

News Briefs

April 17, 2026

[Visit our Website](#)



Wyoming Hospital Association

In This Issue

- AHA 2026 Advocacy Agenda
- Walk Named CEO at Sublette County Health
- Interactive Immunization Dashboard
- WHA Spring Meeting
- Healthcare Policy Summit
- Events
- 2026 WHA PAC Goal

AHA 2026 Advocacy Agenda



America's hospitals and health systems are the backbone of American health care, providing essential care and services 24/7/365 and serving as trusted community anchors.

Hospitals are not only places of caring for the sick and injured and centers for promotion of wellness and prevention, but also hubs of innovation and education.

However, hospitals and health systems face mounting

challenges, including severe workforce shortages, rising costs of care, inadequate government reimbursement and overwhelming regulatory burden. These pressures and others threaten the ability of hospitals to sustain access to essential services and meet the needs of the communities they serve.

In 2026, the American Hospital Association (AHA) will work closely with Congress, the administration, regulatory agencies and the courts to advance policies that protect patient care, ensure affordable access to services and strengthen the health care system. At the same time, we also must recognize hospitals' responsibility — as well as other stakeholders' — to offer more creative and innovative care transformation approaches to address these issues.

Our advocacy agenda focuses on four critical priorities:

- **Ensure Access to and Affordability of Care.** Ensure access to essential health care services, which includes making care more affordable while also providing hospitals and health systems the financial support they need to continue serving patients and communities 24/7.
- **Strengthen and Support the Health Care Workforce.** Address workforce shortages and invest in recruitment, retention and training to build a resilient health care team to meet today's care needs, as well as those in the future.
- **Spearhead Innovation to Advance Health.** Lead the development of innovations that transform health care delivery today to shape a healthier future in America.
- **Reduce Burdensome and Unnecessary Regulations.** Eliminate outdated and excessive administrative requirements that stifle hospitals' ability to innovate, burn out the workforce, and divert resources away from patient care

By tackling these challenges head-on, the AHA is committed to safeguarding the future of hospital and health system care, ensuring they remain strong pillars of health and wellness in every



Sublette County Health Announces New CEO Rex D. Walk, FACHE

Sublette County Health is pleased to announce the appointment of Rex D. Walk, FACHE, as CEO, bringing more than two decades of senior healthcare leadership experience in rural hospitals, community health systems, and multi-state healthcare organizations.

Mr. Walk is a healthcare executive known for operational excellence, financial turnaround leadership, and a patient-first approach to healthcare delivery. Most recently, he served as Chief Executive Officer of Southeast Colorado Hospital District, where he led operational improvements, strengthened community trust, enhanced employee engagement, and improved financial performance by nearly \$3 million in his first year.

Throughout his career, Mr. Walk has successfully guided critical access hospitals and community health systems through periods of transformation, growth, and stability. His leadership experience includes serving as CEO of Phillips County Health Systems in Kansas, Craig General Hospital in Oklahoma, and interim CEO roles in Wyoming and Kansas, including Carbon County Health in Rawlins. Across these roles, he consistently delivered measurable improvements in quality, safety, patient satisfaction, provider recruitment, and financial sustainability.

Mr. Walk brings deep expertise in rural healthcare strategy, revenue cycle optimization, supply chain and group purchasing, provider recruitment, regulatory compliance, and organizational culture development. He has led new service line expansions, negotiated cost-saving vendor agreements, improved access to care, and fostered highly engaged healthcare teams while maintaining a strong focus on patient and community needs.

He holds a Master's Degree and Bachelor's Degree from Fort Hays State University, is a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives (FACHE), and maintains professional certifications in healthcare management and leadership. Mr. Walk is also a former ACHE Regent, healthcare educator, and frequent public speaker on rural healthcare leadership and innovation.

"We are thrilled to welcome Rex Walk to Sublette County," said Tonia Hoffman, Board Chair. "His proven leadership, integrity, and commitment to high-quality, sustainable rural healthcare align perfectly with our mission. We are confident his experience and vision will strengthen our organization and the communities we serve."

Mr. Walk added "I am deeply honored to be selected as the SCHD CEO. It is a privilege to join an organization led by such a visionary and dedicated board with a commitment to being an exemplary healthcare organization. I truly look forward to working with the entire SCHD team to further its mission of excelling in the delivery of comprehensive and high-quality healthcare services to its patients and communities served."

Now Live: Explore Wyoming's New Interactive Immunization Dashboards

The Immunization Unit is excited to announce the launch of the new Immunization Coverage Rate Dashboards. This modern, responsive tool provides a more dynamic, accessible way to view



Wyoming
Department
of Health

Commit to your health.

immunization trends across the state.

To provide more timely, interactive insights, these dashboards will replace the traditional County Report Cards. Moving forward, we will no longer publish the static PDF report cards; instead, all immunization coverage data will be maintained and updated directly within this digital interface.

Why the Switch?

- Real-Time Access: No more waiting for annual PDF releases—access the latest data as it becomes available.
- Interactive Features: Filter by age groups, vaccine types, and regions with ease.
- Mobile-Friendly: View critical public health data on your phone, tablet, or desktop.

All healthcare providers, partners, and community members are invited to transition to this new platform for their data needs.

[Explore the Dashboard Here](#)



2026 WHA CEO/Trustee Spring Meeting

May 19, 2026 · Best Western, Sheridan, Wyoming

Join us for a full day of healthcare governance, leadership, and legislative dialogue.

AGENDA

7:00 am	Breakfast
8:00 am	Welcome
8:15 am – Noon	Navigating the Boardroom Jerry Pogue · Break at 10:00 am
Noon	Lunch
1:00 pm	Creating Generative Discussion in the Boardroom Jason Spring · with Tim Thornell, CEO Cheyenne Regional
2:00 pm	Legislative Open Forum · Adjourn 3:30 pm

Wyoming Hospital Association · wyo-hospitals.com

[WHA Spring Meeting/Registration](#)



HEALTHCARE POLICY SUMMIT

Registration

12 JUNE, 2026

Laramie, WY - Hilton Garden Inn



Wyoming Hospital Association



WYOMING MEDICAL SOCIETY



Wyoming Nurses Association



CONTACT US

info@wyomed.org • 307-635-2424

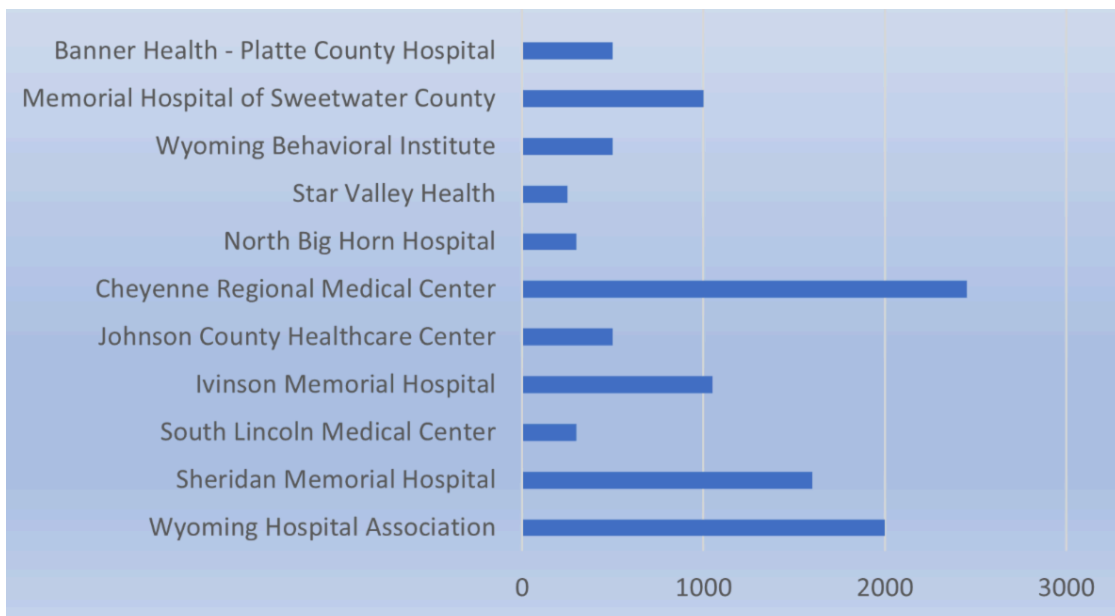


WHA Trustee/CEO Spring Meeting
May 19, 2026
Best Western Sheridan Center
Sheridan

Healthcare Policy Summit
June 12, 2026
Laramie, Wyoming

WHA Annual Meeting
September 9-10, 2026
Little America, Cheyenne

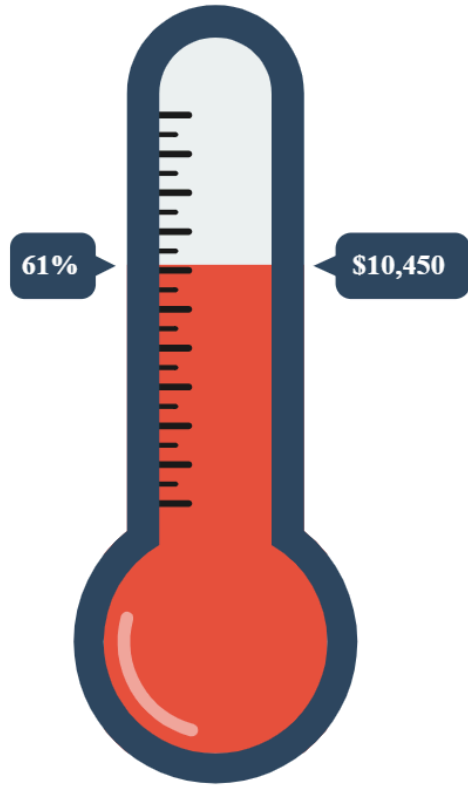
WHA PAC Goal for 2026 Contributors



WHA PAC

Barry Burkart

GOAL: \$17,000



- Eric Boley**
- Kelsey Prestesater**
- Jenifer Shassetz**
- Dave Ryerse**
- Terry Moss**
- Mike McCafferty**
- Shelli Shelton**
- Joe Wright**
- Tim Thornell**
- Doug Faus**
- Luke Senden**
- Joanna Vilos**
- Robin Roling**
- Scott Fox**
- Darcy Robertson**
- Mike Hunsaker**
- Mike Phillips**
- Steven Leafgreen**
- Brad Jackson**
- Irene Richardson**
- Sandy Dugger**
- Mark Drumhiller**



Wyoming Hospital Association | 2005 Warren Ave | Cheyenne, WY 82001-3725 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!