

News Briefs

April 3, 2026

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Wyoming Hospital Association

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2026 Legislative Interim Committee Work

The Legislature's Management Council met on April 1st and considered a wide variety of topics for interim work, including Rural Health Transformation Program funding and programming, healthcare access and affordability, provider shortages, scope of practice for OB services, restrictions on step therapy for cancer treatment, 911 funding, special district audits, public records requirements and reporting, and the use of taxpayer funds for association membership and participation. The Wyoming Hospital Association (WHA) will be engaged during the interim across several committees.

Additional information on the scope of each committee's relevant work over the interim, as well as meeting dates and locations, are listed below in order of priority. WHA will send out meeting agendas and participation links in advance.

Joint Labor Committee

****This is the most critical committee for WHA's members, and the bulk of our work will focus here, as each topic touches our members.***

This committee is where WHA will spend the bulk of its time. Most of the committee's work will center around the Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP) and any resulting legislation or action necessary to implement the program. WHA spoke with the Department yesterday, and they indicated they hoped negotiations will be completed in the next two weeks. The committee will also examine maternity deserts and plans to expand the conversation to scope of practice for midwives. The committee will also consider Wyoming's provider shortage and the accessibility and affordability of healthcare. The committee will also consider the addition of clinical slots to train behavioral health providers. Lastly, the Committee will look at prohibiting step therapy for cancer medications to increase the timely provision of treatment. This discussion is likely to include conversation on alternative therapies, led by Representative Ottman, although Chairman Brennan indicated the scope of the topic is targeted towards insurer coverage of currently approved medications.

Task Force on Affordability of Health Insurance (New)

Relevant Topics: Health Insurance Affordability & Cost of Hospital Services

This task force was requested by Representative Lloyd Larsen to examine the affordability of private insurance and the cost drivers. This task force will meet three times in the interim and conclude with formal recommendations in November. It will include 3 Representatives, 3 Senators, the Wyoming Department of Insurance, the Wyoming Department of Administration

and Information, the Wyoming Hospital Association, and representatives from the major insurers in Wyoming.

Joint Appropriations Committee

Relevant Topics: Rural Health Transformation Program Funds and Expenditures & Care Delivery for the Deaf and Blind

This committee will monitor the allocation and expenditures of authorized Rural Health Transformation Program funds. They will also review current spending, service delivery, and community needs to determine whether service delivery revisions are necessary for blind and deaf persons, with the end goal of establishing a State Commission for the Deaf and Blind.

Meeting 1: April 30 – May 1, 2026 (Rawlins)

Meeting 2: June 24 – 25, 2026 (Lander)

Meeting 3: August 28, 2026 (joint meeting with the Joint Minerals, Business and Economic Development Interim Committee in Cheyenne)

Meeting 5: October 29-30, 2026 (Cheyenne)

Joint Corporations Committee

Relevant Topics: 911 Funding & Public Funds for Association Participation and Membership

The Committee will continue its work on the transition to and funding for a NextGen 911 system in Wyoming and hear status updates on the study and grants as required by the 911 Funding bill passed this session. The committee will also evaluate legislation that limits the use of taxpayer dollars distributed to associations for membership dues and participation, along with increased reporting in conjunction with the committee's work to further revise public records requirements for public entities, which is inclusive of most of our members.

Meeting 1: May 21-22 (Lander)

Meeting 2: September 10-11 (Casper)

Meeting 3: September 17-18 (Cheyenne)

Management Audit Committee

Relevant Topics: Special District Compliance Audits

This committee will consider a review of audit procedures and examine special district compliance with Wyoming statutes and rules over two meetings. During the first meeting, the Committee will hear from the Audit Department, who will point out which special districts are noncompliant. The purpose of the second meeting will be to address concerns raised. The Committee will also look at the Legislature's subpoena process for audit materials and consider the fine for entities who fail to respond, which currently sits at only \$100.

Meeting 1: June 18 (Casper)

Meeting 2: August 20 (Casper)

Education Committee

Relevant Topics: Workforce Development

This committee will examine the expansion of dual and concurrent enrollment programs, improved funding to community colleges, and improved access to career-aligned coursework to prepare a local workforce. This has the potential to include conversations into earlier pathways into nursing, allied health, emergency services, and other critical roles in rural areas. The committee will also consider the utilization of AI. The committee's hope is that Wyoming kids can exit high school with an associate's degree that aligns with available Wyoming careers.

Revenue

Relevant Topics: Property Tax Reform

This committee will continue to look at property tax reform issues and examine the potential impacts of the People's Initiative to entirely get rid of property taxes in Wyoming.

Joint Judiciary Committee

Relevant Topics: Anti-SLAPP Legislation

This committee will evaluate anti-SLAPP legislation, which is significant to our member hospitals and the broader healthcare community. This topic came from the House, and it has failed the Senate for two years due to the bills needing to be more tailored to Wyoming. Judiciary will take up the topic in conjunction with the Governor's office based on model legislation. These laws are designed to safeguard organizations and individuals from misuse of the legal system by those trying to intimidate or silence stakeholders through the threat of costly and protracted litigation. For hospitals and healthcare associations regularly engaged in advocacy work on matters of public interest like WHA, anti-SLAPP protections help ensure we can continue to exercise our constitutional right to free speech without fear of undue legal retaliation.

May 12-13 (Cheyenne)

August 10-11 (Casper)

Select Committee on Blockchain, Financial Technology, and Digital Innovation Technology
Relevant Topics: Data Privacy, AI Governance, Digital Identity & Virtual Private Networks, Data Centers, & Tokenization and Digital Assets

This committee's topics for consideration will shape the technology, financial infrastructure, and data governance environment that healthcare systems are increasingly depending on in Wyoming, especially as RHTP funding pushes providers to modernize care delivery. The committee will consider policies around digital identity, secure data exchange, and cryptographic verification, which has the potential to impact patient records, credentialing, and telehealth expansion. The committee's exploration into Wyoming's newly created stable token and other digital currencies may also influence how members receive and manage funding, reimbursement, and cross-system transactions in the future. The committee's decision-making on both government and corporate data privacy and AI governance legislation could also affect workforce augmentation and the protection of patient information. Finally, this committee will discuss data centers and infrastructure, which could tie directly into the feasibility of advanced IT in rural areas for our hospitals. WHA will be engaged to ensure our hospitals can leverage emerging technologies to address workforce shortages and access challenges while also avoiding unintended regulatory barriers that might increase risk.



**American Hospital
Association**

340B Advocacy

Urge your representative to sign letter to House appropriations leaders barring funds to implement 340B rebate model, include it in their FY 27 appropriations request.

A group of bipartisan House lawmakers is urging their colleagues to sign a letter to House appropriation leaders requesting that language in the fiscal year 2027 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies bill prohibit the use of funds for implementing a 340B rebate model program.

“As you prepare your Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 appropriations bill, we urge you to include bill language barring the use of funds for implementation of a 340B Rebate Model Program at the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Congress intended the 340B Program to enable the nation's safety-net providers to stretch scarce federal resources as far as possible, reaching more eligible patients and providing more comprehensive services. We are concerned a rebate model, as currently under consideration at HHS, would compromise the purpose of the 340B program, threaten the stability of our safety net providers, and directly harm patients.”

The letter is led by Reps. Doris Matsui, D-Calif., Dusty Johnson, R-S.D., Debbie Dingell, D-Mich., and Tracey Mann, R-Kan.

TAKE ACTION

Please reach out to your representative and ask them to sign the letter. The deadline for signing the letter is March 25 at 7 p.m. ET. Additionally, ask your representative to include in their FY 27 appropriations request language that bars the use of funds to implement a 340B rebate model program.

REMINDER TO SUBMIT YOUR OWN LETTER TO HRSA

Read the AHA's Feb. 25 Special Bulletin about using an AHA model comment letter to help you submit comments on the Health Resources and Services Administration's request for information on implementing a 340B rebate program. Comments are due by April 20. The AHA will submit its own comment letter and share it with 340B hospitals.

CMS Memo Reiterates Nutrition Service Obligations for Hospitals in Light of Updated Dietary Guidelines

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services yesterday released a **memorandum** reinforcing hospital nutrition service obligations for hospitals. The memo reminds hospitals of the Medicare conditions of participation that require hospitals to ensure menus and diets meet individual patient nutritional needs in accordance with recognized dietary practices. It also asks hospitals to review and revise their food and nutrition service policies, standard menus, therapeutic protocols and other practices to align with the recently released **2025-2030 Dietary Guidelines for Americans**. CMS makes several recommendations for hospital inpatient menus, including limiting ultra-processed foods; eliminating sugar-sweetened beverages unless clinically appropriate in limited scenarios; eliminating refined grains and replacing them with 100% whole grains; prioritizing minimally processed protein sources, including plant-based options; and emphasizing vegetables, fruits, legumes, nuts, seeds, seafood and healthy fats.



[More information on the Summit can be found here](#)

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

[WHA CEO/Trustee Spring Meeting](#)



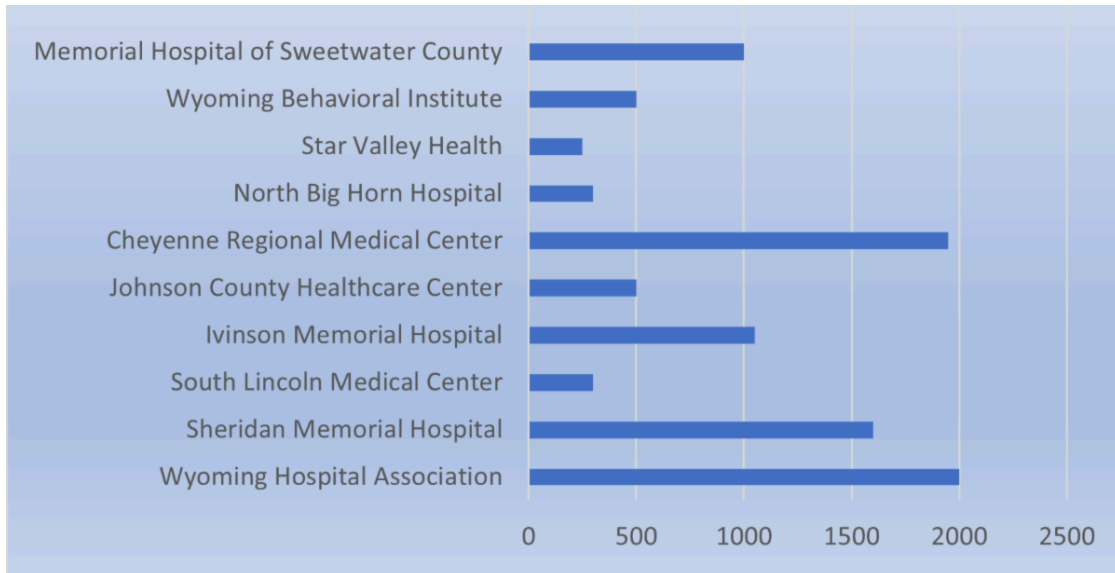
HFMA Spring Meeting
April 8-10, 2026
Casper, Wyoming

WHA Regional CEO Meeting
April 8, 2026
Wyoming Behavioral Institute

WHA Regional CEO Meeting
May 18, 2026
Campbell County Health

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

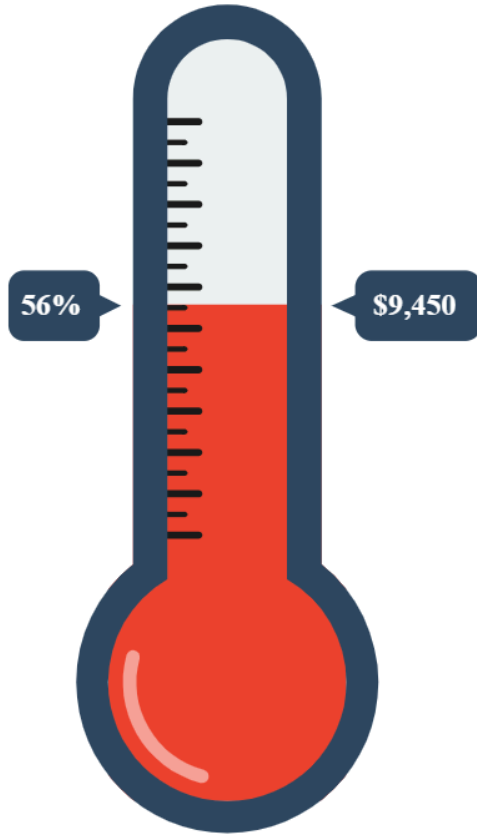
WHA PAC Goal for 2026 Contributors



WHA PAC

Barry Burkart
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

GOAL: \$17,000



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