



ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Agenda

Wednesday June 27, 2007

10am

WHA Office Madison WI

Invitees: Jim Brick, LaChapelle Credit Service
Amy Cook, TransUnion
Anthony Cooper, Consultant
DuWayne Severson, Mercy Health System
Bruce Lorenz, Wausau Hospital
Scott Schweiger, AIM Healthcare
Brian Sullivan, Extendicare Health Services
Scott Wallner, Franciscan Villa (Chairperson)

Review of Current Website --- Do we need to look at facelift now, or consider after a promotional campaign for the website

- will hold until the Sept 2007 meeting to receive input from membership on possible changes

Website Publicity –Discussion on Tentative presentation at the Sept 26-28 Wisconsin HFMA meeting

-Brian to put together a presentation, will send to committee to review

-7 5 07 –we have approx 60 minutes to present at the meeting

Job Description Database --- Update

-Board still reviewing, there is a desire to place more emphasis on Mid management and staff positions. We will wait for update

IT Systems Database --- Update

-Saud Amed at Childrens Wis, heads up the IT Systems committee. We will assist as requested

Message Board/Listserv Capabilities --- Update

-Scott to provide private links for committee to review; the message board will then be rolled out to the membership if feedback in Sept is positive

Member Involvement with Committee Projects --- Review areas of interest for the next year

-Scott to send revised mail distribution

-everyone agreed to assist at the Sept meeting as needed

-Amy will continue to proof read mailings

Other –Minimize/eliminate Directory and newsletter print options

-DS to write up suggestion of moving to electronic communication as main tool, ie0 eliminate paper newsletter and directory. Will send to committee to review

**WI Chapter of HFMA
Major Program Locations
2007 thru 2010**

Time Period	Resort Name	Location	Status
9/26/07 thru 9/28/07	Hotel Mead	Wisconsin Rapids	Confirmed
Mega Conference 1/30/08 thru 2/1/08	Kalahari Resort	Wisconsin Dells	Confirmed
5/21/08 thru 5/23/08 Jean Voight's Installation	The Abbey Resort	Fontana, WI	Confirmed
9/10/08 thru 9/12/08	Radisson Hotel	LaCrosse	Confirmed
1/21/09 thru 1/23/09	Radisson Hotel & Casino	Green Bay	Confirmed
5/20/09 thru 5/22/09 Bud Zeissberger's Installation	Stone Harbor Resort	Sturgeon Bay	Confirmed
September, 2009	Marriott Hotel OR Holiday Inn OR Country Springs Hotel	Middleton Steven's Point Steven's Point	Open
Mega Conference?? January, 2010	Kalahari Resort??	Wisconsin Dells	

Wisconsin Chapter HFMA
Sponsorship Committee Board Report
July 23, 2007

As of July 23, 2007, \$49,000 sponsorship fees have been collected and there are still a number of sponsors who have not sent in their renewals. Courtesy reminder letters and follow-up e-mails have been sent to all who have not renewed advising them of the potential of the lost benefit of August/September newsletter listing as well as directory and resource directory listing.

Following are the paid sponsors for 2007-2008:

Platinum

The MMIC Group
PIC Wisconsin
WHA Financial Solutions
BlickenWolf, LLC

Gold

Wisconsin Health and Educational Facilities Authority (WHEFA)
RSM McGladrey
TransUnion
Hall, Render, Killian, Heath & Lyman

Silver

von Briesen & Roper, S.C.
KPMG, LLP
WIPFLI, LLP
HRS Erase, Inc.
Jefferson Wells
Eide Bailly
LarsonAllen LLP

Bronze

Medical Recovery Specialists, Inc.
Key Financial Services, LLC
CareMedic Systems, Inc.
Bay Area Healthcare Consulting, Inc.
FinCor Solutions
Fifth Third Bank
SSI Group
Harris & Harris, LTD

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Boerema
Sponsorship Committee Co-Chair

HFMA WISCONSIN CHAPTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
WHA Report (submitted by Brian Potter)
July 27, 2007

Assembly Passes Its Version of State Budget

Hospital tax removed, hospital rates increased, stalled patient safety initiatives advance

On July 10, the Republican-led Assembly passed its version of the state budget on a 51-44 vote. The Assembly's \$56.3 billion proposal spends nearly \$10 billion less than the \$66.1 billion approved by the Senate, but is still a five percent increase, all funds, over the 2005-07 state budget. *Healthy Wisconsin*, the Senate Democrats' \$15 billion plan to completely overhaul Wisconsin's health care system, was not included in the Assembly budget.

As expected, Assembly Republicans removed a 1 percent tax on hospital gross revenues, proposed by Governor Doyle and approved by Democrats in the Senate. Unfortunately, a \$1.25 increase in the cigarette tax was also deleted. However, the Assembly addressed many other WHA Medical Assistance (MA) and health care policy priorities.

In addition to removing the hospital tax, the Assembly voted to increase MA reimbursements to hospitals that receive a disproportionate share of Medicaid patients by \$19 million for inpatient and \$7 million for outpatient services for all hospitals; delete the increase in the nursing home bed tax and increase nursing home payment rates by five percent; remove the "Raid on Medicaid" and instead fund MA with General Purpose Revenue (GPR) dollars; and delete the raid on the Injured Patients and Families Compensation Fund (IPFCF).

The Assembly also included several proposals to promote health care quality and patient safety. The Assembly budget includes the Quality Improvement Act, legislation strongly backed by WHA that passed overwhelmingly last session but was vetoed by Governor Doyle. The proposal fosters quality and safety improvement by expanding current law protections of the records and information created during quality and safety reviews, evaluations and improvement actions. Other provisions included in the Assembly budget would improve patient safety by making sure health care providers know about reported patient abuse and neglect by potential employees, and providing immunity for health care providers that report clinical or ethical violations.

Additionally, provisions were included making contributions to Health Savings Accounts (HSAs) and health insurance premiums tax deductible; requiring the Wisconsin Health and Educational Facilities Authority (WHEFA) to issue bonds for a project if it determines that revenues associated with the project would be sufficient to pay all debt services costs related to the bonds; providing an exemption from individual and corporate taxes for interest paid on WHEFA bonds used by a health facility to fund the acquisition of information technology hardware or software; and increasing the allowable copying charges for medical records to up to \$1 per page to help cover the cost of making the copies and bring Wisconsin's allowable charges more in line with other states.

Commenting on the Assembly budget, Speaker Mike Huebsch (R-West Salem) said, "Assembly Republicans balanced the budget while protecting seniors and low-income families served by Medicaid and BadgerCare. Our budget also addresses the hidden health care tax by providing rate increases for Wisconsin's hospitals and nursing homes."

In contrast, Assembly Minority Leader Jim Kreuser (D-Kenosha) criticized the Assembly Republicans' budget for limiting vital services, but said in the end, "We want to work together with you. Most of the people of this state want us to work together."

As previously mentioned, because of the drastic differences in the Assembly and Senate versions of the budget, a conference committee will now be formed to hammer out the differences between the two proposals.

Conference committee members from the Assembly will include Speaker Mike Huebsch, Joint Finance Committee Co-Chair Kitty Rhoades (R-Hudson), Majority Leader Jeff Fitzgerald (R-Horicon) and Minority Leader Jim Kreuser. Senate committee members will include Majority Leader Judy Robson (D-Beloit), Joint Finance Committee Co-Chair Russ Decker (D-Weston), Senator Bob Jauch (D-Poplar), and Minority Leader Scott Fitzgerald (R-Juneau).

Eventually, identical budget language will need to be approved by each house of the Legislature before being forwarded on to Governor Doyle for his line-item veto and ultimate signature. The Senate is expected to pass a Joint Resolution on the conference committee on July 17, with the Assembly to follow. Discussions could begin as early as the end of next week as legislators try to bridge the vast divide in budget priorities.

President's Column: Assembly Republican budget bill

There are a "baker's dozen" reasons to like the Assembly Republican budget bill. That's right, there are several positive initiatives for health care in the Assembly Republican budget bill, starting with the fact that the legislation provides Medicaid payment increases to hospitals and nursing homes without resorting to new or higher provider taxes to finance the much needed payment relief. Additionally, the initiative removes the Doyle Administration's third proposed raid of the Injured Patients and Families Compensation Fund (IPFCF)—a \$175 million money snatch that if allowed to stand would lead to huge premium increases for physicians and hospitals. The budget proposal also restores almost a billion dollars in existing funds that were siphoned out of Medicaid for other state spending.

In addition to protecting the IPFCF, the GOP budget proposes other WHA-backed, patient-centered initiatives including new peer review protections that will serve as a catalyst to accelerate Wisconsin's current leadership role in the public reporting of patient quality and safety measures. A similar freestanding bill, the Quality Improvement Act, was vetoed in 2006 despite receiving 129 of 132 votes in the Wisconsin Legislature. Other GOP amendments relating to medical record copy costs, a much needed statutory provision that prevents the WI Health and Education Facilities Authority from becoming a de facto CON Board, and state income tax deductibility for HSA contributions are included in the bill.

There are also a couple of disappointments that can be remedied by adding the biggest missing ingredient in the GOP initiative—hiking the tobacco tax. Not only would this prevent kids from smoking, but the revenues generated can be used to fund coverage expansions included in the Doyle Administration budget and provide more significant hospital Medicaid payment increases.

The Senate version of the budget did include the \$1.25 tobacco tax increase, but used every penny of the \$500+ million it generates to fill a manufactured hole in the Medicaid budget. With the budget bill now in conference committee, a compromise can be reached that not only results in a higher tobacco tax, but equally important, assures that the revenue is used to make progress in health care—not simply fill budget holes.

Steve Brenton
President