

Wyoming Healthcare Commission

October 13, 2008

Meeting Notes

Herschler Building

Cheyenne, WY

Commissioners: Larry Kirven, Co-chairman; Rex Arney, Co-chairman; Andrew Fitzgerald; Jack Glode; Cathy Guschewsky; Barb Rea; Lorraine Saulino-Klein; Brent Sherard and Ken Vines.

Subcommittee Members: Dan Perdue; Jerry Calkins, M.D.; Rick Schum, John McBride and Dennis Ellis.

Guests: Wendy Curran; Mary Kay Goetter; Terri Green; Lloyd Wilder; Dan Lex; Stacie Dunn, Steve Bahmer, Michael Jensen, Pat Monahan; Lacci Garst; Kevin Bohnenblust; Renee Gamino; Jan Drury; Veronica Skoranski; Jeff Hopkins; Sharla Allen; Laura Hudspeth; Jean McLean; Holly Andrilla; Sue Skillman; Bistra Anatchkova; Mike Dorssom; Ron Pearson and Larry Biggio.

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

10:00 a.m. Co-chairmen Rex Arney and Larry Kirven, called the meeting to order.

I. Patient Safety Task Force Update

Co-chairman Larry Kirven and Facilitator/Consultant Fran Cadez updated the Commission on what the Patient Safety Task Force has been working on:

1. Wyoming Hospital Association (WHA) Annual Meeting- The WHA's annual meeting was held on October 1-2, 2008, in Cheyenne. Commissioner Jack Glode and Fran Cadez were invited to present at the meeting. Dr. William Minogue (Executive Director Maryland Patient Safety Center) and Craig Weller (Senior Vice President & Chief Strategy Officer of the Delmarva Foundation for Medical Care) were guest presenters. At the meeting they had a chance to speak with several quality assurance individuals and CEOs from various Wyoming hospitals. Concerns about creating a redundant reporting system were voiced at the meeting. However, the intent of having a Patient Safety Organization (PSO) is not to gather and analyze the same data that is being collected by the Wyoming Department of Health (WDH) under the State's medical errors reporting statute but rather to gather and analyze data on "near misses." After spending time with Dr. William Minogue from the Maryland Patient Safety Center, it is clear that the "near misses" data is crucial and it is the "near misses" data that needs to be analyzed. There was comment from the Commission that perhaps the data being collected by the WDH could be handed off to the PSO. The Patient Safety Task Force will inquire of the Maryland Patient Safety Center as to why Maryland

chose to keep their system separate from their state's reporting system.

2. Guidelines for Patient Safety Organizations issued- Last week (Oct. 6-10, 2008) the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) issued guidelines for Patient Safety Organizations (PSO). The guidelines allow the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) to begin receiving applications from qualified entities that wish to become PSOs until the federal rules are established.
3. Initial goals for a Wyoming PSO- Commissioner Larry Kirven, chairman of the Commission's Patient Safety Task Force, stated the initial goals for a Wyoming PSO would be as follow:
 - Develop a business plan
 - Solidify relationships with stakeholders
 - Discuss the possibility of transitioning current Wyoming Department of Health reporting duties to PSO with the Joint Labor, Health & Social Services Committee
 - Provide year one budget to Legislature
 - PSO would initially focus on educational efforts
4. Medicare stops paying for "never events"- On October 1, 2008, Medicare stopped paying for "never events." This will continue to be a motivator for hospitals to establish Patient Safety Organizations across the country.

II. Carbon County Pilot Project Update

Commissioner Jack Glode gave the Commission an update on the Carbon County Pilot Project. The Carbon County Joint Powers agreement will be signed this month (October 2008). Wamsutter and Baggs will not sign the agreement at this time. The Emergency Medical Services (EMS) coordinator position should be hired within the next 30 days. The task force met on Sept. 29th and had a wrap-up session on EMS with Keith Mueller, Ph.D. and Dr. Clint McKinney. The project is moving onto phase 2 and 3 and there should be a report on this before the commission sunsets. Gary Wingrove from SafeTech Solutions may come back for one more piece prior to implementing the pilot project. The coming together of political entities for the Joint Powers Board has been a huge step and hopefully integrating the EMS systems will be met with the same willingness to work together.

III. Health Professions Database Legislative Update

Assistant Director Beth Worthen gave the Commission a legislative update on the Health Professions Database. At the last Labor, Health & Social Services (LHSS) meeting held on September 15-16, 2008, in Casper, the Commission gave several presentations. One of the presentations the Commission gave to the LHSS committee was on the future of the Health Professions Database. Information on what the continuation of the Health Professions Database would look like after the

Wyoming Healthcare Commission sunsets was provided to the LHSS committee. Commissioners were provided with a hardcopy of the same. The Commission recommended to the LHSS committee that the State of Wyoming support the Health Professions Database project permanently and gave two options on how the project could continue. Option one is to collect and analyze data as done in current system and transition the project to a state agency. Option two is to collect the data through the licensure renewal process and transition the project to a state agency. The LHSS committee has asked for more details and has asked the Legislative Service Office (LSO) to draft the legislation for both options presented. The Database Workgroup will be developing the plan with further details and then will update LSO and the LHSS committee chairmen.

IV. Patient Safety Legislative Update

Facilitator/Consultant Fran Cadez gave the Commission a legislative update on Patient Safety. Commissioner Jack Glode and Fran Cadez presented at the Labor, Health & Social Services (LHSS) meeting held on September 15-16, 2008, in Casper regarding the formation of a Patient Safety Organization (PSO). A draft budget of \$300,000 for year one to create the PSO was proposed. They will be meeting with legislators before December for further input. The Commission will be sending a letter this week to all of the stakeholders and then a document that spells out the reasons why a PSO is necessary will be sent at a later date. Dr. William Minogue (Executive Director Maryland Patient Safety Center) has stated that their cost savings have been beyond their expectations. Malpractice costs have been all but eliminated due to the Maryland Patient Safety Center's collaborative. Non-reimbursements for "never events" are going to continue. It was previously thought that having a PSO would be nice. It's now thought that having a PSO is necessary.

V. Access Legislative Update

Executive Director Susie Scott gave the Commission the legislative update on Access. Commissioner Rex Arney and Susie Scott presented at the Labor, Health & Social Services (LHSS) meeting held on September 15-16, 2008, in Casper regarding Access. The Commission recommended that the details of the demonstration project/Healthy Frontiers concepts be further developed before implementation of the project and that a design project should be authorized in order to gather the needed details for a successful demonstration project. The LHSS committee asked that legislation for both options (the design project and the implementation of Health Frontiers) be drafted. Executive Director Susie Scott has been working with Rep. Jack Landon to draft the legislation for the design project and Wendy Curran from the Governor's Office has been working with Sen. Scott to draft the legislation for the implementation of the Healthy Frontiers project. Executive Director Susie Scott will provide the Commission with a copy of the draft legislation concerning the design project as soon as possible. The timeline is tight since the Wyoming Healthcare Commission will sunset in June 2009. Wendy Curran from the Governor's Office said that Sen.

Scott has submitted draft language on the Healthy Frontiers piece to the Legislative Service Office.

The "medical home" concept was discussed. The concept of a medical home is very complicated. Physicians are still working in silos. It will take time to develop a system that would allow a medical home to work. Without provider buy in, which require incentives, it is difficult for programs to be successful.

VI. Smoke Free Environment Legislative Update

Commissioner Jack Glode gave the Commission the legislative update on Smoke Free Environment. Commissioner Jack Glode presented the LHSS committee with the Commission's resolution to support the elimination of exposure to second hand smoke and it was accepted. There was no further discussion.

VII. Carbon County Pilot Project Legislative Update

Commissioner Jack Glode gave the Commission the legislative update on Carbon County. Representative Jeb Steward should have a bill drafted between now and November regarding Carbon County. It is clear funding is a significant issue. It's not all about Emergency Medical Service (EMS). The local leadership committing to change has been the reason the project is making good progress.

VIII. Health Policy Organization

The Commission discussed the need for a Health Policy Organization so that when the Commission sunsets there will be an entity that can continue working on healthcare issues. The Commission must make a recommendation to the legislature this session. Effective communication between the Legislature and the Commission has been difficult. There needs to be an interface. One solution is to form a legislative committee that looks solely at healthcare issues. Another solution would be to have a Health Policy Organization composed of various laymen, stakeholders and legislators. The composition of such an organization would be important. The concept of having both legislators and laymen makes a lot of sense. The Select Water Committee is a good example of how this could be set up and is probably the closest to what a Health Policy organization would be like. Examples of how other states have formed Health Policy Organizations would be a good starting point.

LUNCH 12:00 Noon

IX. Health Professions Database

Wyoming Survey & Analysis Center's (WYSAC) Role in the WHCC Health Professionals Workforce Project- Burke Grandjean, Ph.D., from the Wyoming Survey & Analysis Center (WYSAC) presented the Commission with the background on WYSAC and their structure. Michael Dorssom, M.A.(Project manager from WYSAC) presented the Commission with WYSAC's project organization and tasks. Facilities will be surveyed twice between now and June 2009. The health professional's questionnaires will go out in the Spring. WYSAC has finished

building the infra structure for the new database and are finalizing the questionnaires for facilities and doing additional work on the health professionals questionnaires is being done. The data collection begins in November for facilities and in the spring health professionals.

The University of Washington (WWAMI) CHWS/RHRC's Role in the WHCC Health Professionals Workforce Project- Deputy Director Sue Skillman, MS, from the University of Washington (WWAMI) presented the Commission with their background and role. WWAMI will be doing the analysis piece of the Health Professionals Workforce Project and will also be doing some health policy briefs based on their analysis. WWAMI is looking for input for their health policy briefs from the Commission. The idea is to have WWAMI draft the policy briefs and then have the commission review the brief. Regarding the analysis, care must be taken with the data and how it is interpreted. Community relationships need to be fostered in order to use the data and analyze it better. This could be a function of an ongoing policy organization to use this data and analyze it.

Concern was expressed by a member of the audience about linking the data collection piece to licensing because of confidentiality. The Database Work group will be working on this issue.

Meeting adjourned. 1:50 p.m.

*The Database Workgroup met after the main Wyoming Healthcare Commission adjourned.