Regulatory and Legislative Update
Building Relationships with Your Legislators

Cassie Sauer, Zosia Stanley, Lisa Thatcher
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Objectives

• Provide an overview of 2016 legislative session
• Learn about key issues to share with your legislators
• Preview WSHA’s work to prepare for the 2017 legislative session
Politics
Political Leaders – Split Control

Governor Jay Inslee (D)

Senator Mark Schoesler (R)
Senate Majority Leader
26 to 23

Speaker Frank Chopp (D)
Speaker of the House
50 to 48
A Quiz

1) How many statewide elected Republican officials are there on the West Coast?

2) Who are they?

3) What is the Governor’s Republican opponent’s name?
Issues in 2016 Legislative Session

• McCleary K-12 funding
• Charter schools ruling
• Leadership changes
• Very tight majorities
• Budget challenges
  (Even year = supplemental budget)
Key Partners

Washington State Medical Association

Regence

WSPA

Washington State Pharmacy Association

Premera Blue Cross

Washington State Department of Social & Health Services

Washington State Department of Labor & Industries

AWB

Association of Washington Business

Community Health Plan of Washington

WACMHC

Washington Community Mental Health Council

THE WASHINGTON NEWSPAPER
Initiative 1366: Pick Your Poison
Constitutional amendment on taxes
OR
Sales tax will be cut
Rising Health Care Costs

Reflects drug price increases
Includes generics and new drugs coming to market are priced vastly higher than before

Source: Express Scripts; 2014 Drug Trend Report Highlights
WSHA’s Agenda
2016 Session: Results

• **Overall:** Very good session for hospitals and health care
  • Major good bills enacted
  • Major bad bills defeated
  • Lots of other bills amended to be okay
  • Significant mental health investments
  • No significant health care cuts

• **WSHA’s focus:** Mental health and expanding access to care

• **Member involvement:** Incredibly helpful

• **Partnerships and preparation:** Essential
Ideas into Laws

**Last Biennium**

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WSHA Proactive Policy Priorities

**Successes:**
- Telemedicine
- Pharmacy
- Mental health
- Appropriate opioid prescribing
- Rural flexibility
- Reasonable regulatory environment
- Public district hospital issues

**Unfinished Business:**
- Interstate medical licensure compact

[www.wsha.org/policyadvocacy.cfm](http://www.wsha.org/policyadvocacy.cfm)
Reasonable Regulatory Environment: Issues of Concern

- New taxes
- Barriers to hospital partnerships
- Requirements on staffing
- “Hospitals” without rules
- Budget cuts
Looking Forward
Possible Legislative Priorities for 2017

• Interstate physician and/or nurse licensure compact
• Decision makers for incompetent patients
• Discharge to long-term care
• Sharing mental health information for care coordination
• Mental health work force
• Regional/tiered model for mental health / further work on state mental health hospitals
• Further work on opioids/heroin
• Public Hospital District rules
• Your ideas?
If Unsuccessful in the Legislature, Go to the Regulators?

Labor and Industries “intermittent break” guidance
State Budget, 2017

• In a word: Terrible

• Quite a bit of state spending is mandatory
  • Constitutionally required
  • Federally required

• McCleary K-12 funding demands
  • How big?
  • By when?
  • How to fund?
Where Are Funds in the Operating Budget Spent?

- Public Schools, 45.2%
- Health Care Authority, 12.7%
- DSHS-DD, LTC, & MHD, 11.3%
- DSHS-Other, 5.8%
- Department of Corrections, 5.0%
- Higher Education, 9.2%
- Judicial, 0.7%
- Debt Service, 5.5%
- Legislative, 0.4%
- All Other, 3.4%
- Natural Resources, 0.8%
Your Role in Advocacy
Building Relationships with Your Legislators

• Now is a great time!
• Meet them in the district
• Key themes:
  • Importance of rural health
  • Concerns about mental health
  • Importance of funding for health programs
• Use WSHA as a resource
The Special Role of Commissioners and Trustees

• No self interest
• Well-respected community leaders
• Speaking for the good of the community overall
What You Should Be Doing Now

• Educate your legislators about impact of inadequate mental health treatment options
• Adopt and launch WSHA’s model charity care application and communications
• Analyze your community benefit and consider regional coordination
• Analyze your opioid prescribing practices and PMP policies and consider changes
• Analyze whether you “surprise bill” – when and why
Building Relationships
Electing Champions for Health Care
Unifying Hospitals’ Political Voice

www.wshaweb.com/whpac
Password: WHPAC
Thank you to the following Rural Hospitals and Health Systems for meeting your 2015 PAC Goal!

- Cascade Medical Center
- Columbia Basin Hospital
- Columbia County Health System
- EvergreenHealth Monroe
- Ferry County Memorial Hospital
- Garfield County Public Hospital District
- Island Hospital
- Jefferson Healthcare
- Mason General Hospital & Family of Clinics
- Mid-Valley Hospital
- Morton General Hospital
- Olympic Medical Center
- Othello Community Hospital
- PeaceHealth Peace Island Medical Center
- PeaceHealth St. John Medical Center
- PeaceHealth United General Hospital
- PMH Medical Center
- Providence Mount Carmel Hospital & Providence St. Joseph’s Hospital
- Skagit Regional Health
- Skyline Hospital
- Snoqualmie Valley Hospital District
- Summit Pacific Medical Center
- Sunnyside Community Hospital & Clinics
- Three Rivers Hospital
- Tri-State Memorial Hospital
- Walla Walla General Hospital
- Whidbey General Hospital
- Whitman Hospital and Medical Center
- Willapa Harbor Hospital
Leader of the PAC!

Geri Forbes
Whidbey General Hospital

The management staff and commissioners of Whidbey General Hospital, a small rural Critical Access Hospital, contributed $2,850 to the PAC.

Thank you for being a PAC champion!
Resources:

www.wsha.org/legislative/

State Legislative Agenda
Representing hospitals and health systems in Olympia is the core of what we do.

Inside Olympia
Get the latest news about health care issues in Olympia.

State Legislative Contacts and District Maps
Find out who represents you in the state legislature and how to contact them.

www.wsha.org/newsletters/
Thank You!

Questions? Comments?

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