

**Wyoming Healthcare Commission  
Rural Healthcare Delivery Systems Subcommittee  
Meeting Minutes  
August 14, 2006**

Meeting opened at 2:35pm.

Subcommittee members present: Jack Speight, Jack Glode, Larry Kirven, Susie Pouliot, Brent Sherard, Mary Burman, Jerry Calkins, Dan Perdue, Beth Worthen.

Others present: Sherlynn Kaiser, Loretta Wolf, Lynne Weidel, Pat Monaghan

**RUPRI**

**Overview**

Projects are underway – still concerns about IMPLAN, ability to transition to more rural setting.

- We should talk with Dr. Chen and RUPRI about these concerns.

**Case study communities**

Committee considered Rawlins, Powell and Lusk. Rawlins is a good community due to energy impact, uninsured energy workers (uncompensated care), substance abuse problem, corrections issues, overwhelmed ER due to trauma, dental care (about to lose 2 dentists there – Bill Scoggin and Jeff Sweet). Is not a critical access hospital and has a lot of employees of hospital. Powell is a good choice because it is located in the Big Horn Basin, rural, have hospital (critical access), outmigration issues with MT, agricultural base, economic development activities. Big Horn Basin is a microcosm of Wyoming in terms of health care choices.

There was a concern that we are missing communities tied to tourism (Cody, Sheridan, Jackson).

- We should also ask RUPRI to consider the multicultural component – Latino communities, impact on health care system.

**Laramie visit: August 24-25**

Need to see their agenda, RUPRI needs to see Family Practice Residencies, Rex Gantenbein, meeting re: cancer control plan (Loretta Wolf and Kimberly Rogers).

The committee has the opportunity to meet with RUPRI over dinner in Laramie. Attendees: Jerry Calkins, Jack Speight, Jack Glode, Lynne Weidel et al.

Agenda:

1. IMPLAN
2. Out-migration information -- timeline

3. Debrief from meetings
4. Next steps

- Beth will send this agenda and RUPRI's schedule to the committee members and others present.

**Health Professions Database (Kolene Kohil, HPTC)**  
**Follow-up from AM presentation/discussion**

*Who is going to be in charge of this data? What happens when the WHCC goes away?* There has been discussion about the Department of Health or Employment overseeing this data. The legislature has given the authority to the Health Department in the past. However, the committee determined that it should stay with WHCC for the time being.

- Jack Speight said he would lead effort to look at HPTC's contract to amend it for future work with the WHCC for the next 3 years.

Confidentiality concerns: the committee asked Kolene to notify respondents within the survey about the potential uses of the information.

- Brent will come back with plan to address concerns for use within the Health Department. Kolene will provide examples of agreements in Nebraska.

**What do we want to see?**

1. Resolving disagreements about how many doctors are working in Wyoming – can't use licensure data. Put in a format that is realistic – FTE, breakdown by county.
2. Heard comments about an aging workforce – age data is important for all professions.
3. Specialties are important as well, please break down specialties in relocation and retirement categories. Add "call time" to questions for specialties.
4. Family practitioners – what percentage of FP's do OB?
5. Who is providing emergency care?
6. Of part-time doctors, who is based in Wyoming? Who is not?
7. Compare our state to similar states -- # of specialties, # of family practitioners, etc. (look to WWAMI data)
8. Highlight vacancies -- what has been done to address your vacancy? How long? Reasons for vacancy?
9. Pockets where the response rates are better/worse than others?
10. Add question about patient safety officers to hospital survey.
11. Use term "Advance Practice Nurse", not "Nurse Practitioner," delineate what kind of APN.

- Beth will send WWAMI report electronically to Kolene.

Should consider adding mental health professionals to surveyed profession

- Need to define who – community mental health centers, licensure boards, Chuck Hayes and Steve Gilmore in Mental Health and Substance Abuse can help. WAMSAC can help with recipients. Pull in Sen. Schiffer and Rep. Simpson. Kolene will draft survey.

Policy to release data: need to develop.

- Beth will track requests of data, work with Kolene to fill requests.

Need a longer term sustainability plan – Can set up annual contracts with other state agencies and entities for ongoing work. Fee can also be per request.

### **Vail follow-up**

National Democratic pollster presented results of polls related to health care – most Americans would pay more to insure full access. Public is willing to subsidize health care, apparently. Jack Glode will send slides to everyone.