study will generate, in a relatively short period of time, an accurate compilation of the medical personnel currently providing health care services in the State of Wyoming. It includes Physicians, Physician Assistants, Nurse Practitioners, Dentists, Pharmacists, Pharmacies, Medical clinics, Acute Care Centers, and Hospitals. The first Phase has been completed and we have received well over 50% response rate which was the target for this Phase. The second Phase of letters started going out in May. The Commission will continue to work to ensure accurate and complete information for policymakers.

- Estimated Cost \$166,346 plus up to \$31,250 for expenses
- Contract extended to June 30, 2007

MEDICAL ERRORS STUDY in reference to Wyoming Special Session Laws, ch. 0004, § (Study), 2004, a study relating to medical errors. The study will examine in part: The status of Wyoming's current medical error reporting system, comparison of the current system with what is known nationally about reporting systems, research correlation of error reporting to patient safety, the use of medical error data to enhance patient safety; lessons learned from Kaiser Permanente, Veterans' Administration Hospitals; Massachusetts General Hospital and state of Minnesota, and determine sufficiency of current state laws to allow effective use of medical error data.

- Estimated Cost \$50,000
- Contract Extended through December 31, 2006
- Preliminary Report July 31, 2006
- Draft Report October 15, 2006
- Final Report December 15, 2006

NURSING STUDY in reference to the Governor's budget to contract with the Wyoming Department of Employment, Unemployment Tax Division to use administrative data and sample surveys to produce information for the Wyoming State Board of Nursing to be used to develop policy relating to the supply, retention, and demand for nurses in Wyoming.

- Estimated Cost \$140,000

IT STUDY to provide information on existing IT capability in Wyoming's medical community, access to high speed internet connections in Wyoming, and system interoperability within facilities in Wyoming. This information is necessary for several WHCC projects, including an assessment of rural health care delivery in the state and a study of how to reduce medical errors.

- Scope of Work Outlined
- Contract with Wyoming Health Information Organization
- Progress Report October 1, 2006
- Final Report March 31, 2007
- Estimated Cost \$150,000