

WYOMING HEALTHCARE COMMISSION  
June 2, 2008  
Conference Call (10a.m.-11a.m.)  
Conference Call Notes

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

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

Guests: Wendy Curran, Governor's Office; Larry Biggio, WyHIO; Christy Westfall, WyPCA, Rick Schum, BCBS and John McBride, BCBS.

Co-chairman Larry Kirven chaired the call. Commissioners reviewed and discussed their top three (3) priorities/recommendations to be presented to the Labor, Health & Social Services Committee at the Labor, Health & Social Services Committee meeting on June 3, 2008.

#### **I. Priority #1: Access Demonstration Project**

The following is a brief summary of the comments made concerning the Access Demonstration Project recommendation:

- The program must be designed so that it can work in any community in the state.
- The language and terms used in the recommendation need to be in laymen's terms.
- The recommendation needs to be streamlined and should not reference any specific entity.
- Need to demonstrate to the legislature that the program is needed and can be done in a short time frame.
- Help Legislators understand why certain programmatic elements are important in the project.
- There are basically two components to this demonstration project, and they are provider participation and the payor system.
- There is a great deal of similarity between the Gardner model, the WHCC model and the Medicaid THR model.
- It will be important to educate new legislators as well as existing legislators.
- The program should be compatible with commercial insurance carriers.

#### **II. Priority #2: Emergency Medical Services (EMS)**

The following is a brief summary of the comments made concerning the Emergency Medical Services recommendation:

- Commissioners will be sent a copy of the Emergency Medical Services Report via e-mail today.
- Need to state the problem first, then the solution and then be prepared to provide options on how solution could be funded.
- The executive summary of the Emergency Medical Services will be provided to the Labor, Health & Social Services Committee at their June 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting.
- Many states have resorted to taxing districts because the

- Need to make certain the legislature understands that even though Emergency Medical Services were addressed last year, more needs to be done this year.
- Creating the ability for counties to have an EMS taxing district would make the system more self sufficient.
- Don't imply the state should fund a significant portion of any EMS system reform.
- The fact the EMS system is staffed by mostly volunteers is a concern; in need of more professionals.
- Allowing full-time Emergency Medical Technicians to rotate through ER is a good way to provide continuous training.

### **III. Priority #3: Health Professions Database**

The follow is a brief summary of the comments made concerning the Health Professions Database recommendation:

- Option two (2) of this priority, "Survey Research Project Utilizing Licensing Board Licensure Renewal Process" is preferred. It is not only simpler to execute but would also be more cost efficient.
- Need to make certain the legislature knows the value this project has and why it needs to continue.
- There needs to be an entity to carry this work forward when the Commission is gone.
- A combination of the two options might be an option as well.

Wyoming Healthcare Commission staff will revise the Commissions priorities/recommendations to reflect the desired changes that stemmed from today's conference call. The three (3) recommendations (after aforesaid revision) will be presented to the Labor, Health & Social Services Committee's meeting tomorrow morning. Hard copies of the top three (3) priorities will be handed out to the Labor, Health & Social Services Committee.

### **IV. Updates**

- The terms of four (4) Commissioners are set to expire at the end of June. No word has been given from the Governor's Office on whether or not these terms will be extended.
- The Commission staff is still in the process of calculating the amount of funds required to be mass encumbered for upcoming projects.