

Proposed Agreement with Banner Health

COMMUNITY FORUMS

July 2020



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Process Overview and Natrona County's Role

ERIC NELSON

THE PROCESS

Early 2020

WMC Board of Directors announced the signing of a non-binding Letter of Intent with Banner Health

County's role

Stay apprised of situation and aware of appropriate ongoing discussions as WMC has moved through this process

Ultimately, it became clear that the County has an important role to play in what is being considered

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

1909

Wyoming Legislature established a branch of Wyoming General Hospital

1922

Wyoming sold the hospital to Natrona County; over the years, the hospital's facilities were expanded and enhanced

Mid-1980s

County decided to get out of the business of running and operating the hospital and leased the land, buildings and equipment to a new entity responsible for the day-to-day operations – Wyoming Medical Center

THE LEASE

The County wanted to ensure that certain agreements were met:

- » Provision of indigent care
- » Provision of prisoner care
- » Provision of emergency services
- » Provision of involuntary committed care
- » WMC's agreement to pay from revenue outstanding bond obligations
- » WMC's obligation to maintain specific level of value of assets
- » WMC's obligation to report on these items semi-annually

Today

The County still owns the land, buildings and equipment associated with WMC and a separate County-appointed Board oversees lease and agreements

THE COUNTY'S ROLE

- » The County has a key role in the prospect of WMC joining Banner
- » County is considering a proposed, separate agreement for the purchase of the land, buildings and equipment for **\$157 million**. The purchase would:
 - Allow the County to provide a **substantial one-time commitment to the WMC foundation**
 - Secure **more than \$120 million** that can be invested for the County's future
 - Eliminate **approximately \$50 million** in debt

THE COUNTY'S ROLE (CONT.)

- » The County will also preserve important protections and ability to legally enforce that Banner:
 - Maintains an **acute care hospital** satisfying certain basic hospital criteria, including WMC's participation in **Medicare and Medicaid and continuing access to 24/7 emergency care, trauma services, women's care and labor and delivery services WMC offers**
 - Continues to provide **care for prisoners** and individuals subject to **involuntary hospitalization**
- » This gives the County the important ability to continue to protect the community by ensuring these commitments are met in full

ADDITIONAL COMMITMENTS

Banner will:

- » **Care for all patients, regardless of ability to pay, and continue serving the most vulnerable members of the community in accordance with Banner's financial assistance policies**
- » **Preserve and further WMC's nonprofit mission and work to improve the health of Wyoming residents**
- » **Expand and grow healthcare access and advance medical care in our community, region and state**
- » **Keep and expand the delivery of medical services in rural areas here in Wyoming**

The Benefits

JESSICA ODEN, MICHELE CHULICK AND DAVID BIXBY

BECOMING STRONGER TOGETHER

Our Board has been clear from the beginning – **we would only move forward with joining another health system if we could find the right organization**

Banner is a natural fit for WMC, and we are excited to share the proposed details of how WMC can join Banner and how, together, we can further our commitment to providing high-quality healthcare to our patients and the people of Wyoming

SHARED VISION

Our vision is to grow access to
high-quality care close to home,
while improving the overall health of
the communities we serve.

WMC Joining Banner

- » Through the proposed agreement, **WMC will join Banner Health and become Banner Health's Wyoming flagship hospital and regional referral center**
- » **Preserve our nonprofit mission**
- » **Banner is making a significant investment in WMC, including a minimum of \$100 million capital investment over the next 10 years**
 - Facilities, technology, clinical programs, people, and operations
- » One of the **largest philanthropic foundations in the state through the affiliation and focused solely on healthcare in Natrona County**
 - This Foundation will receive more than \$220 million initial projected funding through this agreement
 - Provide significant support to WMC through an annual contribution
- » **Wyoming Advisory Board** with local community leaders and physicians nominated by WMC would support the hospital's strategic operations and determine how we can best carry out our mission, vision and values as a combined organization.

Much Will Remain the Same

- » **Continue to provide access to quality healthcare services:**
 - 24/7 emergency care, Level II trauma services, women's care and labor and delivery services, primary care, neurology, cardiology, orthopedics, pediatrics, cancer care and more
- » Banner intends to not only maintain but grow our services. To that end, **Banner is committing to retain all WMC staff with substantially the same base salaries, job duties, titles or responsibilities for at least one year.** Beyond that year, Banner and WMC leaders will determine job mapping and titles to align with Banner's best practices. Employees will not need to re-apply for their jobs
- » **Maintain open medical staff**, allowing physicians to choose how they affiliate and preserving existing privileges
- » **Continue to receive care from the same physicians**
 - Enhance and grow services to minimize our community members having to travel outside of Wyoming for care – even for those in rural areas (i.e. telehealth services, develop integrated care network with three additional Wyoming hospitals)
- » **WMC will keep its name and co-brand with Banner** at some point in the future

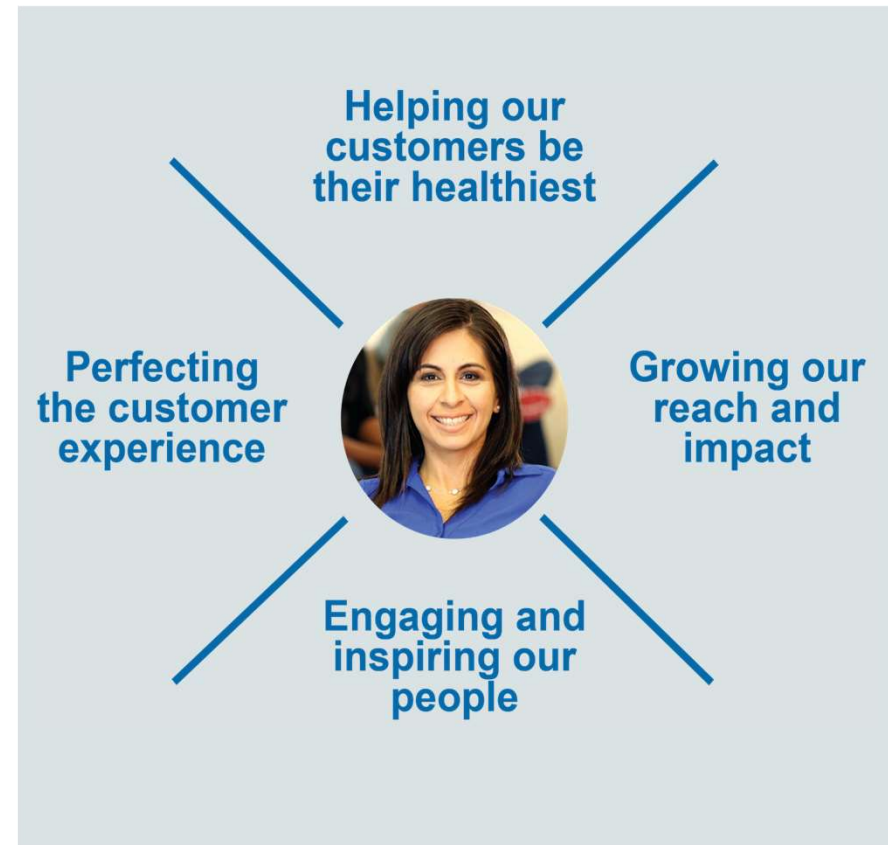
BANNER'S MISSION:

Making healthcare easier,
so life can be better.

BANNER'S VALUES:

- » Customer Obsessed
- » Relentless Improvement
- » Courageously Innovate
- » Disciplined Focus
- » Foster Accountability
- » Continuously Earn Trust

BANNER'S STRATEGY:



WYOMING...KEEPING CARE LOCAL



THE STRENGTH OF TOGETHER



Wyoming
Medical Center

Together we can achieve more – more resources to provide more healthcare services to more Wyomingites, more affordably and closer to where they live.

By coming together, we truly can become more than the sum of our strengths.

OPEN FORUM GROUND RULES

- » Approach the microphone and maintain **social distancing**
- » Keep your **mask on**
- » Comments should be **less than three minutes**
- » After comments are made, **please exit the room** to allow for individuals waiting in the hall to come into the room
- » **Keep your comments focused on what the County is considering**
- » **Be respectful** in your comments and language

THANK YOU

Learn more and subscribe to the latest updates

NatronaCounty-wy.gov
WMCForward.org

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