

News Briefs

May 8, 2026

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Wyoming Hospital Association

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WYOMING HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

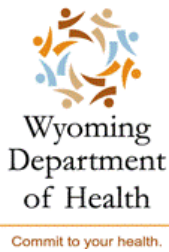
2026 Spring CEO/Trustee Meeting

Leadership. Governance. Direct dialogue with Wyoming legislators.

DATE
May 19, 2026
Tuesday

LOCATION
Best Western
Sheridan, Wyoming

Register by May 11!
Deadline for room & meal reservations



Free Naloxone Now Easier to Find Across Wyoming

Wyoming hospitals and health systems have long been on the front lines of the opioid crisis — and a new state resource is making it easier for communities to access a critical tool in the fight against overdose deaths.

The Wyoming Department of Health has launched the Community Naloxone Resource Map, an online tool that helps residents locate free doses of naloxone (Narcan) in their communities. The interactive map lists distribution sites across 22 of Wyoming's 23 counties, ranging from public health offices to local fire departments and libraries.

Opioid-involved fatal overdoses in Wyoming climbed from 46 in 2019 to a peak of 84 in 2024, before falling to 54 in 2025. Laramie County has ordered the highest number of Narcan doses from the health department at 1,550, followed by Fremont County with 1,466 — a reflection of both population size and community need. Wyoming hospitals remain the largest single source of Narcan orders from the health department, underscoring the vital role health systems play in statewide overdose prevention efforts.

Naloxone requires no advanced medical training to administer. Delivered nasally, it restores normal breathing during an opioid overdose, buying critical time until emergency responders arrive. Wyoming businesses and organizations can obtain free Narcan directly from the health department to keep on hand for employees, clients, or the public. In 2025, Wyoming also enacted a "Good Samaritan" law offering legal protections to individuals who seek medical help during an overdose — making Wyoming the final state in the nation to pass such legislation.

Wyoming has received \$10.7 million in settlement funds from lawsuits against pharmaceutical companies, supporting a range of opioid response initiatives including expanded Narcan access. To explore the Community Naloxone Resource Map or to order free naloxone for your organization, visit the Wyoming Department of Health website.

Wyoming DOH Narcan Information



Investing in Wyoming's Future: WHA's Kelsey Prestesater Gives Back Through Junior Achievement

When Kelsey Prestesater, Vice President of the Wyoming Hospital Association, walks into a classroom at Cheyenne East High School, she leaves her title at the door. As a volunteer mentor with Junior Achievement Rocky Mountain, she shows up as something arguably more important — a real-world role model for the next generation of Wyoming's workforce.

Junior Achievement Rocky Mountain is part of the world's largest nonprofit dedicated to preparing young people for career success, financial independence, and entrepreneurship. Through a network of business volunteers who bring real-world experience into classrooms, JA connects what students learn in school to the world they are about to enter. In the 2024-25 school year alone, JA Rocky Mountain reached more than 87,000 students across 482 schools in 63 districts.

For Prestesater, volunteering with JA is a natural extension of the Wyoming Hospital Association's broader mission. Healthcare is one of Wyoming's largest employers, and building a pipeline of workforce-ready young people is essential to the long-term health of communities across the state.

"Healthcare careers offer incredible opportunities for Wyoming students — from clinical roles to administration, finance, and leadership," Prestesater said. "Being in the classroom is a chance to open doors that students may not even know exist."

The partnership between healthcare leaders and programs like Junior Achievement reflects a growing recognition that workforce development starts long before a job application is filed. By investing time in Wyoming's classrooms today, leaders like Prestesater are helping to build the resilient, skilled communities that hospitals and health systems depend on tomorrow.

To learn more about Junior Achievement Rocky Mountain or to volunteer in a Wyoming classroom, visit jarockymountain.org.



Cheyenne Regional Expands Behavioral Health Access Statewide

Cheyenne Regional Medical Center is taking a significant step forward in addressing one of Wyoming's most persistent healthcare challenges — access to behavioral health services — through two innovative programs now available to hospitals across the state.

At the heart of this effort is the Psychiatric Assessment and Referral Team, known as PART. Embedded directly in Cheyenne Regional's Emergency Department, PART brings licensed mental health professionals into the acute care setting to provide rapid psychiatric evaluations for patients experiencing a mental health crisis. Clinicians are trained in Wyoming's Title 25 emergency detention statute and work to connect each patient with the most appropriate level of care in the least restrictive setting possible.

Services include emergency psychiatric assessments, crisis intervention, coordination with law enforcement and community providers, and support for patients and families throughout the care process. "Access to timely behavioral health care remains a challenge in many parts of Wyoming," said Greg O'Barr, Cheyenne Regional's administrator of behavioral health and population health services. "PART helps bridge that gap by providing expert evaluation and support when patients need it most."

Now, Cheyenne Regional is extending that expertise beyond its own walls through the launch of TelePART — a telehealth-based service that connects emergency departments statewide with PART clinicians in real time. Using secure video technology, any participating hospital can access immediate psychiatric assessments, helping reduce care delays and improve patient outcomes regardless of geography.

For Wyoming's rural hospitals, where behavioral health resources are often limited and far between, TelePART represents a meaningful new tool. By pairing in-person expertise with telehealth capabilities, Cheyenne Regional is working to ensure that more Wyoming patients — wherever they live — receive timely, appropriate care.

Hospitals and health systems interested in partnering with Cheyenne Regional for TelePART services can visit cheyenneregional.org/part or contact the Virtual Care team at 307-996-4602.

Wyoming Healthcare Leaders Gather for Policy Summit

Wyoming's healthcare community will come together on June 12, 2026, for the Wyoming Healthcare Policy Summit — a collaborative event bringing hospital executives, educators,

legislators, and health officials under one roof to tackle the most pressing challenges facing the state's health system.

The summit, co-hosted by the Wyoming Hospital Association, Wyoming Medical Society, Wyoming Nurses Association, Wyoming Primary Care Association, and other partners, opened with a keynote by Beth Worthen of the Natrona Collective Health Trust, who framed the day's central question: how does Wyoming's health directly shape its economy and its future?

From there, conversations will turn to the issues where action is needed most. A panel on Wyoming's healthcare workforce pipeline will bring together leaders from the University of Wyoming College of Health, Laramie County Community College, Casper College, WICHE, and WWAMI to examine how the state can grow and retain the next generation of healthcare professionals. The discussion reflects a shared urgency — Wyoming's ability to recruit and train providers locally is essential to the long-term health of its communities.

The morning's second session, Healthcare Infrastructure 101, features hospital CEOs from across the state — representing Banner Medical in Casper, Sheridan Memorial Hospital, and St. John's Hospital in Jackson Hole — alongside Blue Cross Blue Shield of Wyoming, offering a candid look at the financial and operational realities facing Wyoming's hospitals.

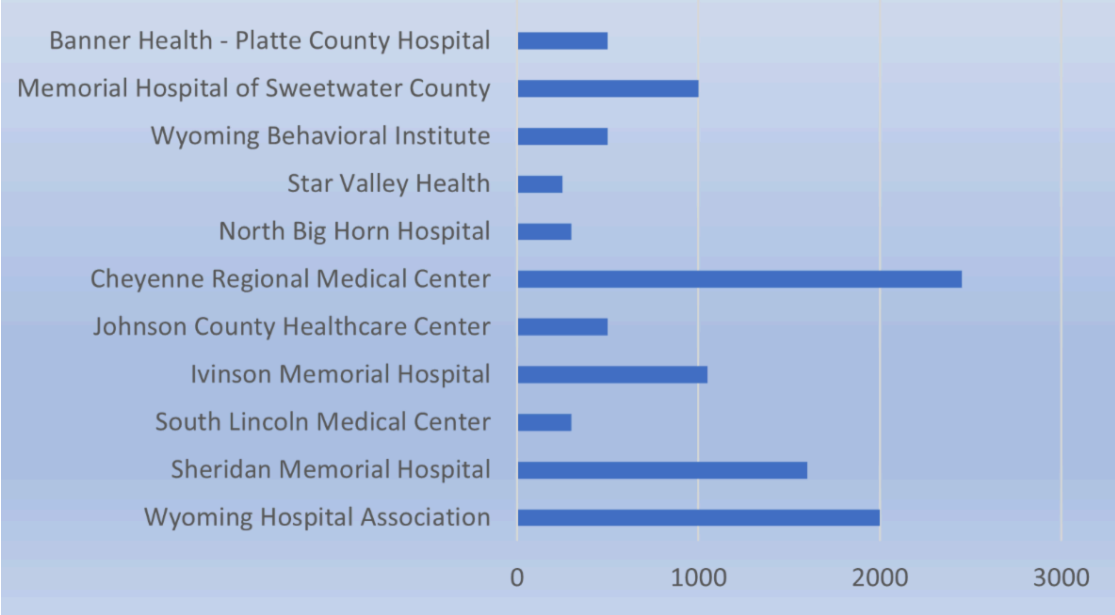
The summit will close with a presentation from Wyoming Department of Health Director Stefan Johannson on rural health transformation — a fitting end to a day focused on ensuring every Wyoming community has access to quality care — followed by a networking reception.

Healthcare Policy Summit

The graphic features a dark blue rounded rectangle at the top with the text "Upcoming Events" in white, accompanied by three colored dots (pink, teal, orange) and a pink square. Below this is a light purple background with colorful geometric shapes. A central line reads "MARK YOUR CALENDAR □ 2026". Three event cards are displayed below, each with a colored header and footer:

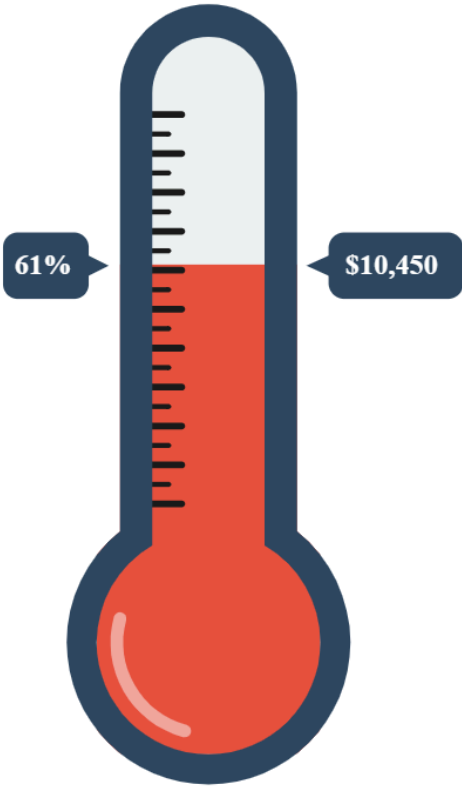
Date	Event Name	Location	Category
May 19, 2026	WHA Trustee / CEO Spring Meeting	Sheridan, WY	Spring
June 12, 2026	Healthcare Policy Summit	Laramie, WY	Summit
Sep 9-10, 2026	WHA Annual Meeting	Little America, Cheyenne	Annual

WHA PAC Goal for 2026 Contributors



WHA PAC

GOAL: \$17,000



- 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**
- Sandy Dugger**
- Mark Drumhiller**



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