TOOLBOX

	Tab #
Introduction	1
Tools for Lowering the Cost of Medical Care	
System Efficiency	
Form a Regional Health Information Organization (RHIO) Form a Regional Health Information Organization to support the regionalization of data exchange by enabling health information technology and the application of consistent standards across all stakeholders, and to tap into grant funds offered by federal agencies and private foundations in anticipation of a national electronic health records network infrastructure.	2
Provide Reimbursement For Physician E-Consultation Reduce healthcare costs and improve employee productivity by facilitating Medicaid, Worker's Comp and state employee health plan reimbursement for online, secure, structured, cognitive e-Consultations. Include a co-payment for the visit to foster appropriate use of the online consultation.	3
Expand and Promote PharmAssist Address drug costs and over utilization by actively promoting the PharmAssist program to the public. Encourage employers providing health benefits to take advantage of PharmAssist to lower pharmacy claims costs. Identify high utilizers of pharmacy services funded by state programs and proactively ensure their medications are continually reviewed.	4
System Accountability	
Create and Publish Quality/Cost Report Cards Improve the quality of care delivered in the state by issuing report cards on hospitals, nursing homes, skilled nursing facilities, assisted living facilities and home health agencies. Encourage the private sector to incorporate report cards in benefit plan design and hold healthcare providers accountable for their results. Use report cards when making decisions regarding state-funded health care provided to state employees, and Medicaid and Worker's Comp beneficiaries. Use the report cards to objectively quantify the link between cost and quality.	5
Implement Clinical Guidelines in State Employee Benefit Plan Improve the quality of care delivered in Wyoming by insisting all healthcare be based on best practices and sound scientific evidence. Step one is to facilitate the use of commonly accepted clinical guidelines by all providers participating in the state employee benefit plan.	6
End-of-Life Care Document Registry/Database Ensure Wyoming's citizens get the end-of-life care they have specified by creating an end-of-life care document registry available to healthcare providers when patients cannot speak for themselves. Mark drivers' licenses or provide wallet ID cards to identify individuals with end-of-life care documents in the database. Promote the writing and registering of end-of-life care documents.	7
State Employees	
Offer HRAs and a Wellness Program to All State Employees Focus on prevention as a means of reducing long term healthcare costs by expanding the state employee wellness pilot program. Provide all state employees with access to a health risk assessment (HRA) and a wellness program to use to manage the risks identified in their HRAs.	8
Offer Health Savings Accounts to State Employees Help state employees become more responsible consumers of healthcare services by adding a Health Savings Account (HSA) option to their benefit package. Select an HSA vendor that covers preventive care and provides extensive consumer education and care management/healthy lifestyle tools.	9

Tools for Assuring Availability of Appropriate Healthcare Services in Wyoming

Infrastructure

Develop a Healthcare Delivery System Plan to Meet Wyoming Citizens' Needs 10

Develop a plan for optimizing the Wyoming healthcare delivery system. The plan will help policy makers decide where to invest State money in human and capital resources in order to create access to care at the right place and time for all Wyoming residents.

Review Impact of Surgery Centers and Specialty Hospitals 11

Ensure that physician-owned ambulatory surgery centers and specialty hospitals have a beneficial impact on the local community and the State as a whole before licensing additional facilities.

Nurses

Increasing Nursing Faculty Salaries 12

Increase the number of nursing applicants that can be accepted into Wyoming nursing schools, by supplementing nursing faculty salaries. The resulting competitive wages will encourage practicing nurses to pursue faculty positions, encourage current faculty to stay, and allow maximum admission of qualified applicants into Wyoming nursing schools.

Creative Solutions to the Nursing Faculty Shortage 13

. Increase the faculty available to teach qualified nursing school applicants by allowing reduced workloads for nursing professionals pursuing higher education, and reducing nursing educators' higher education requirements.

Increase Nursing Clinical Training Sites 14

Reduce the shortage of clinical training sites that in turn limits nursing program enrollment by utilizing small, untapped clinical sites, with incentives for faculty and student participation. Fund a Wyoming State Board of Nursing clinical coordinator's position to investigate and initiate contracts with new Wyoming clinical sites

Support Magnet Hospital Designation 15

Recruit more nurses to work in Wyoming by awarding large, multi-year state matching grants to Wyoming hospitals willing to pursue prestigious Magnet status. Eligibility requirements will limit funding to hospitals without the means to independently pursue Magnet designation.

Physicians

Fund Physician Training 16

Recruit more Family Practice physicians to Wyoming by providing adequate funding for current residency program faculties' and residents' salaries to remain competitive, and to maintain support staff, equipment and facilities. Hire an experienced residency program director to oversee and improve the residency program sites. Institute a student loan "pay-back" provision for WICHE students.

Tools for Prevention

Extend the Healthy Living/Healthy Learning Program 17

Improve the overall health of Wyoming's children by adding all willing Wyoming school districts and communities to the Wyoming Department of Education's Healthy Living/Healthy Learning Program.

Increase Funding for Tobacco Prevention and Cessation 18

Require accountability from Wyoming programs that receive state tobacco prevention and cessation money. Use national data on best practices and local evaluation data to determine which cessation programs have the highest success rates, and steer state money to those programs. Tobacco related illnesses are the number one preventable medical expenses.

Tools for Providing Healthcare to the Uninsured

Increase the Number of Free Clinics Across the State **19**

Provide care for the uninsured by supporting the free clinics currently operating in Laramie, Cheyenne, Jackson, and Sheridan. Provide startup and operational funding for communities interested in creating free clinics. Enlist retired physicians to volunteer at free clinics and promote Congress's enactment of medical malpractice protection for active physicians who volunteer in free clinics.

WyoCare Executive Summary **20**

Two-page summary of the WyoCare Briefing

WyoCare Briefing **21**

WyoCare is a State-supported purchasing pool that uses the leverage of the state and WyoCare members to offer health insurance products that are more affordable to small groups and working individuals without access to health insurance. A unique aspect of WyoCare is its ability to accept multiple sources of funding to help an individual acquire coverage – thereby increasing access to insurance coverage. Costs will be kept low by a combination of mechanisms to expand consumer and provider accountability; the wrapping of Total Health Management services around its products to keep people as well as possible throughout their life; and state subsidized reinsurance. Outstanding issues include actuarial and adverse risk selection avoidance mechanisms; provider reimbursement; and administrative structuring options.