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Attachments:

Click on link to view attachments:
<https://www.ndha.org/resources/publications/>

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JANUARY 29, 2019

ADVOCACY DAY AT THE CAPITOL

Mark your calendars and plan to attend!

It's a great opportunity to visit with your state legislators.



President's Report ~ *Tim Blasl*

Happy New Year

I would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year from the staff at NDHA. May your 2019 be filled with success and happiness.

Legislative Session

The first day of the 2019 legislative session is upon us beginning on Thursday with the Tribal-State relationship message, followed by the State of the Judiciary, and finally the Governor's State of the State address. Our legislative priorities are:

- Reauthorization of Medicaid Expansion at current rates
- Medicaid Reimbursement
- Workforce
- Behavioral Health

I would like to thank members of the NDHA legislative committee for their efforts this year. We've spent a number of hours discussing and developing our priorities. Also, I would like to thank our members who took the time to meet with their legislators. I feel we've done an excellent job telling the hospital story. If you have not met with your legislators yet, please do so. It is critical that they hear from each one of you about the importance of hospitals to our communities.

As the session begins, communication with the membership will be critical. NDHA will host membership calls every Friday afternoon. During these calls, we will review legislative activity in the past week and strategize with member input for the upcoming week. We will send more information shortly about how to participate in the calls.

Medicare Payments

I've received emails recently from several of you regarding Medicare payments during the partial government shutdown. Funding for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services was approved for the entire fiscal year last September. So, Medicare payments to providers will not be disrupted during the shutdown. Also, federal Medicaid and social security payments are not impacted.

If you have questions, please contact me at tblasl@ndha.org or 701-224-9732.

Washington Update ~ John Flink

The beginning of a new Congress is always a time for celebration, optimism about the opportunities that lay ahead and an eagerness to get to work. But, while these characteristics were certainly prevalent Thursday when the 2019 – 2020 Congress convened, a dark cloud also hung over the Capitol: the partial government shutdown in place since December 21.

The good news for us is that federal Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement is not threatened by the shutdown as spending for these programs is not affected by the appropriations process. Nor is funding for Department of Health and Human Services programs, which was approved in September for the entire fiscal year.

But the uncertainty caused by the shutdown is likely to dominate Washington and prevent moving forward with the 2019 agenda until the funding impasse is resolved. At this writing, congressional leaders and the White House are talking about how to find common ground – but it's quite possible this shutdown will last for some time.

Meanwhile there was a lot of other activity on federal health issues over the holiday break. A federal judge has ruled that HHS' payment cut for 340B hospitals was unlawful, ruling in favor of a challenge brought by the AHA and hospital plaintiffs.

The lawsuit argued that the 340B provisions of the CMS 2018 outpatient PPS rule, which reduced Medicare payments to certain hospitals by nearly 30 percent, violate the Administrative Procedure Act and exceed the agency's authority. The judge granted AHA's motion for a permanent injunction.

In addition, a federal judge in Texas who ruled that the Affordable Care Act is unconstitutional late last week said the law can stand while his ruling is appealed. Seventeen Democratic attorneys general had asked the judge to confirm that the ACA remains in effect nationwide and allow for a prompt appeal of his decision. They are expected to file an appeal in the Fifth Circuit of Appeals. The AHA and state hospital associations are expected to file an amicus brief in support of the upholding the ACA.

The lawsuit was brought by 20 Republican-led states. On December 14, the judge rule the entire ACA is unconstitutional because Congress repealed the tax penalty for individuals who do not obtain health coverage.

These developments certainly spiced up the holiday season and set the stage for what could be an interesting year for health care. We'll have more on our 2019 agenda in the weeks ahead.

Registration Open for AHA's Annual Membership Meeting

Mark Your Calendar! New date and location in 2019 for the AHA Annual Membership Meeting

Registration is now open for the AHA Annual Membership Meeting April 7-10 in Washington, D.C.

Leaders from health care, politics, public policy and the media will converge for the year's pre-eminent advocacy and public policy conference focused on the issues that matter most to hospitals and health systems, and the patients and communities they serve.

In addition, the meeting is moving to the Marriott Marquis in the heart of exciting downtown Washington, D.C., just a few minutes from Capitol Hill and steps from all of the city's cultural attractions. The meeting also features a refreshed lineup with enhanced programming on Sunday, April 7, more executive insight sessions, increased networking opportunities and more.

Register now to take advantage of early bird rates. [View full meeting details and register here.](#)



There are no shortages of things to do when running a healthcare facility. Let NDHA's Physician Recruitment Program help.

- Gain access to physician candidates nationwide who have expressed interest in working in our service area
- By having your own in-house recruiter, you will have support for all the steps in the recruitment process
- For additional information contact Kevin Malee at 701-320-2109

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NDHA Education Update

Registration Fees for webinars are \$175 for NDHA members, and \$300 for non-members. This fee is per connection, not per person. You can have as many people gather in one location to watch on one connection as you'd like.

Seminars have their own fee schedule so you will have to review the information to determine the fee for each seminar.

January, 2019

Chargemaster Coding Updates for 2019

Click [HERE](#) for more info & to download registration materials.

Unconscious Bias, Stereotypes & Discrimination in the Healthcare

Date: 01/10/2019 From: 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM

Click [HERE](#) for more info & to register.

Major CPT, HCPCS and ICD-10 Coding Changes for 2019

Date: 01/22/2019 From: 12:30 PM to 1:30 PM

Click [HERE](#) for more info & to register.

Coaching Employees for High Performance

Date: 01/24/2019 From: 12:30 PM to 2:00 PM

Click [HERE](#) for more info & to register.

How to Address Bullying in the Workplace

Date: 01/29/2019 From: 12:30 PM to 2:00 PM

Click [HERE](#) for more info & to register.

Mark your calendars for NDHA's 85th Annual Convention and Trade Show!
October 1-3, 2019 | Holiday Inn, Fargo, ND

North Dakota's Loan Repayment Program Deadline 3-15-19

The North Dakota State Legislature has provided funds to support a loan repayment program for health care professionals practicing in the following professions:

- Physicians
- Primary Care Physician Assistant
- Nurse Practitioner
- Mental and Behavioral Health (Licensed Addiction Counselor, Licensed Professional Counselors, Licensed Social Workers, Registered Nurses, Specialty Practice Registered Nurses)

The loan repayment program was created to increase the number of providers in areas of the state with defined health professional needs.

The application deadline for the North Dakota loan repayment program is March 15, 2019. Loan repayment information and applications are available on the North Dakota Office of Primary Care's website at ndhealth.gov/pco.

Once received, reviewed and prioritized by a subcommittee, applications will be forwarded to the North Dakota State Health Council for their decision and providers will be notified by June 1, 2019.

For more information, contact Bobbie Will, Director of the North Dakota Primary Care Office at 701.328.4908. See attached for more loan repayment options in North Dakota!

Find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ndhealth or twitter at twitter.com/nddoh.

For More Information, Contact:

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