

**Wyoming Healthcare Commission (WHCC)**  
**April 6, 2009**  
**Meeting Notes**  
**UW Outreach Building**  
**Casper, WY**

*\*(This was the last meeting of the Wyoming Healthcare Commission.)\**

**Commissioners:** Larry Kirven, Co-chairman; Rod Barton; Barbara Cohee; Andy Fitzgerald; Jack Glode; Cathy Guschewsky; Barb Rea; Lorraine Saulino-Klein; Brent Sherard and Ken Vines.

**Legislators:** Rep. Mike Gilmore, Rep. Mary Hales, Rep. Jack Landon.

**Guests:** Steve Bahmer, Sheila Bush, Dr. Jerry Calkins, Stacie Dunn, Dennis Ellis, Tom Gallagher, Penny Hunt, Pat Monahan, Dan Neal, Allison Rupp.

**Staff:** Susie Scott, Executive Director; Beth Worthen, Assistant Director; Barb Robinson, Database Project Manager; Keith Hageman, Administrative Assistant.

**10:30 a.m. Co-chairman Larry Kirven called the meeting to order.**

**I. Update on next steps for the Wyoming Healthcare Commission (WHCC)**

- a. New Sunset Date- Per the request of the Governor's Office, the Wyoming Healthcare Commission will sunset on April 30, 2009, instead of June 30, 2009. The current projects in progress that are slated to end on June 30, 2009, will continue as planned, with oversight from the Governor's Office. Commissioner Saulino-Klein suggesting keeping WHCC staff on until June 30, 2009, to wrap up current work and close the office.
- b. Commission Budget- The Commission's budget was reviewed. Prior to the new sunset date the Commission planned on being able to return over \$200,000 (35%) of the Commission's current budget (FY09) to the general fund. With the new sunset date of April 30<sup>th</sup>, the Commission will be able to return approximately \$50,000.00 in additional funds. All of the current projects that the Wyoming Healthcare Commission has going are from FY07 funds.
- c. Carbon County EMS Project- The Commission will contract with SafeTech Solutions for follow-up consulting services regarding the Carbon County EMS project (due to the early sunset date, the Governor's Office may execute the contract). The funds for this additional contract will come from the Commission's current budget (FY09). This was accounted for in the budget sheet that was handed out to Commissioners at the meeting.

## II. Review Draft of WHCC Final Report

The Commission reviewed the draft of the Commission's Final Report. The following comments were made concerning the draft:

- a. The report should be structured/organized using categories: 1) Cost, 2) Quality and 3) Access.
- b. Directors and Chairs of the Commission (past and present) need to be included in introduction.
- c. History section should include reauthorization.
- d. Possibly include a FAQ attachment.
- e. Include statement on interconnectivity of categories (cost, quality and access).
- f. Include list of healthcare contacts (staff is in the process of putting a healthcare contact list together)
- g. Clarify results of projects- health insurance purchasing pool for employers was WYOCARE, Medical Specialty Centers study results.
- h. Health Policy "Liaison" or "Board?"
  - i. Need a "go to" place for healthcare issues.
  - ii. Legislators need to be represented (i.e. some members need to be legislators).
  - iii. Need leadership from Legislature and Governor.
  - iv. The Department of Health is 20% of the State's budget, should not there be a legislative standing committee?

**Next Steps:** WHCC staff will prepare a second draft of the final report based on the comments made by Commissioners and will e-mail Commissioners a second draft for review. Time for review will be limited due to the accelerated sunset date of April 30<sup>th</sup>.

## III. Updates Regarding On-going WHCC Projects

- a. Carbon County EMS Project- Commissioner Glode gave the Commission an update on the Carbon County EMS Project. The Carbon County Joint Powers Board has agreed to work with Gary Wingrove of SafeTech Solutions for further consultations regarding the Carbon County EMS Project. As previously mentioned the WHCC will contract with SafeTech Solutions for follow-up consultations. Duane Abels (Carbon County Memorial Hospital) and Bill Jack (Carbon County EMS Coordinator) are confident in the projects completion.

**Carbon County Next Steps:** Gary Wingrove/SafeTech Solutions contract for follow-up consultations.

- b. Patient Safety Organization (PSO)- Commissioner Glode gave the Commission an update on the efforts to form a PSO. WHCC patient safety consultant Fran Cadez is drafting the corporate documents and the certification documents for the PSO. There still remains the question of who does the WHCC pass this project off to and where is the funding going to come from. It is too late to

get any federal funding this year but hopefully there will be some next year that can be taken advantage of. The PSO business plan has been finalized. The Wyoming Business Council helped with the business plan and should continue to support the efforts to form the PSO. As it stands now, some type of charter/stakeholders group needs to be formed to take up the reins.

**PSO Next Steps:** Time table has been accelerated due to the WHCC's April 30th sunset date. Complete drafts of corporate documents and certification documents and then hand them off to a charter group.

- c. Health Professions Database- Barb Robinson (via telephone) gave the Commission an update on the Health Professions Database. The management of the Health Professions Database will continue as originally planned through June 30, 2009, despite the Commission's new sunset date. All of the surveys have been fielded (as of March 23, 2009). The facilities data (includes: hospitals, pharmacies and clinics) is all in and the University of Washington has started the analysis of the facilities data. The provider data (includes: physicians, physician assistants, APNs, dentists, pharmacists and mental health providers) is expected to be in by the middle of May 2009. So far, the response rate looks good. The University of Washington has started the two remaining policy briefs. However, they must wait until they have the provider data in order to finish the briefs. The two remaining policy briefs will look at the following: 1) issues and obstacles to providing high quality patient care and 2) workforce issues in delivering health care to elderly and low income populations. The future of the Health Professions Database after June 30, 2009, is still in question. Currently, there is no entity to hand it off to. Previous discussions involved handing it off to either the Department of Health or the University of Wyoming.
- d. Discussion on the Future of Health Professions Database- The Commission expressed concern about the future of the Health Professions Database. Highlights from the discussion are as follows:
  - i. Concern was expressed about the data being outdated quickly if it is not continued.
  - ii. There was a draft MOU between the Department of Health and the University of Wyoming that was done prior to the last legislative session. Perhaps the database could be continued via that relationship.
  - iii. Funding for the database will be difficult to obtain if a return on investment (ROI) cannot be shown.
  - iv. The uses for/of the database also need to be developed and demonstrated. It was noted that the Office of Rural Health in the Department of Health has used the database in the past.

- v. The Governor should provide some direction.
- vi. The Commission previously discussed having the database being done through the licensure. Perhaps this could be a means of continuation?
- vii. The priorities should be first, finding a way to maintain the database and then second, worry about the analysis of the data.

**IV. Wyoming Health Information Organization (WYHIO) Needs assessment update.**

Dr. Jerry Calkins gave a brief overview of the Wyoming Health Information Organization's needs assessment survey results. Commissioners were provided with a handout summarizing the results. 1,904 facilities were surveyed with 725 responding (38.1% response rate). There were no surprises in the data. Overall, responders supported the need for a telemedicine network and HIE network. Cost is a major barrier. Security concerns were also expressed by respondents. A copy of the handout is available on the Wyoming Healthcare Commission's website.

**V. University of Wyoming Geriatric Care Transitions Workshop.**

Commissioners were provided with a handout about the University of Wyoming Geriatric Care Transitions Workshop. The Commission had previously reached a consensus not to grant any funds for this workshop but agreed to revisit the idea.

**Motion:** Commissioner Saulino-Klein motioned that the WHCC provide \$1,000 to the Geriatric Care Transitions Workshop and Commissioner Fitzgerald seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Staff will prepare a grant letter and award the grant.

**VI. Health Policy/Liaison Board Discussion**

The Commission revisited the topic of a Health Policy Board. The following are the discussion highlights:

- a. Needs to have an educational component for legislators.
- b. Needs to have authority. WHCC has already had a report done on state Health Policy Boards titled "A Review of State Health Care Commission Models" and based on that report, one of the biggest issues/keys is having authority.
- c. The legislature and the Governor have to lead.
- d. Without some entity in place, the state risks missing out on federal dollars.
- e. A letter should be published in order to get the discussion on a health policy board out in the public.
- f. It is an "economic" issue, among other things.
- g. The Department of Health is already in place and can help keep the issue alive.

**Next Steps:** Staff will draft a cover letter to go with a summary document on the findings of the state health policy board report and send it to gubernatorial candidates. Work with the Department of

Health to keep the flame alive. Staff will prepare a media release/letter.

Co-chairman Larry Kirven thanked Commissioners and staff for their efforts.

**Meeting adjourned: 1:45 p.m.**