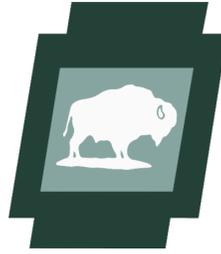


News Briefs

February 27, 2026

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Wyoming Hospital Association

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Wyoming Legislature Advances Key Health Care Bills as Session Nears End

The Wyoming Legislature concluded a busy week of floor action as the 2026 session moves into its final stretch, with several bills of significant importance to Wyoming's hospitals and health care system advancing toward the Governor's desk. The Wyoming Hospital Association (WHA) continued to monitor 28 active bills across both chambers, with notable progress on Medicaid funding, hospital operations, behavioral health, and patient care access.

Signed Into Law

Two WHA-tracked bills were signed into law by the Senate President this week, marking important victories for Wyoming's health care infrastructure.

HB 4 – Birthing Centers Medicaid Coverage was enrolled and signed as HEA No. 0001. This legislation expands Medicaid coverage to include birthing centers, a significant step in improving maternal care access across Wyoming, particularly in rural communities where birthing options are limited.

SF 5 – Hospital Bankruptcy Proceedings was also enrolled and signed as SEA No. 0010. This bill provides an avenue for our hospitals to engage in Chapter 9 bankruptcy proceedings, helping to protect patient access and community health services in financially distressed situations.

Bills Advancing Through the Legislature

Several other health care bills made significant progress this week, advancing to General File or passing second reading in preparation for final votes.

HB 80 – Identification Cards—Renewal for Care Facility Residents was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Labor Committee. WHA strongly supports this bill, which would ease the ID renewal process for residents of care facilities, reducing administrative burden for both patients and providers.

HB 122 – Wyoming Rural Health Transformation Program was placed on Senate General File after passing the House. WHA plans to have Director Johansson provide an update directly to our members as soon as possible on where the state stands with its application.

SF 4 – Medicaid Rate Increase for EMS Services was placed on the House General File following Senate passage. WHA supports improved EMS reimbursement, recognizing the critical role emergency medical services play in the health care continuum, particularly in rural Wyoming. **SF 57 – Transparency in Hospital Service Pricing** was referred to the House Labor Committee. WHA supports this bill as a workable solution for all parties involved. **SF106 – Welfare Fraud Prevention Act Amendments:** This bill is a mandate from the White House and requires hospitals to collect data on immigration status for all admissions and ER visits and send a de-identified report listing the number of such visits to the Department of Health once per year. WHA worked significantly with the sponsor of the bill and other stakeholders to come to a resolution that decreased most of the original reporting and data collection requirements. Notably, this may increase hospital reimbursement from Wyoming Medicaid for emergency care reimbursable through Wyoming Medicaid’s existing Emergency Services Program for undocumented or ineligible immigrants.

Other Notable Bills in Progress

SF 6 – Eligibility for Medicaid Criteria passed second reading in the House. This bill codifies current Medicaid eligibility requirements.

SF 23 – Outpatient Examination and Commitment Length was referred to the House Labor Committee

SF 32 – 911 Funding also passed its second reading in the House.

SF 41 – Portable Benefit Accounts and **SF 48 – Stem Cell Freedom Act** both passed the House Committee of the Whole this week.

SF 121 – Wyoming Pharmacy Act Amendments and **SF 122 – Medical Necessity Standard—Timeline Amendments** were both referred to the House Labor Committee. SF 122 in particular will shorten the amount of time insurers have to make medical necessity determinations. As an important note, it doesn't impact payment timelines.

Looking Ahead

With the 2026 legislative session approaching its conclusion, the Wyoming Hospital Association will continue to advocate for policies that support access to quality health care for all Wyoming residents. WHA encourages its members to stay engaged, contact their legislators on priority bills, and reach out to WHA staff with any questions about legislation affecting hospital operations.

734 Hospitals at Risk of Closure, by State

Article by: Becker's Hospital Review

Seven hundred and thirty-four rural hospitals across the U.S., which represent one-third of all rural facilities nationwide, are at risk of closing due to severe financial problems, according to the Center for Healthcare Quality and Payment Reform’s most recent [analysis](#).

The hospitals now classified as at risk of closure represent a slight improvement from CHQPR’s previous [analysis](#), when 756 rural facilities faced a closure risk.

More than 100 rural hospitals have also shut their doors over the last decade, leaving millions of Americans without access to emergency rooms and inpatient care in the areas they live. An additional 44 hospitals have ended inpatient services since 2023 to qualify for federal grants exclusively available to rural emergency hospitals, the report said.

The report said inadequate payments from private insurance companies is a primary driver for the hospital closures. Almost half of rural hospitals lose money delivering patient services, with costs per patient running higher in smaller, rural communities versus urban areas due to less residents served relative to fixed service costs.

Comments Requested for RFI on 340B Rebate Model Program

The Department of Health and Human Services' Health Resources and Services Administration is seeking comments in response to a [request for information](#) about whether to implement a new 340B rebate model program. Comments on the RFI are due March 19.

It is critical that HRSA hear from as many 340B hospitals as possible about the costs and administrative burdens a rebate model program would impose. The American Hospital Association earlier this month issued a [Special Bulletin](#) with more details about the RFI. HRSA will accept comments through March 19. See the [instructions in the RFI](#) for where to submit comments.

Becker's Hospital Review's 2025 Critical Access Hospital CEOs to Know!

Critical access hospitals play a vital role in delivering around-the-clock emergency care to rural and underserved communities. Leading these essential institutions are executives with deep expertise in expanding service lines, recruiting and retaining providers, and forging strategic partnerships that strengthen care delivery and community access. Three Wyoming CEOs have been recognized as steadfast in their commitment to clinical excellence, patient safety, and financial sustainability. Through thoughtful leadership, they ensure their hospitals remain trusted community resources. They bring essential services close to home, attract top physicians, and collaborate with larger health systems to enhance care capabilities.



Matt Dammeyer. CEO of Memorial Hospital of Converse County (Douglas, Wyo.). Mr. Dammeyer, CEO of Memorial Hospital of Converse County, oversees a 25-bed critical access hospital, multiple rural health clinics, and the recently acquired 24-bed Summit Medical Center in Casper, Wyo. Despite challenges during the Covid-19 pandemic, Mr. Dammeyer led the hospital through with no layoffs and maintained a positive profit margin. He spearheaded the acquisition of Summit Medical Center in 2022, a controversial move aimed at securing Memorial Hospital's independence while expanding services for communities in eastern Wyoming. Mr. Dammeyer is committed to improving staff wellbeing, personally redirecting part of his salary to raise the hospital's minimum wage. He prioritizes both the hospital's strategic growth and the financial stability of its employees.



Hannah McRae

Hannah McRae. CEO at Cody (Wyo.) Regional Health. Ms. McRae serves as CEO of 25-bed Cody Regional Health, providing strategic and operational leadership for the West Park Hospital District. She has driven measurable financial improvements across the health system, strengthening financial and operational reporting capabilities while improving transparency and decision-making. Under her leadership, the organization has enhanced collaboration with medical staff and reinforced key joint venture partnerships to support long-term sustainability. Prior to joining Cody Regional Health, Ms. McRae served as CFO for Tenet Healthcare within the Abrazo Community Health system in Phoenix, where she led complex financial operations across multiple hospitals. Her earlier roles as

associate CFO and controller for facilities in Arizona and North Carolina included oversight of revenue cycle, cost reporting, IT, supply chain, clinical research and graduate medical education programs. Ms. McRae brings more than 15 years of healthcare finance and leadership experience.



Lisa Van Brunt, CEO of Banner Washakie Medical Center (Worland, Wyo.). Ms. Van Brunt leads this 18-bed critical access hospital in north-central Wyoming. CEO since 2024, she brings over two decades of service to the hospital as a nurse and in multiple leadership roles, including CNO. Banner Washakie has been named by Chartis as one of the nation's "Top 100 Critical Access Hospitals" two consecutive years. It consistently earns top scores in quality metrics, patient satisfaction, employee safety, leadership effectiveness and as a great place to work and to receive care. Ms. Van Brunt's leadership is rooted in a commitment to quality, safety and compassion. She fosters a culture of excellence and trust, ensuring every patient receives the highest standard of care in an environment that promotes healing and respect. She cultivates a workplace valuing collaboration, professional growth and wellbeing, and is dedicated to positioning Banner Washakie as the region's trusted healthcare partner. Through initiatives focused on retaining market share and expanding services, she continues to meet evolving community needs with innovation, integrity and compassion.

Webinar Recap: Experts Discuss Ways to Expand Capacity Through Strategic Recruitment and Provider Performance Optimization

Jackson Physician Search, a WHA Resources endorsed vendor, is sharing their webinar recap "Experts Discuss Ways to Expand Capacity Through Strategic Recruitment and Provider Performance Optimization."

The American healthcare system faces an unprecedented convergence of challenges: a spike in physician retirements, shifting policy implications, widespread provider burnout, and growing patient demand. For healthcare leaders and recruitment professionals, the path forward requires far more than simply filling open positions. It demands a strategic, data-driven approach to optimizing both provider performance and physician recruitment.

The Executive Vice President of Business Development for Jackson Physician Search, co-hosted an [MGMA webinar](#) with Jenny Hart, senior manager at [ECG Management Consultants](#), where we examined both sides of this coin. Jenny offered practical ways to optimize the performance of existing talent, and I focused on my area of expertise, strategic physician recruitment. Of course, we both understand the enormous pressure on healthcare organizations to do more with less. The goal of our conversation was not to add to that pressure, but rather to help organizations identify areas of missed opportunity. That is, where can we save time and effort to make the processes more efficient?

If you missed the webinar, read the article below for some practical advice that surfaced during our discussion.

[Read the Full Article Here](#)

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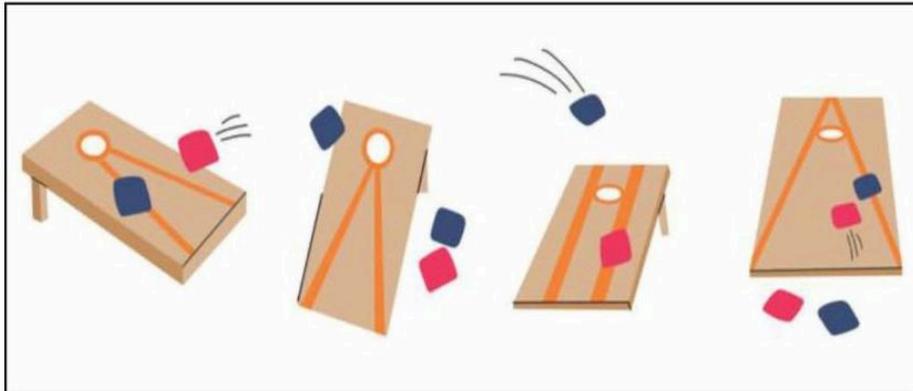
SAVE THE DATE

HFMA WYOMING CHAPTER 2026 SPRING CONFERENCE

When: April 9th - 10th 2026

Where: Best Western Downtown Casper
123 W. E Street
Casper WY 82601

https://www.bestwestern.com/en_US/book/hotel-rooms.51075.html?groupId=R87GF9L6



Let's relax after our first day with a Cornhole Tournament and
pizza on Thursday night at Oil City!

Have a question now? You can reach out to any of us!

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Kayla Copsey kayla.copsey@bannerhealth.com
Darcy Robertson drobertson1@nbhh.com



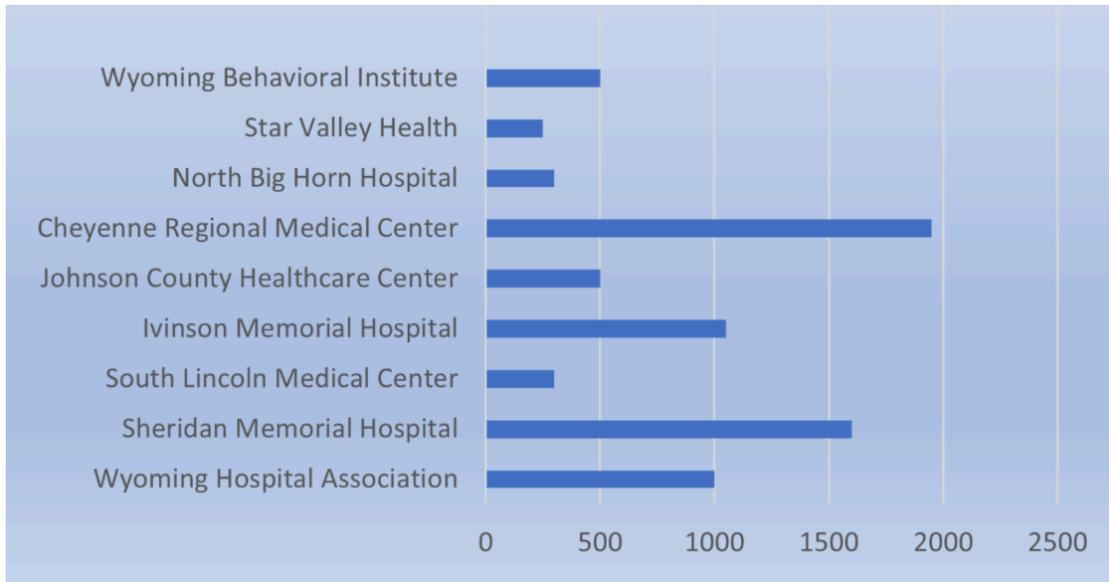
HFMA Spring Meeting
April 8-10, 2026
Casper, Wyoming

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

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

WHA PAC Goal for 2026

Contributors

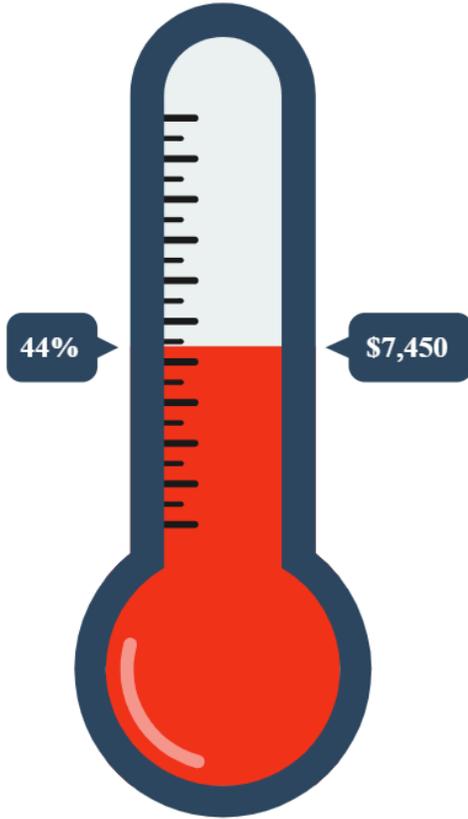


WHA PAC

- Barry Burkart**
- Eric Boley**
- Kelsey Prestesater**
- Jenifer Shassetz**
- Dave Ryerse**
- Terry Moss**
- Mike McCafferty**
- Shelli Shelton**
- Joe Wright**
- Tim Thornell**
- Doug Faus**

GOAL: \$17,000

**Luke Senden
Joanna Vilos
Robin Roling
Scott Fox
Darcy Robertson
Mike Hunsaker
Mike Phillips
Steven Leafgreen
Brad Jackson**



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