

2026 Annual Meeting

SEPTEMBER 9 – 10, 2026

DAY ONE — WEDNESDAY September 9, 2026

7:00 – 8:00 A.M.

Wyoming Long Term Care Association Annual Meeting / Breakfast

Vendor Area — Breakfast buffet for all other convention attendees

8:00 – 8:15 A.M.

Welcome

Eric Boley, WHA President

8:15 – 9:30 A.M.

Overcoming Adversity: The Elizabeth Smart Story

The abduction of Elizabeth Smart was one of the most followed child abduction cases of our time. At the tender age of 14, just before celebrating her middle school graduation, Elizabeth went to sleep in her family home just as she had always done. Awakened hours later to a knife held roughly against her throat, she was taken from her home and family and held captive for nine long months. In this captivating message, Elizabeth shares her incredible story of perseverance in the face of unimaginable adversity. Her speech not only tells her personal story, but also discusses topics such as overcoming extreme adversity, the importance and process of recovery, and not allowing your past to dictate your life's future. Elizabeth knows that there is nothing more important than having hope in a difficult situation.

9:30 – 9:45 A.M.

Break

9:45 – 10:45 A.M.

AI You Can Actually Use: A Practical Playbook for Wyoming's Rural Hospitals and Nursing Homes

Mandy Mason - Huron

Most rural hospitals and nursing homes in Wyoming run lean teams on limited technology budgets, and AI can feel like one more thing there is no time for. This session skips the hype and walks through specific workflows a single facility can pilot right away, how to stretch limited dollars, and how to turn staff time saved back into patient care. For each one, we show how to pay for it, either through the tool's own return or, for a Critical Access Hospital, the incentive payments you already earn, plus the data-security and compliance steps to deploy it safely. Attendees leave with a starter checklist and a shortlist of use cases to bring back to their teams.

10:45 – 11:30 A.M.

Stay tuned — session info coming soon, along with an important special speaker announcement

11:30 A.M. – 1:30 P.M.

Vendor Networking Lunch

1:30 – 4:30 P.M.

Building Innovative Healthcare Teams Through LEGO® Serious Play® and Human-Centered Design

Garret Westlake, PhD — Vice Provost for Innovation and Strategic Design, Virginia Commonwealth University

INTRODUCTION TO INNOVATION AND DESIGN THINKING (90 MINUTES)

Combining design thinking and innovation with Lego Serious Play has helped Fortune 500 companies and health systems build high-functioning and creative teams that are both agile and innovative. Learners will explore the future of health through the perspective of human-centered design and be introduced to industry examples and the six foundational steps in the design thinking process. Learners will engage in individual and collaborative exercises to practice these steps using Lego bricks, prompting dialogue, encouraging reflection, improving problem-solving skills, and sparking imagination.

APPLICATION OF INNOVATION AND DESIGN THINKING (90 MINUTES)

Using LEGO bricks and innovation techniques from the introductory presentation, teams will engage in ideation and prototyping exercises that culminate in "superstories" which prepare teams to think creatively and catalyze strategic initiatives. Teams will deliver their superstories to the larger group and identify tangible steps for implementation following the conference.

Participants will leave with practical tools and techniques to improve collaboration, drive innovation, and create meaningful change in healthcare settings.

4:30 – 6:00 P.M.

Chair's Reception

6:00 P.M.

Awards Banquet

7:00 – 8:15 A.M.

Wyoming Hospital Association Annual Meeting / Breakfast

Healthcare Financial Management Association / CFO Networking Breakfast

Breakfast Buffet for all other Convention Attendees

8:30 – 10:00 A.M.

The State of Healthcare: Wyoming Healthcare Leaders' Perspectives

Numerous public policy and legislative issues around healthcare delivery and public health affect healthcare organizations and demand involvement of their leaders to respond and make improvements. These issues often relate to improving population health, access and coverage through Medicaid and other programs, improving value, addressing consumer issues and workforce shortages, and more. Learning these issues and being involved in policy and organizational responses is important for healthcare leaders, regardless of how directly they may be involved.

Panelists - Eric Boley - President, Wyoming Hospital Association, Cheyenne, WY, Lloyd Larsen - House District 54 Representative, Wyoming State House of Representatives, Nancy Bunout - Nursing Home Administrator, Rocky Mountain Care, Evanston, WY, Yvonne Wigington, Vice President/CFO, Cheyenne Regional Medical Center, Cheyenne, WY, and Amanda Vick, BSN, MBA - CEO, Sage West Health Care, Lander/Riverton, WY

10:00 – 10:15 A.M.

Break

10:15 – 11:00 A.M. – Participants may choose either Track

TRACK — Building Successful and Sustainable Rural Hospital Foundations

John Goettler

Rural hospitals in Wyoming face growing financial pressure while their communities continue to expect and deserve high-quality clinical care. As the costs of innovation, workforce recruitment, equipment, and facility improvement rise, philanthropy has become an essential strategy for strengthening services, sustaining access, and supporting long-term financial resilience. This presentation will show how rural hospital foundations can move beyond episodic fundraising to become strategic philanthropic partners by building the core capabilities required for long-term success. Hospital foundations are no longer simply “auxiliary fundraising groups.” Across the rural West, successful foundations serve as strategic partners

TRACK — Federal Policy Update: What’s Ahead for Long Term Care

Jodi Eyigor, VP of Health Policy, LeadingAge

Jodi Eyigor will provide a national perspective on the federal policy issues shaping long-term care, including proposed changes to nursing home staffing standards moving through Congress, CMS's evolving approach to survey and star-rating methodology, and the administration's push to reduce regulatory burden while preserving quality and accountability.

11:00 A.M. – NOON- Participants may choose either Track

TRACK — Trained APPs, Stronger Rural Hospitals: A Wyoming Workforce Success Story

Advanced practice providers are essential to sustaining rural healthcare access. When APPs receive specialized training, strong physician support, and ongoing mentorship, they can safely expand clinical capacity, strengthen care teams, and help rural hospitals maintain essential services. This session will highlight how Wyoming hospitals are successfully recruiting, training, and integrating APPs into rural care models. Panelists will share lessons from Cheyenne Regional Medical Center's APP internship program and rural sites across the state, including how procedural training, physician collaboration, and structured support prepare APPs to practice confidently in communities with limited workforce resources. Attendees will hear practical strategies for avoiding common hiring and integration challenges while building physician/APP models that improve staffing stability, support quality care, manage costs, and keep care close to home.

TRACK — Wyoming Department of Health/License & Survey – Long Term Care Update

Janelle Conlin, Tim Cozad, and Pat Davis

WylTC members will hear from the Wyoming Department of Health's Healthcare Licensing and Surveys (HLS) division to address key regulatory updates, survey trends, and compliance priorities relevant to long-term care providers. These sessions are designed to help facilities stay informed and aligned with state and federal standards.

8:00 – 10:15 A.M. (CONTINUES 11:00 A.M.)

Hospital Foundation Directors Roundtable Discussions

Join fellow Foundation Directors for an engaging roundtable discussion focused on strengthening our shared mission, exchanging ideas, and exploring opportunities for future impact. This is a valuable opportunity to connect, collaborate, and contribute your voice to the hospital's ongoing work. This interactive format encourages open dialogue and the exchange of ideas on key initiatives, fundraising strategies, and long-term goals.

NOON – 1:30 P.M.

Lunch/Closing Keynote

JONATHAN MARTIN, Politics Bureau Chief and Senior Political Columnist, POLITICO

A highly respected political journalist, Jonathan Martin provides sought-after coverage and regularly drives the news by delivering the inside story from the White House and Capitol Hill to the campaign trail well beyond the beltway