

Wyoming Healthcare Commission

September 8, 2008

Meeting Notes

UW Outreach Building

Casper, WY

Commissioners: Larry Kirven, Co-chairman; Rex Arney, Co-chairman; Rod Barton; Barbara Cohee; Jack Glode; Andrew Fitzgerald; Cathy Guschewsky; Barb Rea; Lorraine Saulino-Klein; John Vandel and Ken Vines.

Subcommittee Members: Dan Perdue; Jerry Calkins, M.D.; Lynn Birleffi; Marcia Shanor; Rick Schum and John McBride.

Legislators & State Government: Representative Mary Hales; Wendy Curran, Governor's Office; Lee Clabots, Wyoming Department of Health.

Guests: Pat Monahan; Dan Lex; Tom Gallagher; Mary Beth Stepan; Phyllis Sherard; Gloria Elio; Mel Schwartz; Kenneth Schulze, M.D.; William Buck, M.D.

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

10:00 a.m. Co-chairman Larry Kirven, called the meeting to order.

I. Labor, Health & Social Services Interim Committee Meeting

Executive Director Susie Scott gave an update on the upcoming Labor, Health & Social Services Interim Committee meeting being held in Casper on Monday, September 15 and Tuesday, September 16. The Wyoming Healthcare Commission (Commission) will appear before the Labor, Health & Social Services Interim Committee on Monday morning, the 15, at 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. There are four areas of focus that the Commission will be presenting to the Labor, Health & Social Services Interim Committee:

1. Access Demonstration Project
2. Carbon County Pilot Project
3. Health Professions Database
4. Patient Safety Organization

Commissioners were provided with a copy of the Labor, Health & Social Services Interim Committee's agenda for Monday, September 15th.

II. Access Demonstration Project Update

Executive Director Susie Scott gave a brief overview of the origins of the Access Demonstration Project. Wendy Curran from the Governor's Office gave the Commission an overview of the "Healthy Frontiers" concepts. Commissioners were provided with a copy of the updated outline of the Healthy Frontiers concepts.

Various aspects of Healthy Frontiers were discussed. Concern was expressed that more details are needed. The Commission supports the "medical home" concept but "medical home" must be clearly defined, as there are multiple definitions of what a medical home is. The Commission also expressed that the project would benefit from the RFP process. After much discussion, the Wyoming Healthcare Commission

agreed in a two-step process. The first step would obtain authorization for the development of an Access Demonstration Project and the second step would be the implementation of the Access Demonstration Project after it's been developed.

Staff will draft the initial recommendations to be presented at the Labor, Health & Social Services Interim Committee meeting on Monday, September 15th. The draft will incorporate the two-step approach and address some of the concerns that the Commission has. The initial recommendations will be sent to Commissioners for review prior to the Labor, Health & Social Services Interim Committee meeting.

III. Carbon County Pilot Project Update

Commissioner Jack Glode gave the Commission an update on the Carbon County Pilot Project. The Wyoming Healthcare Commission has recommended integrating Emergency Medical Services (EMS). Stakeholders in Carbon County have been working with the Wyoming Healthcare Commission to put together an EMS Pilot Project in Carbon County.

Commissioner Jack Glode introduced Kenneth Schulze, M.D., C.E.O. Carbon County Memorial Hospital from the Memorial Hospital of Carbon County, to the Commission. Kenneth Schulze, M.D., has been working with Commissioner Jack Glode and stakeholders on the EMS Carbon County Pilot Project. William Buck, C.O.O. of the Memorial Hospital of Carbon County, was also introduced to the Commission. They have continued to meet with Town Councils, County Commissioners and stakeholders across Carbon County. Details regarding the EMS Coordinator position were hashed out at the meeting last Friday (Sept. 5, 2008) and that position should be filled in the near future.

Dr. Schulze said in some areas there are currently response times of 1.5 hours that could be reduced to 45 minutes. One goal of the Carbon County Pilot Project is to get the pilot project in place before the snow flies. There are still a lot of details that need to be worked out. Getting the needed personnel will be a challenge. Overall the support for the project is good and it should get off the ground. The Carbon County EMS project may serve as a model for other regions of Wyoming.

IV. Patient Safety Update

Co-chairman Larry Kirven gave the Commission an update regarding the Patient Safety Task Force. Several members of the Patient Safety Task Force conducted a site visit to the Maryland Patient Safety Center. The Maryland Patient Safety Center has indicated to the Commission's Patient Safety Task Force they are willing to work with a Wyoming Patient Safety Organization. The Patient Safety Task Force's initial goal is to develop a structure and governance for a Patient Safety Organization and, after that, to obtain federal certification. The Maryland Patient Safety Center is a good model. Once Wyoming has an organization in place there could be collaboration with the Maryland Patient Safety Center. Fran Cadez is prepared to have draft legislation ready. Funding instruments are also needed. The dollar amount needed to establish a Patient Safety Organization is still being determined by the Patient Safety Task Force.

Willaim Minogue, M.D., and Christian Jensen, M.D., both from the Maryland Patient Safety Center, will be in Cheyenne on October 2, 2008, to present at the Wyoming Hospital Association's Annual meeting.

Commissioners asked that Commission staff send out all the recent Patient Safety documents to Commissioners in a single packet.

V. Health Professions Database Update

Project Manager Ryan Sandefer gave the Commission an update on the Health Professions Database. The transition of the database to the Wyoming Survey & Analysis Center (WYSAC) and the University of Washington (Washington) has gone well. Project Manager Ryan Sandefer has been having biweekly conference calls with WYSAC and Washington to keep everyone up-to-date and on the same page. WYSAC has created a new database from the data that they received from the Health Professions Tracking Center (HPTC). The creation of the new database from the previous data was anticipated and necessary. Washington is working on Policy Briefs for the Legislature on the following topics: 1) Primary Care, 2) Reimbursement rates and possibly 3) Nurses or Dentists. Washington is also analyzing the survey questions and revising/improving the questionnaires as necessary. As soon as Washington is finished revising the questionnaires, they will provide them to WYSAC. WYSAC will then develop the online survey format using the new questionnaires. The survey/questionnaires for facilities are scheduled to go out on October 31, 2008.

VI. Database Workgroup

Assistant Director Beth Worthen gave the Commission an update on the Database Workgroup that is looking at where the Health Professions Database (database) will be housed after the Wyoming Healthcare Commission sunsets. They will be looking at short-term and long-term aspects of the database to make certain the database remains operative after the Commission sunsets. They will be putting together information about options for the transition. The Licensing Board option is still being considered. The Governor's Office has been invited to give their input as well. The Commission will also be getting feedback from the Labor, Health & Social Services Committee. October 15, 2008, will be the first meeting of the Database Workgroup.

12:00 p.m. LUNCH

VII. Nursing Study presentation and Nursing Workforce Center

Tom Gallagher from the Department of Employment, Research & Planning, (in person) gave the Commission an update on the Nursing Study. Tom Gallagher went over various samples of deliverables/work product from the nursing study to show the kind of data that is available from the study.

Mary Burman, Dean School of Nursing, University of Wyoming (via teleconference) gave the Commission an update on the "Nursing Workforce Project" that the Fay W. Whitney School of Nursing, University of Wyoming, (FWWSON) is working on. Their goal is to develop a permanent Nursing Workforce Center and to improve the nursing work environments. Their academic plan for 2009-2014 is:

- "to facilitate a culture of professional nursing development to meet workforce needs for Wyoming and the region;"
- "foster student learning through use of active learning pedagogies and stimulating on-line, classroom, and clinical learning environments;"
- "enhance community partnerships with clinical facilities, other educational institutions and businesses to provide state-of-the-art clinical education in nursing;" and
- "expand the Nightingale Center for Nursing Scholarship to enhance research capacity within the FWWSN, the University, and the state focusing on rural health and health care outcomes."

VIII. Wyoming Health Insurance Pool (WHIP)

Rick Schum from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Wyoming gave the Commission a presentation on the Wyoming Health Insurance Pool (WHIP). In 2007 there were some significant changes to the Wyoming Statutes concerning the WHIP (W.S. 26-43-107). The changes were as follows: 1) Enrollment is now based on income level, 2) \$3 million was appropriated to fund Level 2 enrollment (To date approximately \$975,000 has been used) and 3) a \$6 million assessment maximum with \$4 million cap on premium tax credits to insurers (assessments made to insurers thus far in 2008 amount to \$1,250,000). They have increased the marketing for the WHIP but are being cautious not to oversell the product because of the limited funds. There are currently 482 members at Level I enrollment (Adjusted gross annual income is 250% of the Federal Poverty Guideline (FPG) or above) and 233 members at the Level II enrollment (Adjusted gross annual income is below 250% of the FPG) for a total enrollment of 715.

IX. Smoke Free Environment Legislation

Commissioner Jack Glode gave the Commission an update on the Smoke Free Legislation. The data continues to support the conclusion that exposure to secondhand smoke is causing health problems.

VOTE: The Commission moved to support eliminate exposure to second hand smoke.

X. Miscellaneous Items

- Executive Director Susie Scott is moving to Cheyenne and needs to get the Commission's approval to obtain desk space in Cheyenne.

VOTE: Commissioner John Vandell motioned to approve Susie obtaining desk space in Cheyenne and Commissioner Lorraine Saulino-Klein seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

- The next Wyoming Healthcare Commission meeting will be Monday, October 13, 2008, in Cheyenne at the Herschler building. The November & December meetings are still up for debate. The January meeting will be in Cheyenne at the Herschler building.

3:00 P.M. Meeting adjourned