

## AHA Annual Meeting, Washington DC -- In Review

May 6-9, 2007

Hospital leaders from across Wisconsin participated in the American Hospital Association's Annual Meeting and Capitol visits in Washington, DC. Hospital leaders met with all of Wisconsin's Congressional Delegation on important health care issues, including the proposed Inpatient Prospective Payment System (IPPS) rule recently released by CMS and the phase-in of the 75% Rule on Inpatient Rehabilitation Facilities. Both issues will negatively impact Wisconsin's community hospitals, and hospital representatives took that message to Congress.

During Hill visits, Wisconsin legislators were also told about the commitment of WHA and its hospitals to transparency, including nationally known programs like CheckPoint and PricePoint, and ServePoint which details the \$900 million Wisconsin hospitals gave back to their communities in 2006. Hospital representatives also made sure to update legislative offices on the recent agreement, jointly announced by WHA's Steve Brenton and Attorney General J.B. Van Hollen on May 1, on a set of meaningful and progressive hospital collection and billing guidelines. The new guidelines, unanimously approved by the WHA Board of Directors, suggest income eligibility levels for financial assistance, ways to address catastrophic hospital bills and reasonable collection practices.

WHA thanks those individuals who traveled to Washington, DC to be a part of this important annual trip.



*UW Hospital CEO Donna Sollenberger and SSM Health Care Wisconsin CEO Mary Starmann-Harrison*



*Aspirus CEO Duane Erwin, Affinity's Jim Hemes, and St. Joseph's (Chippewa Falls) CEO Dave Fish*



*Steve Brenton and AHA Chair-Elect Bill Petasnick, CEO of Froedtert Hospital, congratulate Loren Anderson, Aurora Health Care's Southern Region Vice President, on being honored as a "Grassroots Champion."*

"Loren Anderson is a committed health care executive and a conscientious grassroots champion. We applaud him for his tireless efforts to build relationships with local legislators and to effectively impact public policy."

- Jenny Boese, WHA VP-External Relations & Member Advocacy, on Aurora's Loren Anderson being honored as an AHA "Grassroots Champion" for 2007



Sue Lynch, Diane Westbrook, Cong. Ron Kind, Mary Starmann-Harrison

"[CAHs] represent the backbone of the health care safety net in rural communities in our state and across the country. From life-threatening emergencies to preventive care, they are often the sole health care provider to rural residents. We must ensure that they can continue to provide these vital services."

- Cong. Kind regarding his legislation, *The Rural Health Services Preservation Act of 2007*



WHA President Steve Brenton and WHA Board Chair Bob Fale, CEO of Agnesian HealthCare



(left to right) Jerry Worrick, Mary Starmann-Harrison, Cong. Paul Ryan, Maureen McNally, Loren Anderson, Steve Brenton, Michael Heifetz

"Critical Access Hospitals play an important role in providing quality, local care to rural communities—so that rural residents do not have to travel to urban areas to receive high-quality care. This bill will help Critical Access Hospitals maintain their level of quality, and I want to thank Rep. Kind for his leadership on this issue."

- Steve Brenton, WHA President, regarding legislation Cong. Kind recently introduced to protect CAHs



Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare CEO John Oliverio; Holy Family Memorial CEO Mark Herzog; St. Joseph's (Chippewa Falls) CEO Dave Fish; Partners of WHA Public Policy Chair Sue Lynch of Franciscan Skemp



Back row: Dave Fish, Mark Herzog, John Oliverio. Front row: Sue Lynch, Janet Rubenzer Pike, Diane Westbrook, Deanne Rubenzer