Advocacy for Washington Hospitals
WSHA and AWPHD Working Together

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September 2014
Washington State vs. Washington D.C.

Olympia: Washington State Legislature

Washington D.C.

- Further away, less time in district – but more recesses
- Full-time job
- Slower process with unclear beginnings, middles, and ends
- Larger geographic area to serve
- Sometimes more issue specialization
- Every vote counts
Olympia

- Closer, lots of time in district
- Sometimes have another job
- Speedy process with clear deadlines and adjournment dates
- Smaller geographic area to serve
- Tend to want to know about more issues
- Every vote counts
Federal Advocacy
Federal Elections

• BIG money
• No really hot races in Washington State
• Senator Murray up in 2016 (can a Republican win in Washington State?)
• Who wins the Senate?
WSHA and OAHHS Working Together

- New partnership
- Discussion: Do you work with your Oregon counterparts?
Short-Term Goals

• Remove the 96-hour physician certification rule
• Enact default standard of “general supervision” for outpatient therapeutic services
• Reform Recovery Audit Contractor program
• Enact “two midnight” rule fix and develop appropriate clinical criteria for determining whether a patient should be in observation or inpatient status
• Fix the Medicare physician payment formula (the “doc fix”) without using cuts to hospitals as a way to fund it
Long-Term Goals

• Reject arbitrary Medicare and Medicaid spending reductions
  ✓ site-neutral payments
  ✓ critical access hospitals
  ✓ graduate medical education
  ✓ Medicare bad debt payment
  ✓ 340B drug discount program
Long-Term Goals, continued

• Support reimbursement to encourage efficiency, quality, patient safety, and care coordination
• Use Graduate Medical Education to encourage primary care, mental health care, and rural care, and that is fairer to Washington and Oregon
• CHIP Reauthorization
Federal Demonstration Project?

- Home-grown models
- Preserve access to high quality care in rural areas
- Enhance rural hospitals’ ability to transition cost-effectively to an environment that rewards quality of care rather than quantity of care
- Recognize the unique reimbursement, regulatory and work force challenges facing sparsely-populated areas
- Where do we go from here? HCA, HRSA, CMS?
- Partner with other states?
Resources and Trips

• Rural Advocacy Days: September, Washington D.C.
  • Discussion: How was it?
• AHA Annual Meeting: May, Washington, D.C.
  • Discussion: Why don’t you go?
• Arrange your own visit: John Flink can help you
State Advocacy in 2015
State Elections

- BIG money
- Lots of very hot races
- Majority Coalition – interesting political dynamics
- Who wins the Senate?
What We’re Proud of from 2014

• Mental health investments and policy changes
• No votes on any nurse staffing bills
• Improvements to the health care innovation bill
• Emergency credentialing
• No unreasonable restrictions on PHD partnerships
• Grace period notification
• Health care confidentiality
Coming State Legislative Session

- New leadership (4/5 of key players) has more experience
- Long session as scheduled
- Likely to go into overtime
State Budget Overview

• Budget-writing session – House and Senate will likely differ on willingness to spend
• Revenue forecast likely better, but not great
• Supreme Court mandates:
  – more education funding
  – more mental health funding
• Pot smoking is key
What We’ll Work On – Proactive Policy

• Telemedicine
• Mental health system improvements
• Increasing transparency
• Inmates and suspects
• Crisis standards of care
• Work force flexibility
What We’ll Work On – Proactive Budget

- Mental health funding
- Future of the Hospital Safety Net Assessment
What We’ll Work On - Defensive

- Nurse staffing bills
- Decrease in charity care
- Clinic fees
- Partnerships and affiliations (particularly PHDs)
- Narrowing of scope of practice
Other Issues Worth Knowing About

- Efforts to increase state revenue
- New medical school in Eastern Washington
- Scrutiny of Health Insurance Exchange
- Class size initiative
- Gun initiatives
WSHA v. DOH

• Lawsuit over new Certificate of Need rule
• Judge ruled in favor of WSHA
• Revert to current Certificate of Need rule
• State appealed – settlement?
• Do we want to reform CON?
Mental Health Case

- WSHA’s side won
- BUT . . . We understand the chaos
- Short-term solutions
- Long-term solutions
- What would it take to get more psych beds?

With the end of psychiatric boarding, a new mental health crisis decades in the making
AWPHD Goal:

Support legislation that enables PHDs to effectively manage operations and efficiently meet the transparency responsibilities as units of local government.

Oppose legislation that impairs PHDs’ capacity to operate or adds unnecessary administrative burden.
Local Government Legislation

- **Transparency-Open Government**
  - Limit Commercial Requests
  - Seek elimination of and compensation for excessive requests, for requests that are retaliative, threaten safety of staff or create an undue burden on the agency
  - Oppose attempts to expand scope of PRA & OPMA

- **Operational Support**
  - Fight attempts to limit PHDs administrative flexibility
    - Affiliations; excess administrative burden; service definition
  - Explore opportunities to broaden construction options
  - Fix 2012 commissioner redistricting
What Can You Do?
How You Can Get Involved

• Respond to requests for action
• Consider coming with us to Washington, D.C.
• Come to Olympia to testify or meet with your legislators
• Schedule an in-district meeting; consider including your neighbors
• Highlight your care improvements
• Deliver a PAC check
Building Relationships
Electing Champions for Hospitals
Unifying Hospitals’ Political Voice

www.wsha.org/whpac.cfm
Password: WHPAC
Thank you to the following WSHA members for meeting your 2014 PAC goal:
(as of September 23, 2014)

- Cascade Medical Center
- Kittitas Valley Healthcare
- Mason General Hospital & Family of Clinics
- North Valley Hospital
- Othello Community Hospital
- Overlake Medical Center
AWPHD & WSHA 13th Annual CEO Leadership Retreat – PAC Contributors

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Don Wee
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(as of September 23, 2014)
It is an honor to represent you.

We look forward to continuing our advocacy work together!
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