

WYOMING HEALTHCARE COMMISSION
May 5, 2008
Meeting Notes
UW Outreach Building
Casper, WY

ATTENDANCE

Commissioners: Rex Arney, Co-chairman; Larry Kirven, Co-chairman; Rod Barton; Jack Glode, M.D.; Lorraine Saulino-Klein; Barb Rea; Jack Speight; John Vandel and Ken Vines.

Committee Members: Jerry Calkins, M.D.; Dan Perdue, WHA.

WHCC Staff: Susie Scott, Executive Director; Beth Worthen, Assistant Director; Ryan Sandefer, Database Project Manager; Fran Cadez, Facilitator; and Keith Hageman, Administrative Assistant.

Legislators:

Rep. Bob Brechtel, Rep. Mary Hales, Rep. Jack Landon; Rep. Tim Stubson, Sen. Kathryn Sessions

GUESTS:

Steve Bahmer, WHA; Lynne Birleffi, AHP; Mary Boltz, WILR; James Bush, M.D., WDH; Wendy Curran, Governor's Office; Dennis Ellis, WMS; Tom Gallagher, R&P; Kathy Matson, WILR; John McBride, BCBS; Kristy Westfall, WyPCA; Lloyd Wilder, WID.

The meeting was called to order by Co-chairman Rex Arney at 9:00 a.m.

I. Administrative Update.

- A. **Budget and Contracts.** Commissioners were provided with the monthly expenditures and the contracts update handouts. Executive Director Susie Scott informed Commissioners that Commission staff is working on encumbrances and will be putting together a list of encumbrances needed for the end of the budget fiscal year and will have a dollar figure on how much the Commission will need to encumber by the next meeting.
- B. **Wyoming Health Professions Database.** Project Manager Ryan Sandefer gave the Commission an update on the Wyoming Health Professions Database as follows:
 - (i) 2008 AAMC Physician Workforce Conference. Mr. Sandefer recently attended the 2008 AAMC Physician Workforce Conference. While there, Mr. Sandefer attended a State Data Collection Workshop. He commented that there is no real consensus on workforce shortages across the nation.
 - (ii) Surveys. Starting in March, the next phase of workforce surveys were distributed to facilities. The response rates have been good (80% response rate from hospitals). Cover letters with feedback and

data have been drafted and are ready to be distributed with the next phase of surveys.

- (iii) Request for Proposal (RFP). The contract with Health Professions Tracking Center expires June 2008. An RFP has been drafted to continue the database project. The new contract will have some additional requirements: add mental health & substance abuse providers to the survey, revising of the questionnaires annually, gaps analysis and additional reporting. There was comment that psychologists are not included in the listing of mental health providers licensure and to make certain licensed psychologists are included in the survey material.

C. **Carbon County Pilot Project**. Assistant Director Beth Worthen provided the Commission with an update on the Carbon County Pilot Project.

- (i) Stakeholder's meetings continue. At the last stakeholder's meeting Keith Mueller from the Rural Policy Research Institute (RUPRI) presented the stakeholder's with the data that they have collected. The next stakeholder's meeting will be on May 12th in Rawlins at 2:00 p.m.
- (ii) EMS Analysis. SafeTech Solutions is finishing their revisions to their analysis of the emergency medical services (EMS) in Carbon County. The Commission should receive that analysis sometime this week. The EMS analysis report will be posted on the Commission's website as soon as it is available.

D. **Miscellaneous Updates**

- (i) April 25th meeting with the Governor. The Governor met with Sen. Charles Scott, Co-chairman Rex Arney, Co-chairman Larry Kirven and Executive Director Susie Scott and Wendy Curran on April 25th in Casper. Rep. Jack Landon was unable to attend the meeting due to a prior commitment.
- (ii) Senate File 85. The Commission briefly discussed Senate File 85. This bill will be reintroduced in the 2009 legislative session although it is not certain to what extent it will resemble the Senate File bill introduced in 2008.
- (iii) Dorsey Hughes Symposium. The Dorsey Hughes Symposium will be held July 24-26 in Beaver Creek, Colorado. Additional information will be forthcoming.
- (iv) Wyoming Medical Society. The annual Wyoming Medical Society meeting will be held in Jackson on June 12th-14th.

II. Workgroups to Finalize Actions Steps. The Commission broke into two workgroups. One workgroup worked on principals concerning rural healthcare delivery, health information technology, healthcare professionals supply and patient safety. The other workgroup worked on principals concerning access. Each workgroup looked at their respective areas in terms of what the Commission can accomplish in preparation for the next legislative session (i.e., short-term work) and what should be recommended for implementation after the WHCC sunset date of June 2009 (i.e., long-term work).

III. Reconvene, Report and Merge Material. The Commission reconvened after the workgroup session. Each workgroup reported about their session to the Commission as follows:

A. **Access Workgroup.** Executive Director Susie Scott presented the Commission with the report from the access workgroup session as follows:

- (i) The Wyoming Healthcare Commission principal of "pursuing incremental steps to make certain that all Wyoming residents have access to affordable health care" should remain as is.
- (ii) Need to work on provider (primary care providers) Medicaid reimbursement.
- (iii) A pilot project that contains some of the concepts of the 2008 Senate File bill 85, with an emphasis on evaluating outcomes, access to a medical home for patients/participants, core services that include preventive services and chronic illness management targeting a particular population would be a recommended short term goal.

B. **Rural Healthcare Delivery, Health Information Technology, Healthcare Professionals Supply and Patient Safety Workgroups.** Co-chairman Larry Kirven and Assistant Director Beth Worthen presented the Commission with the report from the rural healthcare delivery, health information technology, healthcare professionals supply and patient safety workgroup session as follows:

- (i) Short Term work
 - Health Professions Database
 - Medicaid Reimbursement rates
 - EMS
 - Pilot Projects to demonstrate healthcare value (access connection?)
 - Patient Safety organization
 - Alternative compensation?
 - HIT support for comprehensive planning?
- (ii) Long term
 - Strategies for professional shortages
 - Access to CE in rural communities
 - Community assessments?

- Foundation model demonstration project
- Alternative compensation?

(iii) Connections w/ Access

- Medicaid reimbursement
- Projects design to increase healthcare value

12:30 Lunch

IV. Medical Necessity in Insurance Contracts, Senate File 92.

Sen. Kathryn Sessions presented the Commission with an update on her bill, Senate File 92. The bill would establish a procedure for a claimant to request reconsideration of a refusal to pay by the insurance company, provide the insurance commissioner with a procedure to follow in such cases, add denying or failing to timely pay claims for medically necessary services as an unfair claims settlement practice and defines a medical service under a definition of "medical necessary" as now defined by Wyoming law. Sen. Sessions plans on proposing the bill again next legislative session.

V. Wyoming Independent Living Rehabilitation Update. Kathy Matson and Mary Boltz from Wyoming Independent Living Rehabilitation presented the Commission with an update on "Project Out" and the "Resource Center."

A. **Project Out.** Project Out has worked with 159 consumers and has diverted 93 individuals from entering a nursing home. This has reduced Medicaid costs by \$5.5 Million. Many individuals are waiting for Medicaid waivers and/or cannot find affordable housing. Two big barriers are the cost of housing and the lack of workforce.

B. **Resource Center.** The Resource Center has been funded with federal grant money for last three years and this funding will end in September 2008. However, new funding is on the horizon. Over 400 people have called the Resource Center during the last quarter and half of those who called were under the age of 60.

Meeting adjourned 2:15 p.m. by Co-chairman Larry Kirven