

News Briefs



Wyoming
Hospital
Association

July 3, 2026

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Steve Walsh

AHA Names Steve Walsh President and CEO

The American Hospital Association **announced** the appointment of Steve Walsh as its next president and chief executive officer. Walsh, who has served as president and CEO of the Massachusetts Health & Hospital Association since 2017, will assume leadership of the nation's largest hospital and healthcare system membership organization this fall.

"Following a thoughtful national search, the Board unanimously selected Steve Walsh to serve as the next President and Chief Executive Officer of the American Hospital Association," said Marc L. Boom, M.D., chair of the AHA Board of Trustees and president and CEO of Houston Methodist.

"Steve is a proven healthcare leader, innovator and accomplished advocate for healthcare improvement, who understands both the challenges facing hospitals and the opportunities ahead. Throughout his career, he has demonstrated an ability to bring people together, build consensus and advance meaningful solutions on behalf of patients, caregivers and communities."

Boom also thanked and praised outgoing AHA President and CEO Rick Pollack, noting the "Board's decision reflects our confidence that Steve is uniquely prepared to build upon the strong foundation established by Rick Pollack while helping the Association strengthen its role as a trusted voice, convener and advocate for health care providers across America."

Walsh brings more than two decades of experience advancing American healthcare, with a focus on strengthening the healthcare workforce, reducing disparities in health outcomes and fostering a more connected continuum of care for patients.

DataGen Quality Webinar Series

DataGen will host a complimentary 2-part quality webinar series on August 11th and 18th 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](#)



JCHC Foundation Announces \$400,000 Match Challenge for Workforce Housing Project

The Johnson County Healthcare Center (JCHC) Foundation is tackling the challenge of workforce housing head-on with the announcement of a \$400,000 matching challenge grant from the Joe and Arlene Watt Foundation. Donations made toward the Foundation's Homes for Healers workforce housing initiative will be matched dollar-for-dollar, up to \$400,000, to support the development of housing for essential healthcare workers employed by JCHC.

The announcement comes on the heels of a recent gift of property along Fort Street in Buffalo from a private donor, where the workforce housing development is planned.

"We are deeply grateful for this incredible commitment from the Watt Foundation," said Luke Senden, CEO of Johnson County Healthcare Center. "JCHC is committed to supporting the healthcare professionals who care for families across Johnson County every day, and we recognize that access to stable, affordable housing has become a significant barrier for many workers. This project directly supports our mission of providing excellent healthcare delivered with compassion." The need for workforce housing continues to grow throughout the region. The City of Buffalo's 2025 Comprehensive Plan identifies housing affordability as a critical community challenge, noting an approximately 80% increase in housing costs since the previous census compared to only a 5% increase in median income, along with a limited supply of available homes.

Richard Hammer, Chairman of the Joe and Arlene Watt Foundation, emphasized the Foundation's commitment to rural healthcare, stating, "The Joe and Arlene Watt Foundation is pleased to partner with Johnson County Health with this matching grant. Joe and Arlene would be proud of the work JCHC is doing to provide high-quality health care to rural Wyoming patients. Ranching in remote Wyoming gave them a feel for the value of and the need for quality rural health care. They were supportive of rural medicine while living and the board is pleased to continue that support through the Joe and Arlene Watt Foundation."

“The Watt Foundation’s commitment is a powerful example of philanthropy addressing a vital community need,” said Dr. Mark Schueler, Chairman of the JCHC Foundation Board of Directors. “Maintaining a strong healthcare workforce is essential to preserving high-quality, locally controlled healthcare in Johnson County. This investment will help ensure our hospital remains well-positioned to recruit and retain the talented professionals our community depends on.”

AHA’s Refreshed Rural Health Services Website Features Resources to Strengthen Results and Long-Term Viability

The refreshed **AHA Rural Health Services website** gives rural hospital leaders quick access to the advocacy insights, strategic resources and field-informed guidance they need to navigate change, strengthen performance and sustain care in their communities. The more user-friendly site also features member stories, podcasts, blogs and other resources that showcase the innovative work rural hospitals are doing to serve their patients, respond to immediate pressures and build long-term viability for the future.



AHA Rural Health Services
Website

SMH celebrates
new behavioral
health center
with open house



Sheridan Memorial Hospital Celebrates New Behavioral Health Center With Open House

Sheridan Memorial Hospital welcomed community members, donors, healthcare partners and local leaders Wednesday for an open house celebrating the completion of construction on Helmsley Behavioral Health Center, known as The Path, the new facility that will soon expand access to behavioral health services across the region.

Guests toured the new facility, met members of the behavioral health team and learned more about the expanded continuum of mental health services that will soon be available to residents across Sheridan County and the surrounding region.

The event marked an important milestone for a project made possible through broad community support. Attendees included representatives from **The Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust**, one of several organizations that helped make the facility a reality. During the

event, Helmsley representatives noted that one of the most impressive aspects of the project was the breadth of donor support displayed throughout the facility.

“The number of donors who came together to support this project speaks volumes,” said Walter Panzirer, a Trustee of The Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust. “That level of community investment demonstrates not only a shared commitment to improving behavioral health, but also recognition that these services are deeply needed. We are extremely proud to be a part of this project.”

Hospital leaders said the extensive community support reflects a growing understanding that behavioral health is essential to the overall health of the region.

“The Path represents years of collaboration, planning and generosity,” said Cody Sinclair, Director of Development for SMH. “Every donor, partner and advocate who helped bring this vision to life recognized that our community deserved greater access to behavioral healthcare. Seeing so many people walk through the doors during the open house was a powerful reminder that this center belongs to the entire community.”

The Path is designed to provide multiple levels of care in one location, creating a more coordinated approach to behavioral health treatment. Services will open in phases, beginning with the relocation of SMH’s outpatient behavioral health clinic in mid-July. Crisis stabilization services are expected to begin later this summer, with inpatient behavioral health services anticipated to open later in the year.

The new facility will expand access to care while providing patients and families with a welcoming, healing environment designed to support individuals throughout their mental health journey.

WYOMING HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

Upcoming Events

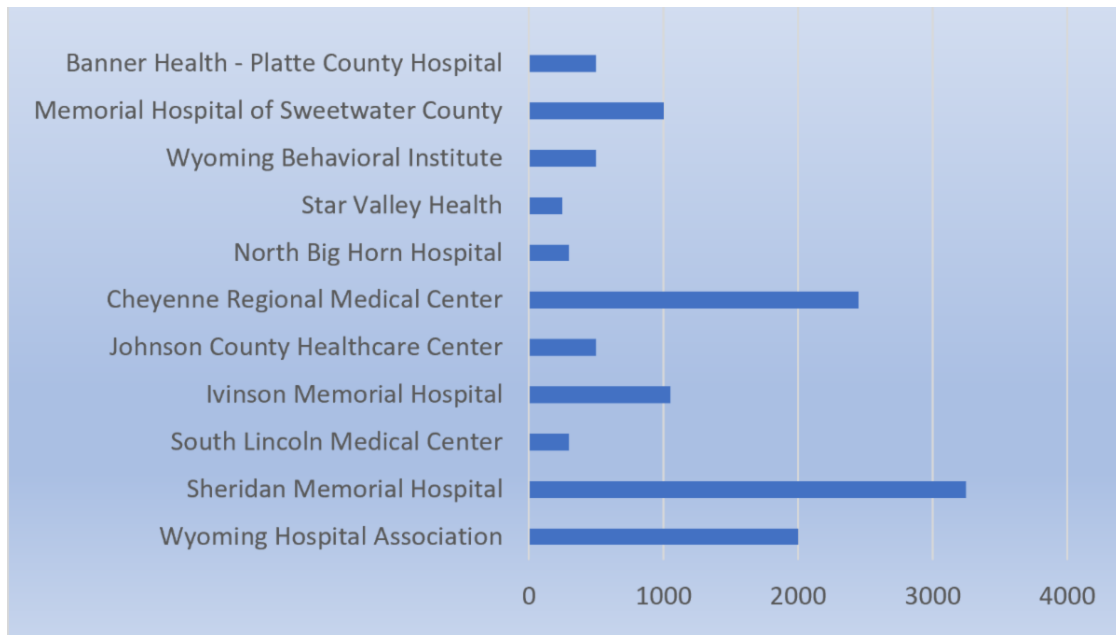
Mark your calendar · 2026

SEP 8	GOLF WHA Golf Tournament 📅 Tuesday, September 8, 2026 📍 Cheyenne Country Club
SEP 9-10	ANNUAL WHA Annual Meeting 📅 Wednesday-Thursday, Sep 9-10, 2026 📍 Little America Hotel & Resort, Cheyenne

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

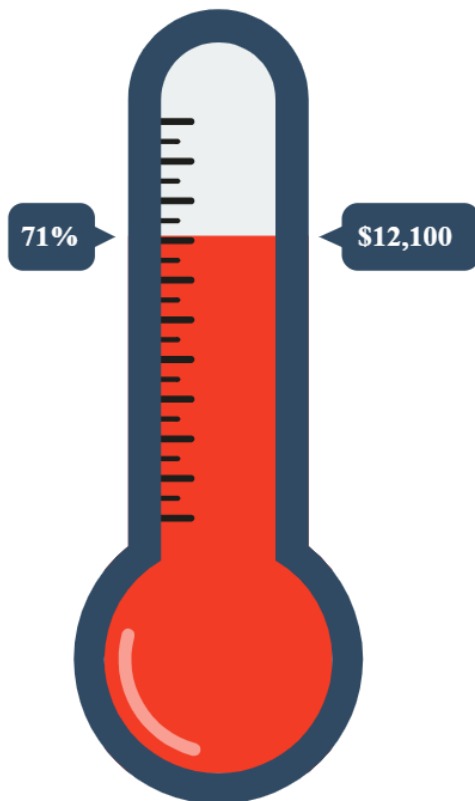
WHA PAC Goal for 2026

Contributors



WHA PAC

GOAL: \$17,000



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