

LeadingAge Wyoming Newsletter



President's Report

Just days before the Senate was scheduled to vote to repeal the ACA, I was back in Washington DC, meeting with our congressional delegates. I tried to make our message clear...LeadingAge Wyoming and the WHA want to help find solutions. We have spent a great deal of time saying no to everything and I think for good reason, but I also feel like we need to start offering solutions.

I traveled to DC after attending the LeadingAge State Leadership Forum in Denver. I was joined at the meeting by Shane Filipi, LAW incoming Chair-Elect. We learned that Phase 2 of the new Rules of Participation which include the civil monetary penalties (CMP) have been frozen and will not be enforced for one year.

This is great news but additional regulatory relief is necessary. We also learned that the CMS 5 Star Rating program will be frozen for one year. This is great news for some and terrible for others as those with high rating will keep that rating for the next year but those with low ratings, even by making changes and meeting the requirements to raise their rating will be frozen at the low score.

During my visit in DC, I spoke with all three members of our congressional delegation and their staffs and explained our stance and asked them to help us. One solution for driving down costs is to help relieve regulatory burden. The random and arbitrary nature of some of the regulations is dumbfounding.

I also explained that there are major concerns with the new RoPs and that there is potential for some of the safety net nursing homes in our state not being able to meet the requirements and have to close their doors. I also explained that the CMPs carry a very heavy price tag and due to the way we are notified of problems, we could be hundreds of thousands of dollars in the hole before we are even aware we have done something to warrant the penalties.

I also explained the problems there are with the 5 Star Rating program and asked for intervention and help in fixing a terrible system. There needs to be a better way of reporting quality and outcomes and rating our facilities. The system, like many in DC, is broken and needs fixing.

With the vote that took place in DC and the decision by the Senate not to repeal the ACA, there is much work that needs to be done. I believe that Senators Barrasso and Enzi and Congresswoman Cheney were doing what they think is right.

As I stayed up with the Senate and watched every minute of debate, as I listened to both sides of the argument and as I watched Senator Enzi testify and provide facts it became apparent to me that we cannot rest. There are major problems with the ACA that need immediate attention. The insurance market needs stabilization, Medicaid for the elderly needs to be protected so that they can receive the care necessary.

I encouraged our Senators to work in a bipartisan manner and I hope they will accept the offer the Democrats made and find a way forward together. I also hope that Senator Schumer will keep his word and that instead of obstructing, the Democrats will work with the Republicans to find solutions to fix a failing program.

Thanks to those of you that have sent emails and spoken to our representatives as they have visited your communities during the past several weeks. Your voices are important and I know that our delegates listen. They may not always agree but they listen.

LAW Calendar:	
LeadingAge Wyoming Annual Meeting Sheridan	9/20-9/21
LeadingAge Annual Meeting New Orleans, LA	10/29-11/1



LAW Annual Meeting & Convention

The LeadingAge Wyoming Annual Meeting & Convention will be held September 20-21, 2017 at the Sheridan Holiday Inn, Sheridan Wyoming.

We have many great programs scheduled this year. We begin with Frank King as our Keynote speaking on patient engagement. Wyoming's own CJ Box will round out the morning presentation and he will then stay for a book signing.

Monday afternoon will include presentations by the Wyoming Department of Health giving us an update for long term care facilities to hear the updates on the new li-

cense and survey process and life safety surveys. This session will also address the emergency preparedness rules for facilities.

Pat Fritz from Mountain Pacific Quality Health will provide a celebration of Wyoming nursing homes progress in the National Nursing Home Quality Care Collaborative.

Joe Tye will be presenting the program "The Florence Prescription: From a Culture of Accountability to a Culture of Ownership."

This program will deal with the concept that culture doesn't change until people change—and in to-

day's healthcare world, you need empowered people working in a culture of ownership.

Janine Finck-Boyle, Director of Health Regulations and Policy for LeadingAge will speak to our membership on Thursday afternoon.

Of course there is always the awards banquet, vendor show, annual meeting and networking with your peers.

To register visit www.leadingagewyoming.org or call 307-632-9344.

Update on New CMS Survey Process for LTC Providers

On November 28th, 2017, CMS will implement the new survey process for long-term care facilities.

The new process combines the best of the traditional survey process and the QIS survey process. Directly, the concepts of the new survey process will be a focus on residents and resident experiences.

This direction will allow surveyors to steer away from rigid yes or no answers to open-ended questions and bring in a conversation during the interview as a human element.

The survey will investigate care concerns but focus on consistency. Using critical element pathways from the QIS survey process, along with newly developed pathways, the new process will include observations, interviews, investigations, and facility tasks.

CMS will be releasing the updated and new CE Pathways by September. In addition, training for providers by video and slide deck will become available on the CMS website.

We hope you will register for and attend our Annual Meeting in September. We will receive updates and training from our state license and survey team as well as Janine Finck-Boyle from LeadingAge.

"The Power of Purpose"

2017 Annual Meeting & Convention

September 20-21, 2017

Sheridan Holiday Inn

