

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

ATTENDANCE

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

Committee Members: Peggy Callantine; Dan Perdue.

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

GUESTS:

Steve Bahmer, WHA; James Bush, M.D., WDH; Wendy Curran, Governor's Office; Dennis Ellis, WMS; John McBride, BCBS; Pennie Hunt, WHRN; Pat Monahan, WYPCA; Allison Rupp, CST; Dan Neal, ESPC; Sheila Bush, WMS; Stacie Dunn, APS Healthcare

The meeting was called to order by Co-chairman Rex Arney at 10:00 a.m.

I. Welcome, Introductions and Announcements

A. *New Commissioner Introduced*- Commissioner Andy Fitzgerald was introduced to the Commission. Commissioner Andy Fitzgerald is Executive Vice President of Campbell County Memorial Hospital in Gillette, Wyoming. He has over twenty years of healthcare finance and administration experience, and has worked in large metropolitan hospitals with Humana in Dallas, Texas, Phoenix, Arizona, and Denver, Colorado, as well as rural, independent hospitals in Wyoming and Oregon.

B. *Reappointments*- Governor Freudenthal re-appointed all commissioners whose terms were up for expiration.

C. *Assistant Director Beth Worthen*- Beth and her husband, James, had a new baby girl, Maren Elizabeth, on June 27, 2008.

D. *Dorsey Hughes*- Commissioner Jack Glode, M.D., Commissioner Barb Rea, Executive Director Susie Scott and Project Manager Ryan Sandefer will be attending this year's Dorsey Hughes Symposium, July 24-26, 2008.

II. Budget, Contracts, Announcements and Misc. Updates

A. *Budget*- Commissioners were provided with a copy of the Wyoming Healthcare Commission budget for Budget Fiscal Year 2009 (BFY'09). Executive Director Susie Scott went through the budget handout with Commissioners.

B. *Contracts*- Commissioners were also provided with a copy of the Wyoming Healthcare Commission contracts update handout.

C. *Projects*- The Wyoming Healthcare Commission is currently working on four (4) projects. They are as follows: 1) Access Demonstration Project, 2) Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Pilot Project, 3) Wyoming Health Professions Database Project, 4) Patient Safety

D. *Access Demonstration Project Meeting*- Co-chairman Rex Arney (via phone), Co-chairman Larry Kirven and Executive Director Susie Scott recently met with Wendy Curran, Hank Gardner and Rick Schum to discuss the Access Demonstration Project which originated from last legislative session (SF85). (More details about this meeting are below in the Access & Affordability portion of the meeting.)

E. *State of the States*- Commissioners were provided with copies of the State of the States 2008.

III. Access & Affordability

A. *Access Demonstration Project*- Commissioners were provided with a handout detailing some of the concepts that were discussed at the Access Demonstration Project meeting. Co-chairman Larry Kirven went over the project. Highlights from the discussion about the Access Demonstration Project are as follows:

- Small pilot project, starting with a small population.
- It is not a health insurance project.
- Provides incentives for individuals to stay healthy.
- Provides incentives for physicians to participate.
- Involves setting up a "medical home" for participants.
- Sets up cost controls.
- Uses Health Savings Account (HSA) as incentive.
- Program would incorporate "evidence based medicine."
- Could possibly translate this project to the private sector.
- Provides a structure for individuals to be healthier.
- Administrative piece could be done by entity already in place.
- Need to have bench marks and use scientific method and external variables

B. *Next Steps*- Access Demonstration Project

- Meeting with Senator Charles Scott and Representative Jack Landon for feedback on Access Demonstration Project and timeline.
- Wyoming Healthcare Commission staff will draft a list of key concepts and points of the Access Demonstration Project for Commissioners as soon as possible to allow Commissioners time for review.
- Provide Legislative Services Office (LSO) with Access Demonstration Project concepts for draft legislation. LSO will draft legislation.

IV. Health Professions Database

Database Project Manager Ryan Sandefer, M.A., gave the Commission an update on the Wyoming Healthcare Commission's Health Professions Database. Commissioners held a conference call on June 17, 2008, to select the contractor for the database. Commissioners voted to contract with Wyoming Survey and Analysis Center for the data

collection and database maintenance piece and with the University of Washington Center for Health Workforce Studies for the data analysis piece. The contracts are currently being reviewed and will be signed soon.

V. Carbon County Pilot Project

Commissioner Jack Glode, M.D., gave the Commission an update on the Carbon County Pilot Project. Highlights from the update are as follows:

- Commissioner Glode and Executive Director Susie Scott met with the Carbon County Hospital Board and the Carbon County Commissioners regarding the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Pilot. The County Commissioners and the Hospital Board have approved the project.
- It is important to integrate firemen and law enforcement as part of the EMS pilot.
- The Emergency Medical Services System Assessment Report, done by Safe Tech Solutions for the Healthcare Commission, detailed that there are some unacceptable delays in the EMS system in certain areas of Carbon County when getting from point A to B.
- The project may require some state participation.
- The Wyoming Healthcare Commission is awarding a grant to fund the first year salary of the EMS Coordinator position.
- Funding is a challenge. Creation of funding districts would allow taxing that would work but taxing districts are a challenge politically.
- The ultimate goal is to have integrated EMS throughout the state.

VI. Patient Safety Task Force

Co-chairman Larry Kirven, M.D., gave a brief update on the Patient Safety Task Force. Dr. William Minogue from the Maryland Patient Safety Center has invited Commissioners to visit the Maryland Patient Safety Center for a site visit to see firsthand how their program is run. Plans for the site visit are in progress. The Patient Safety Task Force will meet following today's Commission meeting. The Patient Safety Task Force will have a conference call with Dr. Minogue during their meeting.

VII. Nurses Study Extension

The Wyoming Healthcare Commission has extended the contract with the Department of Employment, Research & Planning (DOE, R&P) to continue the nursing study. The scope of work is being expanded beyond hospitals to EMS and other areas. The analysis that DOE, R&P has conducted is applicable outside the nursing community. Plans are to have DOE, R&P manager Tom Gallagher at the Wyoming Healthcare Commission meeting in September to talk about the Work Force/Nurses Study.

VIII. Rural Policy Research Institute (RUPRI) Policy Board Report

Commissioner Jack Glode, M.D., presented the Commission with an update on the Rural Policy Research Institute (RUPRI) Policy Board Report. The "original" RUPRI Report gave many recommendations, including the formation of a Policy Board. The Commission asked RUPRI to provide a report describing existing state commissions and policy boards in place

throughout the country. RUPRI chose nine (9) Policy Boards as examples that may be appropriate for Wyoming. A copy of the report is available on the Wyoming Healthcare Commission website at: <http://wyominghealthcarecommission.org/>

VOTE- Commissioner Glode asked for the Commission to approve the RUPRI Policy Board Report and Commissioner Rea seconded. Co-chairman Kirven called for a vote on adopting the report. The RUPRI Policy Board Report was unanimously adopted and approved.

A. *Discussion highlights regarding a Health Policy Board-*

- There needs to be a forum where healthcare issues can be discussed after the Wyoming Healthcare Commission sunsets.
- The Wyoming Healthcare Commission's accomplishments should be listed in a very organized way before it sunsets. The strengths and weaknesses of the Commission should be listed.

B *Next Steps-*

- The Commission will discuss the pros and cons of a permanent health policy organization, and the advisability of such an entity, at the August meeting.
- Legislative members and Health Department representatives recently attended a State Legislators Meeting in Denver. These Legislative members and Health Department representatives will receive a copy of the Health Commission Model report developed by Dr. Keith Mueller of RUPRI.
- Legislative members and Health Department representatives will be invited to attend the August Wyoming Healthcare Commission meeting to discuss options. It was also suggested that perhaps advantages and disadvantages of the current commission form be incorporated into any report/recommendation.

IX. Wrap-up and Misc. Items

A. *Requests to the staff-* Commissioner Arney requested Commission Staff to prepare an update in writing on the Wyoming Health Insurance Pool (WHIP). This report would include the number of applicants, benefits, cost, demographics, etc. The Commission would like to see the bottom line and see what kind of cost controls are in place.

B. *Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement rates were discussed by the Commission.* The situation of Physicians opting out of Medicare and Medicaid is a threat. There is a sustained growth rate formula and the demand for Medicare is going to continue to go up. There was discussion that the Medicare Advantage program is actually costing more than regular Medicare.

C. *Next Meeting-* The next Wyoming Healthcare Commission meeting will be Monday, August 11, 2008, in Casper.