

May 25, 2018

Volume 62, Issue 21

## Health Care Experts Discuss Wisconsin's Prescription Drug Monitoring Program *Community partners meet with DSPS Secretary and Opioid Task Force*

Wisconsin's Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS) partnered with WHA to set up roundtables across the state to foster discussion about Wisconsin's enhanced Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (ePDMP).



*L to R: Laura Gutierrez, DSPS Secretary; Lisa Schnedler, President/CEO, Upland Hills Health, Dodgeville; Ann Zenk, WHA Vice President, Workforce and Clinical Practice; Sarah Bradley, PDMP Deputy Director*

On May 22, 16 members of Iowa County's Opioid Task Force met with DSPS Secretary Laura Gutierrez and PDMP Deputy Director Sarah Bradley at Upland Hills Health in Dodgeville.

***The number of opioid overdose visits to Wisconsin hospitals has tripled since 2010.***

Upland Hills leaders and clinicians, law enforcement officers and county service providers discussed the state's effort to combat the opioid abuse epidemic which has tripled the number of overdose visits to Wisconsin hospitals since 2010. There has been a 10 percent reduction in opioid prescriptions dispensed in the last 12 months, but there is more work to be done.

*(continued on page 3)*

## Political Action Spotlight

### Your Donations Help Wisconsin Hospitals State PAC & Conduit Near Halfway Mark

***Donate now to make future contributor lists***

Thanks to your donations, the Wisconsin Hospitals State PAC and Conduit has almost reached the halfway mark of its \$312,500 fundraising goal for 2018. To date, a total of \$139,307 has been contributed by 128 individuals.

The 2018 fundraising campaign is based on the calendar year. On average, members have contributed more than \$6,500 each week—with an average contribution of \$1,088 per person!

To make sure your name is on future contributor lists, go to [www.whconduit.com](http://www.whconduit.com) or contact WHA's [Kari Hofer](mailto:kari.hofer@wha.org) at 608-268-1816 or [Nora Statsick](mailto:nora.statsick@wha.org) at 608-239-4535.

**See the full contributor list on page 4.**

## REGISTER NOW: Post-Acute Care and Rural Health Conferences

**Deadline NOW:** Post-Acute Care Conference  
**Deadline JUNE 6:** Hotel reservations for Rural Health Conference

**JUNE 5:** [Post-Acute Care: Working Together Across the Care Continuum for Positive Patient Outcomes](#)

**JUNE 27-29:** [WI Rural Health Conference](#)

**See details on page 5.**

## Congress Sends Veterans Health Care Access Bill to President Trump

**Legislation makes it easier for veterans to access health care services from community providers**

On May 23, the U.S. Senate overwhelmingly approved a bill that supports our veterans in getting their health care from community providers. The bill easily cleared the House and is expected to be signed into law by President Trump before Memorial Day.

The \$52 billion reform bill adds funding for the Veterans Affairs (VA) Choice program that was slated to run out of money by the end of May. The Congressional Budget Office projects that 640,000 more veterans nationwide will seek services from private providers outside the VA each year due to reforms in the bill.

Key provisions of the bill include:

- Consolidates multiple VA community care programs into one permanent Veterans Community Care Program.
- Increases access by removing current 30-day wait or 40-mile drive eligibility requirements. Based on the needs of veterans, the VA will develop new criteria to define how veterans may access community providers outside the VA.
- Establishes Medicare rates for participating providers and higher rates for highly rural providers. The VA must develop a provider network with this provision.
- Requires prompt payments to participating providers
- Establishes a pilot VA residency program and a loan repayment program for residents training in high-demand specialties, areas with a high density of veterans, or where there is a physician shortage

## Fleurette Joins WHA as Government Relations Coordinator

Laurie Fleurette has joined WHA to serve as government relations coordinator, with a primary focus of administering the Wisconsin Hospitals State PAC and Conduit – the largest disbursing conduit in Wisconsin. Fleurette joins WHA after nearly two decades holding various administrative

assistant and bookkeeping roles, most recently for nearly a decade in a large parish in Madison.



Laurie Fleurette

“WHA’s government relations coordinator supports our staff, our member councils and work groups, and administers the Wisconsin Hospitals State PAC and Conduit” said Kyle O’Brien, WHA senior vice president, government relations. “Laurie will play a key role on our government relations team as we continue to be a leader in health care advocacy at both the state and federal levels.”

Fleurette holds a bachelor’s degree in economics from the University of California – Irvine and various technology and paralegal certificates.

## Participate in Web Sessions on Antimicrobial Use and Earn Continuing Education Credit

**Register for June 11 session from the convenience of your office**

Participate in a live webinar with WHA to earn a continuing education credit!

Thoughtful use of antimicrobials is key to preventing hospital-acquired infections and curbing the epidemic of multi-drug resistant organisms. The best available evidence can sometimes be buried in 20+ page clinical guidelines, so WHA is offering a four-part live webinar series about evidence-based best practices of antibiotic stewardship.

- WHO SHOULD PARTICIPATE: physicians, advanced practice providers, nurses and quality professionals
- NEXT TOPIC: Evidence-based Strategies to Avoid Prescribing Unnecessary Antibiotics
- DATE: June 11
- PRESENTER: Robert Redwood, MD, MPH
- COST: \$0 but you must pre-register

**About the live webinar session:** we use video conference technology called Zoom. You’ll be able to see the presenter and his material, other participants, and converse during the webinar. Zoom is a web-based technology, and you do not need an account to participate. **We’ll send you a link you can open – it’s that easy.**

*(continued on page 5)*

## Forums Provide Essential Learning in Survey Readiness, Medical Staff Quality

**Over 40 participants gathered for the latest WHA Quality Forum sessions**

Earlier this month, Bob Wilcox, manager of accreditation and regulatory resources for Mayo Clinic Health System provided key resources for managing day of survey, understanding statements of deficiency and plans of correction, and how to shift the organizational culture to a state of continuous survey readiness.

Paula Allen, quality coordinator, ThedaCare-Shawano, said, "Please consider having the Survey Readiness seminar available as a standing opportunity....The content covered yesterday is probably one of the most beneficial and applicable of any seminar I have attended. The presenter did a fantastic job."

Creating a robust and effective medical staff quality program is a challenge many hospitals face. On May 18, Shelly Egstad, director of quality and compliance at Tomah Memorial Hospital, provided the group with that hospital's journey from a peer review of "Gotcha" to learning and "Great Job." Tomah has sought to move away from a punitive, reactive approach to a culture where evidence-based learning is coupled with patient safety, justice, and education.

Robert Redwood, MD, MPH led the afternoon session by describing how hospitals can effectively recruit, engage and reward physicians in quality improvement and performance monitoring.

For more information about the WHA Quality Forum series, and next offerings, visit us [online](#).



May 17, 2018 WHA Quality Forum Participants

## Continued from page 1 . . . Health Care Experts Discuss Wisconsin's Prescription Drug Monitoring Program

WHA President/CEO Eric Borgerding said, "We welcome the opportunity to support and facilitate these roundtables recognizing the role hospitals and health systems play in delivering care to those suffering from substance abuse. Important work is being done to identify community needs and recommend proactive solutions to address Wisconsin's opioid abuse epidemic."

At the Upland Hills roundtable, Gutierrez praised the community partnerships in Oshkosh, Green Bay, Oconomowoc and Dodgeville, noting "The PDMP is the tool to uncover the issues so groups like yours can work on solutions." Bradley provided an overview of the system and said, "In Wisconsin, we chose to build our own system so that the PDMP can be improved based on user feedback." Participant feedback will be used to continue to improve the program, and will also be shared with the Governor's Opioid Task Force.

The team at Upland Hills agreed with Gutierrez that the ePDMP can be a useful tool, noting, "The data should guide our state efforts and resources." The group also concurred with Gutierrez when she characterized the program as supportive not prescriptive, saying "We don't want to build a system that mandates care, such as a restriction on the number or amount of pain medications prescribed after a major surgery."

DSPS will complete several more roundtables throughout the summer and into early fall.

The original Wisconsin PDMP was launched in 2013 and was enhanced to become the ePDMP in 2017. Physicians and advanced practice clinicians, pharmacies, and law enforcement officers who

become aware of incidents associated with the possession or use of controlled substances electronically report information to the ePDMP.

**There are 46,000 health care users and 2,000 dispensing providers who create more than 9 million records each year in the ePDMP.**

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## **JUNE 5: Post-Acute Care: Working Together Across the Care Continuum for Positive Patient Outcomes Conference**

Join partners on the continuum of care—hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, and home health providers—to share best practices for transitions of patients to post-acute care settings. We'll also discuss innovative strategies to create positive outcomes for discharged patients. **Register [online](#) now** for this one-day conference.

**Keynote speaker: Eric Coleman, MD, MPH**  
Nationally known transitions-of-care expert  
Professor of medicine and head of the Division of Health Care Policy and Research at the University of Colorado

**DATE:** Tuesday, June 5

**LOCATION:** Red Lion Hotel Paper Valley – Appleton (formerly Radisson Paper Valley Hotel)

**PARTNERS:** WHA, LeadingAge Wisconsin, LeadingChoice Network, Wisconsin Association for Home Health Care

**REGISTRATION QUESTIONS:** [Kayla Chatterton](#) or 608-274-1820

**CONFERENCE TOPICS:** [Laura Rose](#), WHA vice president, policy development

## **JUNE 27-29: Rural Health Conference**

Register your leadership team and your hospital's board of trustees for the [2018 Wisconsin Rural Health Conference](#) – **June 27 to June 29** at the Osthoff Resort in Elkhart Lake. We'll highlight public policy issues affecting rural health care, identify how the delivery of and access to rural health care are changing, and discuss how data and technology are improving health care for rural populations. Register [online](#).

**Hotel reservations must be made by June 6** for the discounted rate—rooms will sell out quickly.

**Keynote speaker: Benjamin Anderson**  
CEO of Kearny County Hospital, a critical access hospital in a racially diverse and medically underserved area in southwest Kansas

Anderson has received national acclaim for his work in physician recruitment, health promotion, women's health initiatives and rural health care delivery innovations and was named in 2014's *Modern Healthcare's* Up & Comers recognizing young executives who have made significant contributions in the areas of health care administration, management and policy.

**DATE:** June 27-29

**LOCATION:** Osthoff Resort – Elkhart Lake

**HOTEL RESERVATIONS:** call 800-876-3399 and ask for the Wisconsin Hospital Association block

**REGISTRATION QUESTIONS:** [Kayla Chatterton](#) or 608-274-1820

## **Continued from page 2 . . . Participate in Web Sessions on Antimicrobial Use and Earn Continuing Ed Credit**

Dr. Redwood is WHA's physician improvement advisor who works full time as an emergency and preventive medicine physician at Divine Savior Hospital in Portage. He is also chair of the hospital's antimicrobial stewardship committee.

- Register for sessions and view the webinar series: visit [www.whareg4.org/WebJournalClub](http://www.whareg4.org/WebJournalClub).
- Webinar topic questions: [Beth Dibbert](#) or 608-274-1820
- Registration or recorded session questions: [Kayla Chatterton](#) or 608-274-1820