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Wyoming Healthcare Commission names new Executive Director

Wyoming Healthcare Commission Chairman T. Chris Muirhead and Gov. Dave Freudenthal announced today they have named Casper native Anne Ladd to serve as the Commission's executive director.

Ladd has worked in the healthcare sector for 14 years, most recently as a consultant helping a managed care organization understand and implement the Medicare law passed by Congress in December of 2003. Her background includes developing insurance products for Blue Cross and Blue Shield and Kaiser Permanente. She also has helped employer groups form health insurance purchasing alliances and worked with doctors on the formation of physician-equity management service organizations.

Ladd worked as a reporter in Wyoming in the mid-1980s has a master's degree in journalism from Northwestern University in Chicago and a second master's degree in healthcare administration from St. Mary's College in Moraga, California.

"I am thrilled and honored to have this opportunity," said Ladd. "The Commission has provided valuable information and recommendations to the Legislature and the people of this state. I am excited about the challenge of finding ways to improve healthcare access and affordability."

Former Commission Director Dianne Harrop resigned in late September, after setting up the Commission and helping facilitate the first year's legislatively mandated and internally driven agendas. "The Commission is entering its next phase in all respects," Muirhead said. "I see the Commission role getting stronger in the policy arena and its voice gaining respect. Anne's background gives the Commission the opportunity to deepen its reach."

Created in 2003, the Wyoming Healthcare Commission is charged with examining a wide range of healthcare issues and drafting specific recommendations designed to improve access to, and quality of, healthcare in Wyoming communities. Tasks assigned to the WHCC by the Legislature include suggesting solutions for reducing medical liability insurance costs, decreasing medical errors, addressing health-related workforce shortages and compensating injured patients. Commissioners attend monthly meetings and serve on at least one subcommittee.

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