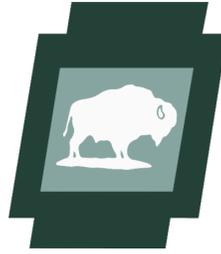


# News Briefs

January 9, 2026

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## Wyoming Hospital Association

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## Wyoming's Rural Health Transformation Program

The Wyoming Hospital Association is keeping in close contact with the Wyoming Department of Health regarding updates to the Rural Health Transformation Program. The Department of Health has provided a timeline for the award. As we receive more information, we will keep the membership updated.

WHA has a virtual meeting planned with Department of Health Director Stefan Johansson and Curtis Biggs from the Governor's Office on January 13, 2026. The meeting has been scheduled to discuss the application next steps and the State's vision for what healthcare in hospitals in particular look like going forward. An invitation has been sent to all WHA CEOs. If you have not received the invitation, please contact WHA.

On July 4, 2025, President Trump signed the *One Big Beautiful Bill Act* (OBBBA) into law. Part of that law creates the Rural Health Transformation Program. This new program offers Wyoming a significant opportunity to strengthen rural healthcare through sustainable, innovative, and transformative solutions.

### **Funding under this program is intended to support priorities such as:**

- Chronic disease prevention and behavioral health;
- Sustaining access to care in rural communities;
- Innovative approaches to care delivery and payment models;
- Workforce development and training;
- Technological and consumer health solutions; and
- IT advances and technical assistance

## Wyoming's Timeline

Date(s)	Activity
December 29, 2026	First-year award announced
January 30, 2026	Revised budget due to CMS (actual award)
January – February	Initial meetings with CMS project staff
February – March	Legislative action – appropriation of funds, establishment of Perpetuity
March – April	Requests for Applications (RFAs) and Requests for Proposals (RFPs) posted. Informational webinars and Q & A sessions will be held prior to posting.
2026 interim	Interim topics with Joint Labor Health and Social Services – scope of practice and compact issues
May – June	Awards made; funds drawn down.
July – August	Contracts executed

## 1st Circuit Denies Stay, Upholds District Court's Halt of 340B Rebate Program

The 1st U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals Jan. 7 [denied](#) the government's motion for a stay in a [lawsuit](#) filed by the AHA, the Maine Hospital Association and four safety-net health systems challenging the Department of Health and Human Services' 340B Rebate Model Pilot Program. This means that the program remains on hold.

The 1st Circuit wrote: "In a careful and thorough decision, the district court granted the preliminary injunction. It determined that the federal government had failed to consider the hospitals' reliance interests and other important aspects of the problem in enacting the new program and that the hospitals would face irreparable harm, including potential closure, without an injunction during the course of the litigation. ... We conclude that the federal government has failed to carry its burden of 'ma[king] a strong showing that [it is] likely to succeed on the merits' in this appeal and thus deny its stay request."

In a statement shared with the media, AHA President and CEO Rick Pollack said, "The First Circuit recognized that the district court's decision halting the 340B Rebate Program was 'careful and thorough' — and correct. The AHA remains pleased that these courts have put on hold this harmful program that would have a devastating effect on America's most vulnerable patients and communities, and the hospitals that serve them."

The 1st Circuit ruling follows a Dec. 29 decision from the U.S. District Court of Maine granting a preliminary injunction blocking implementation of the program, which was scheduled to go into effect Jan. 1, 2026.

## Building Bridges to Recovery: Improving Emergency Department Management of Individuals Experiencing Substance Use Disorder



Jan. 15, 2026

Wyoming Hospital Association and Comagine Health invite you to join us for a webinar introducing a customized, three-tiered improvement program for management of substance use disorder in the emergency department setting.

**Participation in the program is free of charge.** The Wyoming Department of Health is supporting this program for participating Wyoming facilities.

The webinar is your opportunity to learn about this program designed to:

- Identify best practices for caring for individuals suffering from substance abuse disorder in the emergency department setting
- Improve access to SUD resources in your community
- Receive educational support for physicians and staff members
- Work with subject matter experts and receive direct technical assistance to develop processes designed to reduce recidivism and improve patient outcomes
- Create interventions customized to your location, size and structure

#### Who Should Join:

- Emergency department physicians
- Emergency department directors
- Administrators
- Quality directors
- Emergency services directors and staff

#### Register for the Webinar Here

Visit [Registration Link](#)  
or scan the QR code below ▼



Reimagining health care,  
together.

[comagine.org](https://comagine.org)

Registration Link - January 15, 2026 at Noon

## SageWest Health Care Names Amanda Vick, BSN, MBA, as its New CEO

SageWest Health Care announced Amanda Vick, BSN, MBA, will serve as CEO of its two hospitals beginning on January 5. Vick, who was an integral part of SageWest's nursing leadership from 2017 to 2019, fills the position previously held by John Whiteside, who left SageWest in November of last year.

Vick comes to SageWest from Regional West Health Services, a 157-bed Trauma II facility located in Scottsbluff, Nebraska. She left SageWest to become Vice President and Chief Nursing Officer at



**Amanda Vick**

Regional West in 2019 and has since taken on leadership roles as Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer as well as Interim CEO at the hospital.

Her responsibilities have covered a number of important areas, such as oversight of clinical departments, recruiting and onboarding new providers, and managing the implementation of new diagnostic and robotics technologies. During her tenure, she has helped the hospital improve its revenue cycle process, increase surgical and critical care volumes, and reduce its number of travel nurses.

“We are thrilled to bring Amanda back to SageWest,” said Russell Pigg, President of the Community Hospital division of ScionHealth, SageWest’s parent company. “We believe her hospital leadership

experience and familiarity with SageWest make her an ideal selection to lead the hospitals in Lander and Riverton. We look forward to the impact she and her teams can make in advancing healthcare services in Fremont County.”

Vick began her career 26 years ago as a surgical secretary, worked across the country as a registered nurse, and served as a clinical educator before taking on nursing leadership roles. She earned her Master of Business Administration at Colorado State University, her BSN from the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh, and her Bachelor of Science in Biology from Northwestern College in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Vick said she is excited to return to SageWest and have the opportunity to work alongside some familiar faces while leading its hospitals in Lander and Riverton.

“I enjoyed my initial experience at SageWest and couldn’t pass up on the chance to return to Fremont County to help write the next chapter for its hospitals,” said Vick. “I look forward to collaborating with our teams in Lander and Riverton to continue delivering essential, high-quality healthcare services to the friends, family, and neighbors who call this area home.”



**2026 Wyoming Budget Session**  
**February 9, 2026**

**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**

# PAC CONTRIBUTORS FOR 2026

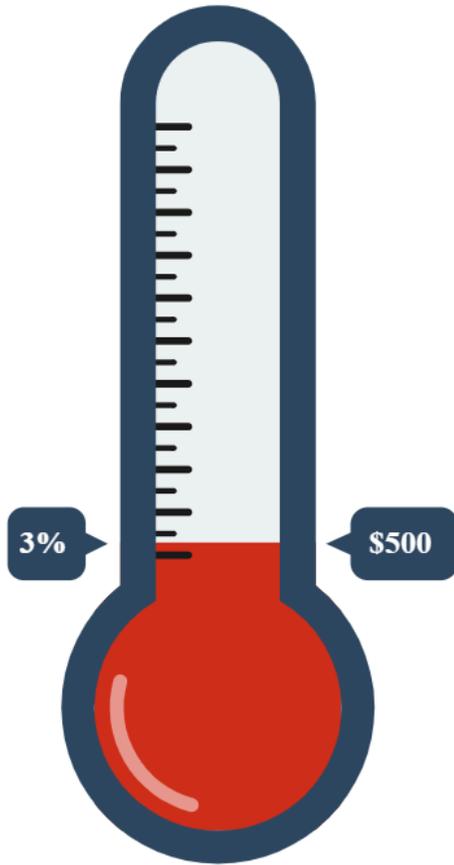


WHA PAC

2026 Contributors

**GOAL: \$17,000**

**Barry Burkart**



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