

WYOMING HEALTHCARE COMMISSION
April 10, 2006
Meeting Minutes
Casper

ATTENDANCE:

Dixie Roberts, Chairman; Rex Arney, Rod Barton, Barbara Cohee, Jack Glode, M.D., Carol Jenkins, Steve Mossbrook, Barb Rea, Lorraine Saulino-Klein, Jack Speight Commissioners; Ken Vines, state Insurance Commissioner, Lee Clabots, Deputy Director of Administration Wyoming Department of Health; Susan Anderson, Executive Director, Beth Worthen, Assistant Director and Keith Hageman, Administrative Assistant, WHCC staff.

GUESTS:

Greg Gruman, Wyoming Department of Health, Medicaid; Sherlyn Kaiser, Wyoming Medical Center; Dan Neal, ESPC; Megan Cormier, APS; Pennie Hunt, Wyoming Health Resources Network; Linda O'Grady, Senior Eligibility Manager Medicaid / EqualityCare; Jerry Calkins, PhD, MD; John McBride Blue Cross Blue Shield; Rick Schum, Blue Cross Blue Shield; Beth Wasson, WINhealth Partners; Lynn Birleffi, America's Health Insurance Plans, Wyoming Lodging and Restaurant Association, Wyoming Retail Merchants Association; Tom Gallagher, Department of Employment, Research & Planning; Barb Watters and Lynn Whalen.

9:00 am Meeting called to order by Chairman Roberts

Senator Craig Thomas paid a surprise visit to the commission and briefly addressed the Commission. He thanked the Commission for the work they are doing. He said Congress still needs solutions regarding healthcare and encouraged the commission to keep him informed and to make suggestions about things that can be done at the federal level.

NURSING STUDY PROPOSED STUDY PLAN

Tom Gallagher, from Research & Planning (R&P), Department of Employment, presented his material concerning the proposed study plan for the Nursing Study.

Mr. Gallagher commented that using college enrollment and graduation data (in this case nursing student data) presents a challenge because no two colleges collect the data the same way. He will be working with the Community College Commission and the Academic Deans to address how to make sure they have continuity of measurement with the data.

The WHCC Director, Susan Anderson, will work on finalizing the contract with R&P. There was discussion that the WHCC needs to focus on a "solution" to the nursing shortage and not just studying the nursing shortage. It was also noted that the WHCC needs to look at more than just wages but also the working conditions of nurses needs to be taken into account.

MEDICAID 101

Greg Gruman, Ph.D. State Medicaid Director, Administrator Office of Healthcare Financing, Wyoming Department of Health, gave his presentation on "Medicaid 101." Mr. Gruman's presentation is attached.

DIRECTORS REPORT, SUSAN ANDERSON

The Director, Susan Anderson, announced that Beth Worthen will be the new assistant director for the WHCC. She will start out at half-time. Beth graduated from University of Wyoming with a degree in political science and is a Truman Scholar. Beth also worked for University of Wyoming Vice-president Tom Buchanan for three years in academic affairs. She also worked in the planning office as a policy analyst. Susan also announced that Keith Hageman, the WHCC administrative assistant, will be a full-time employee.

Susan commented that the new committees that are being formed need to notify the WHCC staff of any meetings they are having so she can staff those meetings and provide support to the meetings.

NEW COMMITTEES

Chairman Roberts announced three new WHCC subcommittees. The subcommittees are as follows:

Medicaid Committee

Chairman- Rod
Barton
Carol V. Jenkins
John Vandell
Lorraine Saulino-
Klein
Barb Cohee
Greg Gruman
Teri Green

Health Care Delivery Systems Committee

Chairman- Jack
Glode
Jack Speight
Steve Mossbrook
Brent Sherard
Dr. Jerry Calkins

Insuring the Uninsured Committee

Chairman- Rex Arney
Barb Rea
Ken Vines
John McBride
Rick Shum
Beth Wasson
Lynn Birleffi
Linda O'Grady

The subcommittees were encouraged to discuss if they had enough representation and to make recommendations to add members as needed. The committees will be working on their scope of work and timelines.

Susan Anderson reminded the commissioners about the April 12, 2006, Telehealth symposium in Cheyenne and the April 13, 2006, Nebraska Health Professions Tracking Center (HPTC) meeting with Kolene Kohl, also in Cheyenne. Susan also announced that the WHCC will cover travel expenses and meeting day pay for commissioners who attend these meetings. The Commission Policy is to pay Commissioners the \$85 pay when they attend any meeting related to the Commission's work.

Chairman Roberts added that Wyoming Health Resources Network has data that can be used in conjunction with the HPTC data. The WHRN Board has been invited to a presentation by Kolene Kohl to give them an overview of the survey, the data available, and next steps. Commissioner

Roberts will invite the WHRN Board to give input on the Second Phase and to participate in combining the data of the Wyoming Healthcare Commission and WHRN.

Chairman Roberts advised the Medical Errors Study is progressing and we will extend the contract to the end of the year. The funds for this are coming from funds allocated from HB1010. The two page Scope of Work was distributed for review.

Chairman Roberts discussed the Specialty Hospitals Study. The Study is being approached from two aspects. The first area of study will be to look at research that has been done as it is voluminous, to look at regulations in place in Wyoming and other states, to review areas where Specialty Hospitals have had a positive impact and areas where the impacts have been negative and examine if there are commonalities to the regulations or procedures. The second area of the study will be done by the Rural Healthcare Delivery Systems subcommittee. The Subcommittee will be reviewing existing studies and data to see what is needed. A conference call regarding the RFP for the Specialty Hospitals Study will be scheduled. Commissioners will be contacted.

RFP VERSUS SOLE SOURCE

There was comment that as a general rule the WHCC should use RFPs but exceptions are okay if there are factors that would better suit the sole source process such as time constraints etc. All contracts and RFP's will be reviewed by the entire Commission as a general practice.

REPORT FROM COMMITTEES

Insuring the Uninsured Committee

It was suggested to the Insuring the Uninsured Committee that they should start fresh and not to build on what was done before. That is the approach the committee is taking.

Some of the questions and aspects they are looking at concerning the issue of insuring the uninsured are as follows:

1. What is it we need to know?
2. Demographics
3. What information is out there? (Resources should be out there they just need to find it and then get it.)
4. What is currently being done in Wyoming?
5. Need to look at what other states have looked at concerning the issue of insuring the uninsured. The committee will be looking for summaries of what other states have done. They don't want to reinvent the wheel.
6. Should the committee look at an incremental approach or should they look at a big picture approach? (committee has not addressed this yet)

At the next WHCC meeting (May 8th) the committee hopes to have the answers to these questions and the information needed. The committee

will meet again right after the WHCC general meeting in the evening on May 8th and then again the morning of May 9th until around noon.

The committee wants to find out the cost of healthcare and health insurance. They also want to look at existing programs such as Kidcare, reinsurance and other programs that already exist in Wyoming.

The committee wants to find out what is driving the cost of healthcare in Wyoming. The Insuring the Uninsured committee also expressed a desire to avoid duplicating work that the other committees are doing. They will be in touch with the other two WHCC committees.

The committee requested the Department of Employment's small group documents, NAIC document and the SPG document.

They would also like information on the Wyoming Health Insurance Pool, Reinsurance Model. Linda O'Grady may be able to provide some of the requested information.

There was also comment by the committee that transparency needs to be addressed. Sen. Scott commented that incentives also need to be looked at.

Medicaid Reform Committee

The Medicaid Reform Committee is looking at the following:

1. What services are currently being used in Wyoming?
2. Other Options- what are other states doing?
3. What are the areas within Medicaid which produce the highest cost and, perhaps, have the best change to improve cost effectiveness
4. Characteristics of Medicaid population (demographics)
5. Do all nursing home residents need to be there (what percentage?)
6. What other choices for long-term care are there other than nursing homes?

For the May 8th meeting the committee would like the HCMS (Hank Gardner) information and the State Survey.

Chairman Roberts asked if outside vendors are necessary for any part of the Medicaid restructuring. This is still to be determined.

Greg Gruman is going to report back to the Medicaid Committee what the current benefits are to the committee.

Healthcare Delivery Systems Committee

The delivery systems committee will be looking at the following:

1. The possible effects on the state's health care system, trauma care system, Wyoming community health care facilities and consumers;
2. The existing and future needs for health care services, taking into account population demographics, treatment needs and health care demographics;

3. The provision of hospital specialty services to the insured and the underinsured populations in the state;
4. Creating efficiencies and opportunities for enhancing the quality of health care, the delivery of health care services and the allocation of health care resources; and

The Delivery Systems Committee will also be looking at the following issues:

1. Feasibility of regional healthcare system (entire)
2. Study existing models (Kaiser Foundation)
3. Current inventory of providers (will be reviewing Navigant's Wyoming Rural Healthcare Study)
4. Cost of exporting healthcare
5. In state claims and cost data (transparency issue) cost effectiveness.
6. Creation of independent commission or entity in order to continue to monitor and address the delivery systems in Wyoming. (for future)
7. Foundation model (payer, patient and provider)
8. Transportation System (more about what we have now rather than what would be best)
9. Demographics
10. Current fragmentation of provider education

The Committee needs to narrow the focus of the study and determine what is most important and what needs to be included in study.

The Committee needs to focus on the following:

1. Current inventory
2. Outgoing migration and Provider recruitment
3. Advisability of regional healthcare planning

The committee commented that they want to hire speakers and/or advisors in order to keep it interactive with facilities in the state.

WRAP UP

Future WHCC meetings will be structured with 2-4 hours of committee meetings.

The June 12th WHCC meeting will have a presentation of the Department of Health's Program on "Total Health Management."

The July 10th WHCC meeting will have a presentation on the results of the "Total Health Management Program" and the "Return on Investment" from the program over the past year.

Commissioners were encouraged to come up with other individuals that could help out with committee work.

Timelines need to be established after next months meeting.

Any studies that have reports due to the Legislature need to have the reports done a month prior to the due date so that the commission can review the reports and make any necessary changes and recommendations.

A conference call regarding the RFP for the Specialty Hospitals Study will be scheduled. Commissioners will be contacted.

MEETING ADJOURNED