

WYOMING HEALTHCARE COMMISSION
April 14, 2008
Meeting Notes
UW Outreach Building
Casper, WY

ATTENDANCE

Commissioners: Rex Arney; Rod Barton (via phone); Jack Glode, M.D.; Cathy Guschewsky; Larry Kirven, M.D.; Lorraine Saulino-Klein; Barb Rea; Brent Sherard, M.D., (Ex-Officio); Lloyd Wilder (representing Ken Vines, Ex Officio)

Committee Members: Jerry Calkins, M.D.; Darryl Bindschadler, M.D.; Rick Schum, BCBS; John McBride, BCBS.

WHCC Staff: Susie Scott, Executive Director; Beth Worthen, Assistant Director; Ryan Sandefer, Project Manager; Donna Ferguson, Facilitator; Judith Powers, Facilitator; and Keith Hageman, Administrative Assistant.

Legislators:

Rep. Jack Landon, Sen. Charles K. Scott.

GUESTS:

Dennis Ellis, WMS; Tom Gallagher, R&P; Dan Neal, ESPC; Allison Rupp, CST; Gloria Elio, CHCCW; Patrick Monahan, WYPCA; Toni Decklever, RN; Wendy Curran, Governor's Office; Carolyn Paseneux, Attny.; Cheryl Flores, APS; Larry Biggio, WyHIO; Chris Sullivan, APS; Kathy Matson, WILR; Ken Hoff, WILR; Steve Bahmer, WHA; Pennie Hunt, WHRN; Ron Pearson, WDH.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER 9:00 A.M.

Commissioners Rex Arney and Larry Kirven, M.D., co-chaired the meeting and called the meeting to order.

I. INTRODUCTIONS

Ex-Officio Commissioner Brent Sherard introduced Ron Pearson who will be leading the Wyoming Department of Health's new Rural and Frontier Health Division.

II. UPDATES

A. BUDGET & CONTRACTS. The Commission was provided with a Contracts Update and Monthly Expenditures sheet. It was noted that the Wyoming Healthcare Commission granted the University of Wyoming Law School funds to co-sponsor the "Health Care Reform & Patient Safety Conference" that was held in Laramie on April 1-3, 2008. It was also noted that the Wyoming Healthcare Commission contracted with SafeTech Solutions to conduct an analysis of the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) in Carbon County for the Carbon County Pilot Project.

B. PATIENT SAFETY CONFERENCE. Commissioner Jack Glode presented the Commission with a summary of the Health Care Reform & Patient Safety Conference.

(i) Some of the issues discussed at the conference were as follows:

- System errors & Human errors
- Patient Safety Organization (PSO)
- 3R's Program
- Disclosure & Transparency Laws
- Data Collection & National data sharing
- PSO's protection from discovery
- Development of best practice standards
- Possibly have another Patient Safety Conference next year

(ii) The Patient Safety Task Force met in Laramie on Thursday, April 3, 2008, right after the Health Care Reform & Patient Safety Conference. The task force is continuing their work on patient safety and specifically discussed the following:

- Standard taxonomy
- Creation of a Patient Safety Organization
- Monitoring national developments

(iii) The Commission discussed various aspects of patient safety including:

- 2005 & 2006 Wyoming Healthcare Commission Patient Safety Report
- Alternative Dispute Resolutions
- Public opinion
- Opt-in arbitration contracts
- Formation of Patient Safety Organization
- PSO requirements to qualify for certification by the Federal Patient Safety & Quality Improvement Act

C. CARBON COUNTY PILOT PROJECT. Assistant Director Beth Worthen gave the Commission an update on the Carbon County Pilot Project. The update included the following:

(i) The Wyoming Healthcare Commission has contracted with SafeTech Solutions to do an Emergency Medical Services (EMS) analysis in Carbon County. SafeTech Solutions has done intense interviews with individuals in Carbon County, specifically: local government, healthcare professionals and business professionals.

(ii) The Rural Policy Research Institute (RUPRI) team will be in Saratoga the week of April 14 - 18, 2008, to begin working with civic leaders to get their input.

(iii) There will be a stakeholders meeting on Friday, April 18, 2008. The RUPRI team will be at this meeting too.

D. LEGISLATIVE. Executive Director Susie Scott gave the Commission a legislative update.

(i) There were six (6) bills from the 2008 Budget Session that were discussed. They were as follows:

- Medical Safety Event Reporting bill- Passed
- Medicaid Reimbursement bill- Failed/Postponed
- Trauma Care Services bill- Passed
- Clinical Trials bill- Passed
- Emergency Medical Technology bill- Passed
- Healthcare Reform Pilot Project- Failed/Postponed

(ii) Senator Charles Scott, Representative Jack Landon and Wendy Curran, from the Governor's Office, commented on the legislative session and specifically on the Senate File 85 bill which will be

considered again next session. Highlights from their comments are as follows:

- Need rough draft of Health Care Reform bill (SF 85) by September 2008 for the Joint Labor Health & Social Services meeting and then a final draft by December.
- Need to translate concepts into something an insurance company can execute.
- Possibly expand population of pilot.
- Cost containment is critical.
- Need to be able to determine if pilot is successful or not.
- Pilot should have time limit.
- Should have some objective way to insure that data is valid and that the study is designed properly.

III. MEDICAID REPORT

Wyoming Healthcare Commission Facilitator Judith Powers reviewed the "Final Report: Medicaid Reform," dated March 15, 2008, with the Commission. Copies of the report's executive summary were handed out to Commissioners. In July 2006, the Wyoming Healthcare Commission was tasked with studying the redesign of Wyoming's Medicaid Benefit Structure. The Medicaid Subcommittee recommended legislation in the 2007 General Session targeting the Developmentally Disabled and Long-term Care populations. This legislation passed and appears to be making headway towards improving Medicaid services and reducing costs. Since then, the Medicaid Subcommittee has looked at additional ways to improve the Medicaid Benefit Structure. The Medicaid Subcommittee has determined that Wyoming's Medicaid program is very lean and that there are no additional changes to the Medicaid benefit structure that would make a significant impact at this time. A number of expansions for future Medicaid study materials were suggested and Commissioner Rod Barton stated the purpose of this report was to reflect the scope of work assigned in 2006.

IV. WYOMING HEALTHCARE COMMISSION "ACTION PLAN"

Assistant Director Beth Worthen went over the Wyoming Healthcare Commission's "Action Plan." Commissioners received a timeline and Beth Worthen went over what the Commission is going to be working on up until the sunset date: analyzing past reports, developing principles, draft recommendations, and outreach. The following are comments from the discussion:

- There are some ongoing functions of the Wyoming Healthcare Commission and the continuation of those functions needs to be determined prior to the Commission's sunset date.
- The malpractice data from previous studies is good and it needs to be an ongoing project that needs to find a home after the Wyoming Healthcare Commission is gone.
- Need any legislation by September 2008.

Executive Director Susie Scott went over nine (9) "principals" which the Wyoming Healthcare Commission considered for adoption. The Commission reviewed and amended the principals.

MOTION & VOTE: Commissioner Arney motioned to accept the principals as amended with the ability to make changes if needed at a later date. Commissioner Guschewsky seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

There was further discussion about a pilot project.

LUNCH 12:30 P.M.

V. NURSES IN WYOMING; DEMAND, RETENTION & SUPPLY

Tom Gallagher from the Department of Employment, Research & Planning, presented the Commission with an update on the nursing study report. There was discussion about retention strategies, need for specialty training (can be done in-house), and contract nurses.

VI. FUNDING REQUEST

Executive Director of the Wyoming Health Information Organization (WyHIO) Larry Biggio presented a request for funding for \$80,000. The Commissioners received two handouts, one titled "A Continuation of Assessing HIT Capabilities in Wyoming" dated February 2008 and the other titled "A briefing on the Wyoming Health Information Organization's (WyHIO) "Roadmap" for statewide Health Information Exchange Network (WyHIE) and Phase 2 of the Current WHCC Contract for Assessing HIT Capabilities in Wyoming" dated April 14, 2008.

MOTION & VOTE: Commissioner Lorraine Saulino-Klein motioned that WyHIO project be funded. Commissioner Larry Kirven seconded the motion. The Motion passed unanimously.

VII. MARKET PLACE UPDATES

A. WYOMING HEALTH RESOURCES NETWORK (WHRN). Pennie Hunt, the executive director of the Wyoming Health Resource Network (WHRN), presented the Commission with an update on the WHRN. The "Final Audit Report for Wyoming Health Resources Network" packet, which was done by KAMedData, Inc., was handed out to Commissioners and everyone in the room. WHRN is a non-profit and consists of a Board of Directors, two administrative personnel and two recruiters who travel extensively. One of their goals for the future is to expand their recruitment efforts into the nursing field. Recruiting efforts must be done in a timely manner due to competition with other states. Although there is no formal data, some of the reasons physicians have given for not coming to Wyoming are as follows: rural environment, spouses, call schedules, housing, malpractice, and isolation.

B. WYOMING BUSINESS COALITION ON HEALTH. Anne Ladd, the spokesperson for the Wyoming Business Coalition on Health (WyBCH), gave a presentation to the Commission on a program that the WyBCH is launching called the "Asheville Project." The project is designed to supplement preventative and primary care for employees who have Diabetes and/or Cardiovascular Disease. The program requires employees to see a health coach once a month in exchange for waiving co-pays for insulin, test strips and glucose meters. They are having an information session about the project on April 21 & 22, 2008, and will

be bringing in Dan Garrett from the American Pharmacists Association Foundation to speak about the program. Their goals are as follows:

- Reduce healthcare costs for employers
- Improve health of employees
- Attract new members to the WyBCH by building creditability which in turn will give WyBCH greater influence on the market.

MEETING ADJOURNED 3:00 P.M.