

News Briefs

May 29, 2026

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Wyoming Hospital Association

In This Issue

- Norman S. Holt Award for Nursing Excellence
- Volunteer Awards
- AHA Report on Healthcare Costs
- CMS Rule on Medicaid Community Engagement Requirements
- Upcoming Events
- 2026 WHA PAC Goal

Nominate an Outstanding Nurse for the Norman S. Holt Award

The Wyoming Hospital Association is now accepting nominations for the Norman S. Holt Award for Nursing Excellence — and we encourage every Wyoming hospital to consider putting forward a deserving candidate.

Established in 1983 by the WHA Board of Directors, this annual award honors one exceptional Wyoming nurse who exemplifies the very best of the profession. All R.N.s and L.P.N.s are eligible regardless of position.

Nominees are evaluated on the following criteria:

- Concern for the profession and its improvement
- Commitment to improved skills and knowledge
- Respect by peers
- Compassion for patients and family members

Nominate a Volunteer or Program for WHA's Annual Volunteer Awards

Wyoming hospitals are home to some of the most dedicated volunteers in the state — and the Wyoming Hospital Association wants to recognize them.

We are now accepting nominations for two annual awards to be presented at the WHA Annual Meeting, September 9–10, 2026 at the Little America Hotel in Cheyenne:

- Outstanding Hospital Volunteer Program — recognizing a hospital whose volunteer program exemplifies excellence, innovation, and meaningful impact on patient care and the community
- Volunteer of the Year — honoring an individual volunteer whose commitment, compassion, and service go above and beyond

Every WHA member hospital is eligible, and we encourage all hospitals to take

- Creativity and innovation in nursing care
- Dedication to providing the highest quality of care
- A positive work approach to superiors, peers, and subordinates

Each hospital may submit one candidate. To nominate, submit a narrative application addressing each criterion above, along with the candidate's name and employing facility, to rose@wyohospitals.com, fax 307-632-9347, or mail to WHA, 2005 Warren Avenue, Cheyenne, WY 82001.

The recipient will be recognized at the WHA Annual Meeting, September 9–10, 2026 at the Little America Hotel & Resort in Cheyenne, and will receive a complimentary registration, a recognition plaque, and a monetary award.

Submission deadline: July 1, 2026. Questions? Contact us at the information above — we look forward to celebrating another outstanding Wyoming nurse!

this opportunity to shine a spotlight on the incredible volunteer work happening within their walls. Nominations may be submitted by the hospital's CEO or the staff member responsible for volunteer programs. Each institution is responsible for determining its own method of selecting its nominee.

To nominate, submit your completed nomination to rose@wyohospitals.com, fax 307-632-9347, or mail to: Wyoming Hospital Association 2005 Warren Avenue Cheyenne, WY 82001
Submission deadline: July 1, 2026.

Winners will be announced at the Annual Meeting, where we look forward to celebrating the outstanding contributions volunteers make to Wyoming's hospitals and the communities they serve. Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions!



AHA Unveils Blueprint to Lower Healthcare Costs and Expand Access

The American Hospital Association released a **new report**, “Making Health Care More Affordable: A Blueprint to Lower Costs, Improve Access and Enhance Quality.”

The report contains actionable and achievable strategies and solutions that are focused on improving the health of individuals and communities; transforming care delivery; reducing administrative waste in the system; lowering drug and device costs; and innovating to improve care outcomes.

The report, as well as an **infographic** that highlights several action items from the report, was produced with input gathered throughout the year from AHA members across the country. “As the backbone of our health care system, hospitals and health systems are committed to delivering high-quality, accessible and affordable care in every community,” said AHA President and CEO Rick Pollack. “But hospitals cannot solve affordability alone. It will require everyone — drug companies, commercial insurers, suppliers, government, patients and others — to fix our outdated system. The strategies outlined in this report are actionable, achievable steps that can help lower costs and strengthen access to care for Americans across the country.”

[The report can be found here](#)

CMS Issues Interim Final Rule on Medicaid Community Engagement Requirements

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services today issued an interim final rule with **comment period** implementing the statutory requirement that certain adult Medicaid enrollees meet community engagement (work) requirements. Under the rule, certain adults must complete 80 hours per month of “qualifying activities,” such as employment, education, community service or participation in a work program, or meet equivalent income thresholds.

CMS said that states must generally implement the requirement no later than Jan. 1, 2027. The rule maintains exemptions for certain populations, including individuals who are pregnant or postpartum, disabled or medically frail, or caregivers, and allows states to offer exemptions for short-term hardships. See the CMS **fact sheet** for more details.

Provisions in the rule are effective on July 31, 2026, and comments must be submitted by that date.

[CMS Fact Sheet on Medicaid Community Engagement](#)

Upcoming Events

MARK YOUR CALENDAR • 2026

Sep 8, 2026

**WHA Golf
Tournament**

Cheyenne Country Club

Golf

Sep 9–10, 2026

**WHA Annual
Meeting**

Little America, Cheyenne

Annual

June 12, 2026

**Healthcare Policy
Summit**

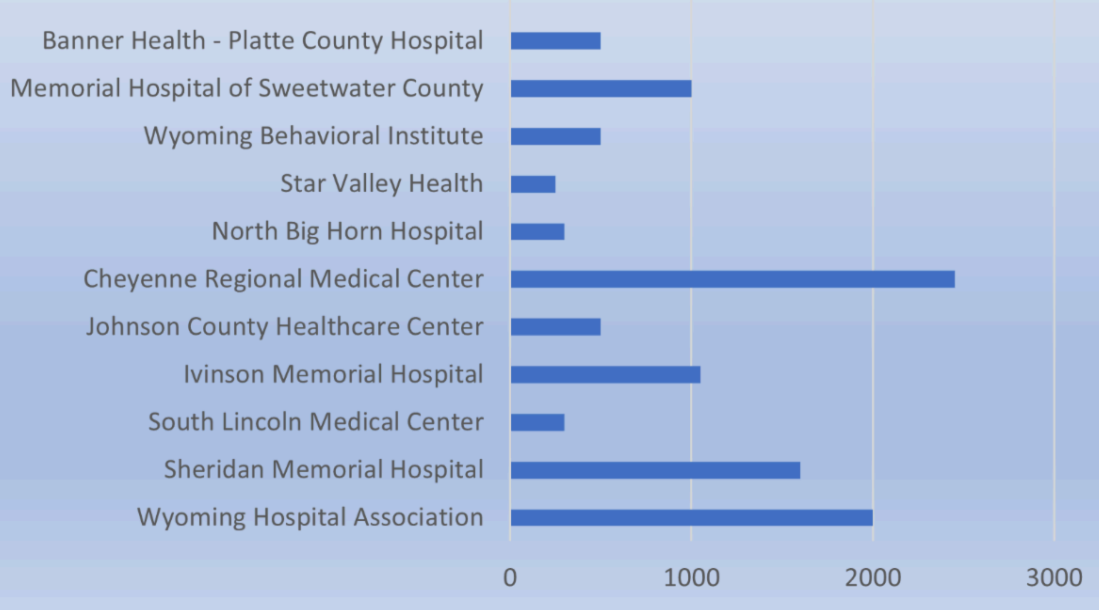
Laramie, WY

Summit

[Healthcare Policy Summit](#)

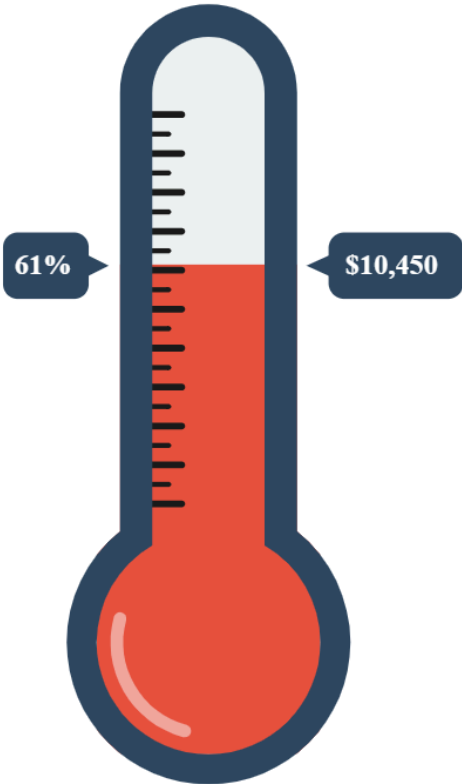
[WHA Golf Tournament](#)

**WHA PAC Goal for 2026
Contributors**



WHA PAC

GOAL: \$17,000



- Barry Burkart**
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- Scott Fox**
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- Mike Hunsaker**
- Mike Phillips**
- Steven Leafgreen**
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- Irene Richardson**
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