

News Briefs

August 15, 2025

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Wyoming Hospital Association



2025 WHA Auction



**Amika Satchel by
Alexis Drake**

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The State of Healthcare Wyoming Healthcare Leaders' Perspectives

Join us at the Wyoming Hospital Association/LeadingAge Wyoming annual meeting for a program on "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

Wyoming Legislator

Senator Eric Barlow, Wyoming Senate Chairman

Representing Nursing Homes

Eric Connell, LeadingAge Wyoming Chair & CEO North Big Horn Hospital

Representing Hospitals

Doug Faus, CEO, Iverson Memorial Hospital

Representing Hospital Board Members

Gary Crum Board Member and State Legislator

Wyoming Hospital Association & LeadingAge Wyoming

Eric Boley, President

Panel Moderator

Terry Moss, COO, Iverson Memorial Hospital

[Annual Meeting Information Can be Found Here](#)



Med Evac Expands Life-Saving Services With new Helicopter in Casper

New air medical transport service strengthens Banner Health's commitment to Wyoming communities while creating local jobs

Banner Health announced the expansion of its Med Evac medical transport services with a new helicopter stationed in Casper, Wyo. This addition enhances Banner's comprehensive health care services in Wyoming and strengthens the organization's commitment to providing critical care transport to patients throughout the region.

The new helicopter service, which will be operational later this year, represents a significant investment in Wyoming's health care infrastructure and Banner Health's continued dedication to serving the state's communities.

"We're excited to expand Med Evac services in Wyoming, a state where we've been providing health care for decades," said Lance Porter, chief executive officer of Banner Wyoming Medical Center. "This new helicopter stationed in Casper will enhance our ability to provide rapid emergency response and critical care transport to patients across Wyoming, particularly in rural areas where timely access to specialized care can be challenging."

The addition of the Casper-based helicopter will streamline care coordination within the Banner Health system, allowing for expedited patient transfers to Banner Wyoming Medical Center and other facilities when necessary. The service integrates seamlessly with Banner's existing ground ambulance team, creating a comprehensive emergency transport network.

Banner Health will manage the clinical operations of the program, while MedTrans will provide the aircraft, pilots and mechanics – following the same successful operational model used in Banner's Arizona and Colorado air medical programs.

The expansion will create 13 new jobs in Casper, including eight clinical roles and five roles for pilots and mechanics. This initiative not only brings new employment opportunities to the region

but also provides career advancement pathways within the Banner Health system.

"We're committed to building a team of highly skilled professionals who share our dedication to providing exceptional patient care," said Joe Darmofal, director of flight services for Banner's Western Region. "These positions represent meaningful career opportunities within Banner's growing Wyoming operations."

Med Evac has been serving portions of southeastern Wyoming from its base of operations in northern Colorado since 1982. This expansion builds upon Banner Health's long-standing presence in Wyoming, which includes Banner Wyoming Medical Center and several other health care facilities across the state.

The new helicopter service will be part of the Air Med Care Network membership program, offering additional benefits to Wyoming residents.



New AHA, Vizient Report Shows Better Outcomes for Hospitalized Surgical Patients

Patients in the hospital for surgeries had better outcomes in 2024 than they did in 2019, according to a [new report](#) released by the American Hospital Association and Vizient.

The significant improvement aligned not only with better performance on patient safety metrics — such as reductions in infections and falls — but also with marked declines in three major surgical patient safety indicators: severe bleeding, sepsis and respiratory failure. You can read the entire report below.

[Click Here to Read the Report](#)

Helmsley Charitable Trust Grants Millions to WASCOP for Telehealth

The Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust is granting close to \$2.4 million to the Wyoming Association of Sheriffs and Chiefs of Police (WASCOP). That's according to a press release from Governor Gordon's office, which states that the purpose of the grant is to help officers across the state provide residents in crisis with 24/7 access to behavioral health professionals, via telehealth.


According to the release, Virtual Crisis Care equips Wyoming law enforcement officers with tablets, allowing them to call on trained experts to de-escalate, assess, and stabilize individuals in a mental health crisis. Those crises could include suicidal ideation, self-harm, or depression. The release states that the pilot program is modeled after similar Helmsley-funded efforts in South Dakota and Nevada, where more than 80 percent of encounters result in the person staying in place with plans for local follow-up care.

"Connecting law enforcement officers and behavioral health professionals is instrumental in providing top-notch care on scene, while reducing unnecessary trips to emergency rooms, mental health hospitals, and jails," said Walter Panzirer, a Trustee of the Helmsley Charitable Trust. "We're excited to help bring this innovative program to Wyoming and improve rural and frontier residents' access to vital mental health resources." The release notes that Wyoming's population of

588,000 is spread over 97,000 square miles. This provides unique challenges for a coordinated behavioral health crisis-care responses across the state.

Virtual Crisis Care, which is launching with plans to expand statewide where and when needed, will ensure that Wyoming's most remote residents receive necessary and timely behavioral healthcare.

"The Helmsley Charitable Trust is an extraordinary friend and active partner to Wyoming," Governor Gordon said. "I thank them for recognizing that our law enforcement officers regularly face individuals suffering mental health crises, often in remote locations without easy access to crisis care professionals. This grant will fund a critical tool that allows these officers to access professional mental health resources quickly while on scene, while also providing crucial follow up care, a key element of the program. This is an innovative opportunity to help those in crisis access the care they need and reduce the impact on both law enforcement and our healthcare facilities." The release reveals that when someone experiencing or witnessing a mental health crisis in a rural or frontier county calls 911, law enforcement is usually the first to respond. But officers and deputies aren't always provided with the training to resolve these encounters in a time and effective manner.





Registration Open:

Improving Patient Care: Pain Management, Prescribing Practices, and
Linkages to Care for Wyoming
3 CME Credits Available

Wednesday, September 3rd, 2025

10am – 1pm MT

Cheyenne Regional Medical Center - Cheyenne, Wyoming
214 E. 23rd St Cheyenne, WY 82001
Room number: Auditorium A and B

Register for this free training by completing the form linked here →

For any questions regarding the event, please contact Riley Voss at:
rvoss@comagine.org.

Click or Scan
to Register

Topics include:

- Introduction to the 2022 CDC Clinical Practice Guidelines for Safe Opioid Prescribing
- Overcoming Challenges in Chronic Pain Management for Opioid-Dependent Patients: The Neurobiology of Addiction
- Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT)
- The Role of Buprenorphine in the Clinical Setting



Dr. Melissa Cheng, MD, MOH, MHS, FACP, FCOEM, is an Associate Professor at the University of Utah. She is a board-certified occupational medicine physician from the American Board of Preventive Medicine. Dr. Cheng is board-certified in addiction medicine. She also serves as Comagine Health's Utah Medical Director.

Dr. Craig Uthe, MD, is a board-certified family physician with the American Board of Family Medicine and a member of the American Society of Addiction Medicine. He is the Medical Director of Professional Well-Being at Sanford Health and the Chief Well-Being Officer for the University of South Dakota Sanford School of Medicine. Dr. Uthe comes to this training through the Opioid Response Network (ORN).



Learn about partners like *Recover Wyoming* and work through the *Plans of Safe Care Initiative*. Resources and online training opportunities to learn about these programs will be available during the live event.



The Comagine Health is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) to provide continuing medical education for physicians. Comagine Health designates this Live Event for a maximum of 3.0 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)™. Physicians



Wyoming Department of Health | Community Prevention Unit

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Register for the Cheyenne Session 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.



Wyoming
Department
of Health



PUBLIC
HEALTH
DIVISION



COMMUNITY
PREVENTION
UNIT

Registration Open:

Improving Patient Care: Pain Management, Prescribing Practices, and
Linkages to Care for Wyoming
3 CME Credits Available

Wednesday, September 3rd, 2025

4pm - 7pm MT

Community Health Centers of Central Wyoming - Casper, Wyoming
5000 Blackmore Rd, Casper, WY 82609

Register for this free training by completing the form linked here →

For any questions regarding the event, please contact Riley Voss at:
rvoss@comagine.org.

Click or Scan
to Register



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Opioid
Response
Network

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Wyoming Department of Health | Community Prevention Unit

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Register for the Casper Session 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.



Wyoming Hospital
Association/LeadingAge Wyoming
Annual Meeting
September 3-4, 2025

September 2, 2025
WHA Golf Tournament - Jacoby Golf
Course, Laramie

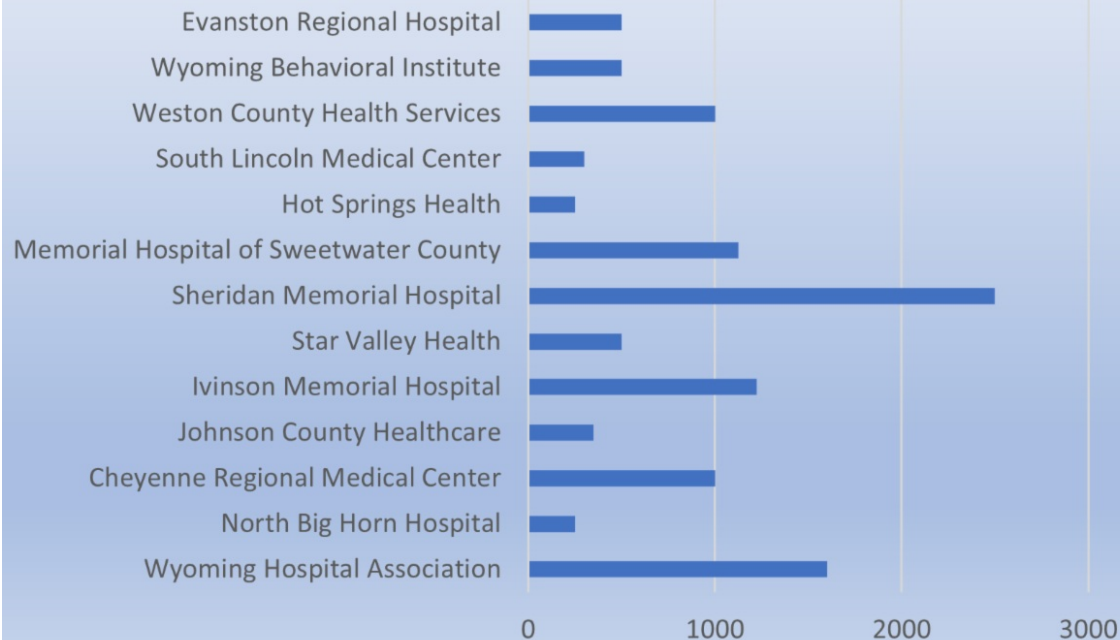
[Register Here for Annual Meeting](#)

September 3-4, 2025
WHA/LAW Annual Meeting -
Laramie, Wyoming

WHA PAC Goal for 2025

Contributors

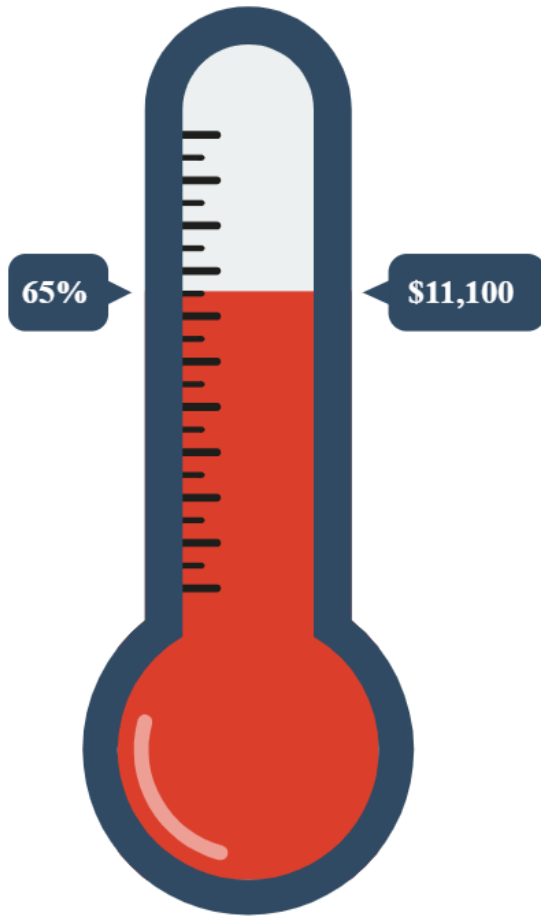
PAC CONTRIBUTIONS



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Eric Boley
Eric Connell
Tim Thornell
Shelli Shelton
Doug Faus
Mike Hunsaker
Ron Mischke
Darcy Robertson
Barbara Sowada
Scott Alwin
Luke Senden
Dave Ryerse
Shirley Coulter
Gary Crum
Joseph Steiner

GOAL: \$17,000



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

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