

HHS Secretary in Utah seeking suggestions on healthcare reform

ABC4

Glen Mills

08/13/2015

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Video: <http://www.clipsyndicate.com/video/play/5917054>

SALT LAKE CITY, (ABC 4 Utah) – The head of the Department of Health and Human Services wants to improve the quality of healthcare across the country and our state is playing a key role.

When it comes to healthcare in our country there's no doubt there are challenges and frustrations.



"That's part of why we need change, is we want the physicians to be able to practice in ways they came to medicine to practice," said HHS Secretary, Sylvia Burwell.

Burwell set a goal to make that happen.

"Affordability, quality and access. Those are three things we need to improve as a nation and we are on a path to do that," said Burwell.

That path includes changing the way we pay, changing the way we deliver care and better utilizing data and information as both consumers and providers.

"That means paying for value instead of volume."

Utah is at the center of Burwell's reform plan.

Thursday she hosted a round table discussion at the University of Utah Hospital with industry stake holders.

Representatives from the University of Utah Hospital, Intermountain Healthcare, local

nonprofits and more.

"It's great to have her here and be able to share with her some of the great things going on," said University of Utah Hospital and Clinics CEO, David Entwistle.

Entwistle was at the table with Burwell, sharing unique ideas that are getting national attention.

"One of the things that we have that we are very proud of is each of our individual patients that come in can actually look up their doctor online and see how well they have done in terms of some of the ways they have treated patients," said Entwistle.



That's just one example of how the Utah way is inspiring innovation.

"Utah is just a place that is leading in terms of moving to a system where we have the consumer at the center and we improve quality and we improve affordability in our healthcare

system," said Burwell.

One of the big costs in healthcare today is Medicare.

Burwell has set a goal to shift 50% of Medicare spending to outcome based models by 2018.

The ideas she got here in Utah will be implemented into her plan to reform the system across the country.

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