

Wyoming Healthcare Commission

November 3, 2008

Meeting Notes

UW Outreach Building

Casper, WY

Commissioners: Larry Kirven, Co-chairman; Rex Arney, Co-chairman; Andrew Fitzgerald; Rod Barton; Barbara Cohee; Brent Sherard; John Vandel and Ken Vines.

Guests: Rep. Bob Brechtel, Rep. Mary Hales; Rep. Jack Landon; Marcia Shanor; Burke Grandjean; Rex Gantenbein; Jerry Calkins, M.D.; John McBride; Pennie Hunt; Steve Bahmer; Shiela Bush; Pat Monahan and Allison Rupp.

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

9:30 a.m. Co-chairmen Larry Kirven, called the meeting to order.

I. Welcome and Introductions

Executive Director Susie Scott introduced Barb Robinson to the Commission. Barb Robinson is a research scientist with the University of Wyoming, Center for Rural Health Research & Education. Barb will be taking over Ryan Sandefer's position as project manager for the Health Professions Database. Ryan has accepted a position out of state.

II. Wyoming Health Information Organization (WYHIO) Update

Jerry Calkins, Chairman of the Wyoming Health Information Organization (WYHIO), gave the Commission an update on the Health Information Exchange (HIE) needs assessment survey that they are conducting. The survey has gone to the printers. Letters will be going out later this week. Participants should have the survey by mid November (2008). WYHIO should have the preliminary data by April or March. The goal is to match needs with capability.

III. Access Update

Executive Director Susie Scott gave the Commission and update on Access legislation. Rep. Jack Landon has been working on a draft of the legislation incorporating the Commission's recommendations. The Legislative Services Office recently finished the initial draft. The initial draft will be sent to Commissioners for review. Senator Charles Scott is also working on draft legislation incorporating the "Healthy Frontiers" concepts. Sen. Mike Massie plans to introduce a bill too. Sen. Massie's bill is in the early drafting stages and would expand KidCare/SCHIP.

IV. Patient Safety Update

Co-chairman Larry Kirven gave the Commission an update on Patient Safety. The Patient Safety Task Force is developing a business plan and garnering support for a Wyoming Patient Safety Organization (PSO). They hope to have the business plan done by December. The PSO would follow the federal guidelines. Letters have been sent to stakeholders for their support. The plan is to use matching funds if possible and

to have the PSO up and running within a year. The PSO would be a public/private organization and there was concern expressed that it may be difficult to get matching funds because of this. There is a lot of support from the Maryland Patient Safety Center. The intent of having a PSO is to make it safer for patients who encounter the healthcare system.

V. Carbon County Pilot Project Update

Executive Director Susie Scott gave the Commission an update on the Carbon County Project. Memorial Hospital of Carbon County hired William Jack as the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Coordinator last Friday. There were a lot of representatives from communities in Carbon County who participated in the interview process. The next stakeholder meeting is December 10th. At the next stakeholder's meeting, they will discuss 24/7 access to care, possibilities of replicating aspects of the Carbon County Pilot Project throughout the state and other goals. There are plans to continue to work with the Rural Policy Research Institute (RUPRI). Stakeholders would like to expand the workgroup to include more physicians and businesses in the area.

VI. Health Professions Database Update

Burke Grandjean, executive director, Wyoming Survey & Analysis Center (WYSAC), and Barb Robinson, Health Profession Database project manager, gave the Commission an update on the Health Professions Database. The updated mailing lists are finished and the surveys are almost ready to go out. The hospital and clinic questionnaires are being tested online right now. By the end of this week an e-mail will go out to Hospitals asking them to complete the online survey. The collaboration with the University of Washington has been going well. The University of Washington is working hard on the "Policy Briefs." One of those briefs is the analysis of primary care based on the database data. WYSAC is working on a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Department of Health as to how they would cooperate when the Wyoming Healthcare Commission sunsets. Commissioners expressed the need to make certain providers and others are aware of the database so that it can be used by those who would benefit from it.

VII. Make It Happen Series-Geriatric Transitions Conference

Commissioner John Vandell informed the Commission about a conference that the University of Wyoming, College of Health Sciences is holding on June 4, 2009, titled "Make It Happen Series-Geriatric Transitions." Commissioner Vandell provided the Commission with a handout on the conference. The goal of the conference is to educate healthcare providers about geriatric patients and their needs. They are bringing in Dr. Eric Coleman from the University of Colorado Denver to speak at the conference. The University of Wyoming, College of Health Sciences is looking for sponsorship at the \$5,000, \$10,000 and \$30,000 levels. Co-chairman Rex Arney asked Commission staff to see if the Commission has the authority to make a grant award for the conference. Commissioners also requested staff to prepare a budget projection and see if there are funds available. Commission staff will provide this information to Commissioners as soon as possible. After Commissioners have had time to review the material a poll will be taken.

VIII. Health Policy Organization Discussion

Dr. Julia E. Robinson, Health and Human Services Consultant, facilitated the Commission discussion on what elements a Health Policy Organization should have. The Commission discussed in length what a Wyoming Health Policy Organization should look like, focusing on the purpose, composition and authority that the organization should have.

LUNCH 12:15 p.m.-12:45 p.m.

IX. Health Policy Organization Discussion (continued)

The Commission continued to work on the essential elements needed for a Health Policy Organization. By the end of the meeting the Commission had a document that was a working draft of what a Health Policy Organization would look like.

MEETING ADJOURNED 2:00 p.m.