

# News Briefs



**Wyoming  
Hospital  
Association**

**July 10, 2026**

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## Elizabeth Smart to Deliver Keynote Address at Annual Meeting

Elizabeth Smart, one of the most recognized survivors of child abduction in modern American history, will headline this year's Wyoming Hospital Association and Wyoming Long Term Care Association Annual Meeting, scheduled for September 9–10.

Smart's case captured national attention more than two decades ago. At age 14, just weeks before her middle school graduation, she was taken at knifepoint from her family's home in the middle of the night. She would remain in captivity for nine months before being rescued and reunited

with her family — an ordeal that thrust her, still a teenager, into the national spotlight.

In the years since, Smart has built a career around turning that experience into a message of resilience. As a speaker, author, and advocate, she now travels the country sharing her story with audiences ranging from corporate leadership teams to healthcare and human-services organizations. Her keynote address for the Annual Meeting will center on themes of overcoming extreme adversity, the long and often nonlinear process of recovery, and the idea that a person's past does not have to determine their future. Central to her message is the conviction that hope — even in the darkest circumstances — is not optional but essential.

For an audience of hospital administrators, clinicians, and long-term care professionals who regularly witness patients and families navigating trauma, crisis, and recovery, organizers say Smart's perspective offers a uniquely personal complement to the clinical and operational sessions that make up the rest of the conference agenda.

The keynote is expected to be one of the most anticipated sessions of this year's meeting, drawing attendees from hospitals and long-term care facilities across Wyoming.

# 2026 Workforce Summit

## *Shaping the Future Healthcare Workforce – A Leadership Forum*

The Wyoming Hospital Association is pleased to announce that registration is now open for our **2026 Workforce Summit: *Shaping the Future Healthcare Workforce – A Leadership Forum***, taking place on **Tuesday, August 4, 2026**, at the **Hilton Garden Inn in Casper**.

This leadership forum brings together healthcare executives, HR leaders, and clinical decision-makers to explore today's most pressing workforce challenges, including shortages, burnout, financial pressures, and shifting care delivery models.

Discussions will focus on:

- Moving beyond reactive staffing toward strategic, data-driven solutions
- Strengthening culture, trust, collaboration, and long-term workforce resilience
- Examining operational alignment, technology, governance, allied health shortages, state-specific insights, and peer-led strategies

Together, these discussions will help leaders improve recruitment, retention, patient flow, and sustainable organizational performance.

Information has been sent to all WHA member hospitals. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Kelsey Prestesater at [kelsey@wyohospitals.com](mailto:kelsey@wyohospitals.com).

## Reminder: MOMS+ Program Update

MOMS+ Program through the WyPQC will end in September. Since its launch, the program has brought together hospitals and healthcare partners across Wyoming to strengthen the identification, treatment, referral, and follow-up care for pregnant and postpartum individuals affected by substance use disorders (SUD).

For hospitals currently participating in MOMS+ that are interested in continuing SUD-focused quality improvement programming, the University of Wyoming Rural Health Institute will be able to support continuation of the MOMS+ program with no interruption to participating sites. If you are interested in continuing to receive support from the MOMS+ Team, please reach out to [addysen.lechuga1@wyo.gov](mailto:addysen.lechuga1@wyo.gov).

## Coalition Ad Highlights Role of Rural Hospitals, Value of Care Close to Home

The Coalition to Strengthen America's Healthcare launched a new ad titled **Close to Home**, which highlights the critical role of rural hospitals and the value of being in close proximity to care. The ad features patients, providers and other caregivers, as well as first responders, underscoring how local hospitals support communities during critical moments in the wake of mounting financial pressures. The ad, which is available digitally, will also air in the Washington, D.C., area as part of a four-week campaign. The AHA is a founding member of the Coalition.



Close to Home Ad

## DataGen Quality Webinar Series

DataGen will host a complimentary 2-part quality webinar series on August 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> to review three Medicare quality programs: Value Based Purchasing, Readmission Reduction Program, and Hospital Acquired Condition Reduction Program.

These webinars will include an overview of each program, a deep dive into the methodology, a review of the DataGen reports available to you as part of your membership with Wyoming Hospital Association, and state specific impacts.

Links to each session are below:

Tuesday, August 11, 2026 – Session 1: [\*\*DataGen Overview of Medicare's Value-Based Purchasing Program & Analysis for WHA\*\*](#)

Tuesday, August 18, 2026 – Session 2: [\*\*DataGen Overview of Medicare's RRP/HAC Programs & Analyses for WHA\*\*](#)

[Register for August 11 Webinar](#)

[Register for August 18 Webinar](#)

WYOMING HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

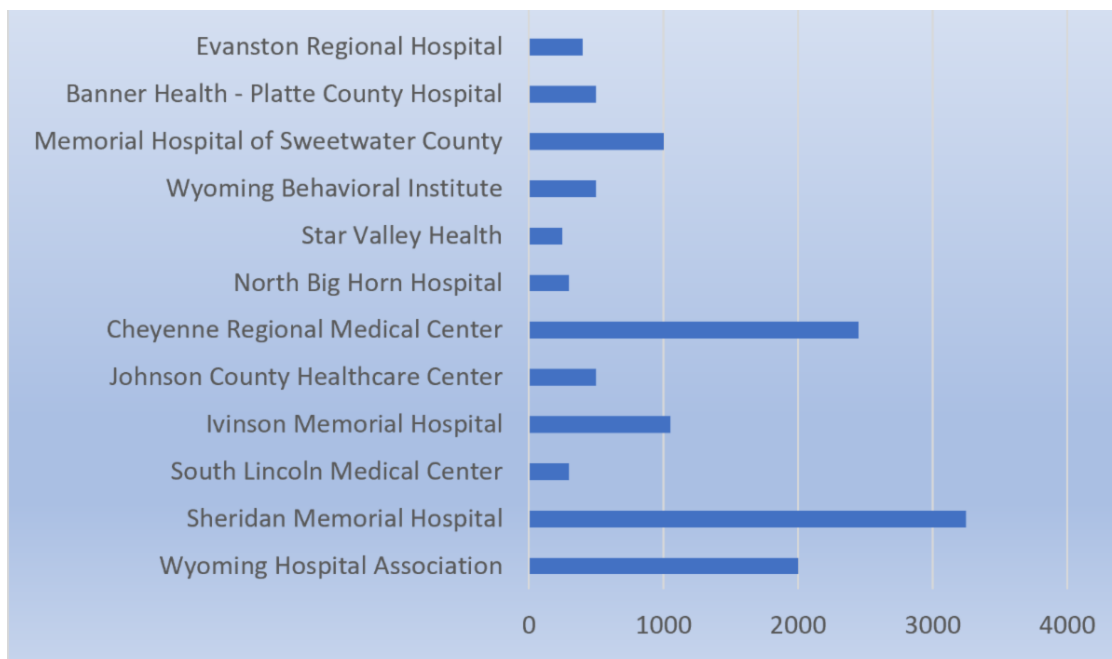
## Upcoming Events

Mark your calendar · 2026

|             |                                                                                                                                            |
|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| SEP<br>8    | <p>GOLF</p> <h3>WHA Golf Tournament</h3> <p>📅 Tuesday, September 8, 2026</p> <p>📍 Cheyenne Country Club</p>                                |
| SEP<br>9-10 | <p>ANNUAL</p> <h3>WHA Annual Meeting</h3> <p>📅 Wednesday-Thursday, Sep 9-10, 2026</p> <p>📍 Little America Hotel &amp; Resort, Cheyenne</p> |

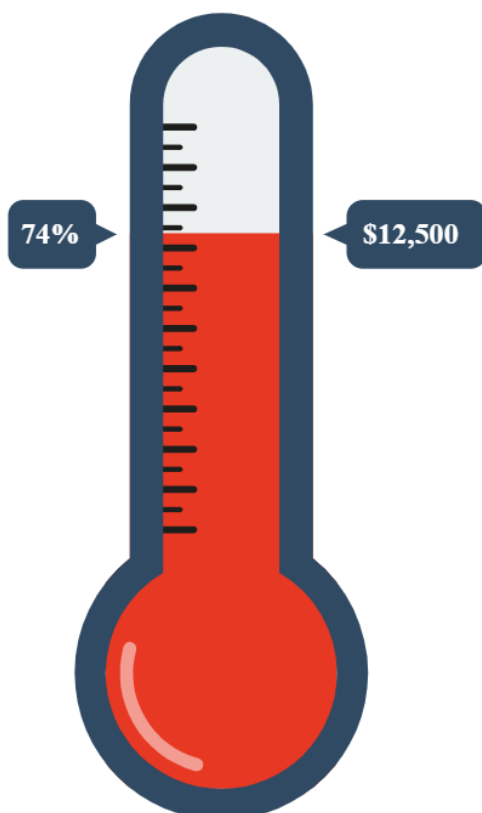
[Annual Meeting Information Can be Found Here](#)

**WHA PAC Goal for 2026**  
Contributors



### WHA PAC

**GOAL: \$17,000**



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