

News Briefs

June 13, 2025

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Wyoming Hospital Association

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Nominations Due for Nursing and Volunteer Awards

Outstanding Hospital Volunteer & Volunteer Program

We are pleased to announce the opportunity to recognize the incredible dedication and impact of hospital volunteers through the **Outstanding Hospital Volunteer Program** and **Outstanding Volunteer** awards.

These awards celebrate individuals and programs that go above and beyond in serving patients, supporting hospital staff, and enhancing the overall healthcare experience.

We invite you to submit a nomination for:

- An individual hospital volunteer who has made a meaningful difference through their time, compassion, and commitment.
- A hospital volunteer program that has shown exceptional impact, innovation,

Norman S. Holt Award for Nursing Excellence

We are excited to announce that nominations are now open for the **Norman S. Holt Award for Nursing Excellence**—an annual recognition honoring outstanding contributions in the field of nursing.

This award celebrates a nurse who exemplifies excellence in patient care, leadership, compassion, and a deep commitment to advancing the practice of nursing. If you know a colleague who consistently goes above and beyond, serves as a role model, and truly makes a difference in the lives of patients and peers, we encourage you to nominate them.

To submit a nomination, please include:

- The nominee's name and role
- A brief description of why they deserve this recognition

or engagement in the past year.

- Specific examples of their impact and contributions

Nominations are due by July 7, 2025 and should include a brief description of the individual or program's contributions and why they deserve this recognition.

Please submit your nominations to rose@wyohospitals.com

Let's honor those who give so much to our hospitals and communities.

Deadline for nominations: July 7, 2025

Please send your nominations to:
rose@wyohospitals.com

Let's take this opportunity to recognize and celebrate the exceptional work being done within our nursing community. We look forward to receiving your nominations!



Mountain Health Co-Op Transitions to Aetna PPO Network

Mountain Health Co-Op Provider Network Update: Transition to Aetna PPO Network for Wyoming Providers – Effective September 1, 2025

Mountain Health Co-Op is implementing an important change to improve the provider experience and simplify administrative processes. Effective September 1, 2025, Mountain Health Co-Op will fully transition to using the Aetna PPO (Aetna Signature Administrators) national network for commercial members in Wyoming.

What's Changing?

Mountain Health Co-Op has historically partnered with Aetna to provide network access in Wyoming. However, some providers have maintained a direct contract with Mountain Health Co-Op. Beginning September 1, 2025, those direct contracts will be terminated, and provider participation will be solely through the Aetna PPO network.

What Does This Mean for Providers?

If you are already contracted with Aetna (as we expect most of our Wyoming providers are), there is no action required. You will continue to be an in-network provider for Mountain Health Co-Op members, now exclusively through your Aetna contract.

We anticipate minimal impact to member access to care, as most Wyoming providers already participate in the Aetna Signature Administrators (ASA) network.

Key Benefit: Simplified Prior Authorization

One of the most significant advantages of this change is streamlined prior authorizations. By standardizing access through Aetna's administrative platform, providers will benefit from a more efficient and consistent process — reducing administrative burden and helping patients get the care they need more quickly.

Not Yet in the Aetna Network?

If you're not currently part of the Aetna PPO network:

- Visit Aetna's Join the Network Page.
- Click on "Apply to join our network."
- Complete a short form and begin the credentialing process.
- Once approved, you will be a network provider for Mountain Health Co-Op members.

Questions?

If you have questions about your Aetna participation status or contract rates after September 1, please contact Aetna directly. For other inquiries, feel free to contact us at provider@mhc.coop.

We're confident this transition will create a better experience for both providers and members, and

we appreciate your ongoing partnership in delivering exceptional care.

Map Shows States With Worst Hospital Ratings

New data has revealed the states where hospital care is the worst ranked by patients.

The study, led from the University of Utah, analyzed 3,286 hospitals across the country, using data from the Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (HCAHPS) survey, which ran from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022.

Patients were asked to rate ten specific aspects of their hospital stay, including how they felt about communication with doctors and nurses, how clean their rooms were, and whether they received adequate information upon discharge.

States were given an average rating on a five-point scale, with five stars being the highest possible score. Wyoming earned a 4 point overall hospital rating.

[Read the Article Here](#)



Medicaid Coverage Supports Rural Patients, Hospitals and Communities

The American Hospital Association has released a new infographic for Medicaid coverage in rural areas. Rural hospitals serve as a critical — and sometimes the sole — source of care for rural communities. Consequently, rural hospitals face elevated levels of uncompensated care that can be linked to higher uninsured rates in rural communities. A new infographic details how Medicaid is a critical care option for people who live in rural areas, how it improves access to care, and how it stabilizes and strengthens rural hospitals and workers.

[Click Here to Read the Fact Sheet](#)



7th Annual Suicide Prevention Golf Tournament Registration is Open

Team registrations and sponsorships are now being accepted for the 7th annual suicide prevention golf tournament, to be held Saturday, Sept. 6 at Three Crowns Golf Club. The tournament goal is to raise \$15,000 to support scholarships for Natrona County residents who want to be mental health professionals and who are pursuing degrees at Casper College. The tournament will benefit community suicide prevention efforts by increasing the number of nurses, counselors, social workers, occupational therapists and teachers promoting mental wellness in Natrona County.

Natrona County has one of the highest suicide rates in the state, according to Natrona County Coroner James Whipps. Whipps told the Natrona County School Board last year that youth are in crisis. “Per capita, Natrona County has one of the highest suicide rates in the state, in the nation and, believe it or not, in the world,” he said. Suicide is the second leading cause of death among adolescents behind accidents. Eight adolescents have died by suicide in Natrona County in the past five years. “Those suicides are the tip of the proverbial iceberg when you take into consideration

what makes up the base of that iceberg,” Whipps said. Every suicide in the county comes through and is investigated by his office, he said, adding that those who die by suicide in their 20s and 30s started with indicators such as ideation and attempts that began in their teen years. Suicidal ideation calls to dispatch, 988, Safe2Tell, physicians, parents and counselors occur daily, 24 hours a day, Whipps said — “Our kids are screaming for help.”

“Wyoming Behavioral Institute established a scholarship fund to support the pipeline of health professionals living in Natrona County who are providing care to people with mental illnesses in inpatient and outpatient settings,” said Michael Phillips, CEO. “The scholarship’s objective is to acknowledge the importance and value of helping professionals working in the Casper area.” The endowed scholarship will provide a student with \$1,000 divided between the fall and spring semesters. The scholarship is open to students taking at least six credit hours with a 2.5 cumulative GPA and who are Wyoming residents, with preference given to Natrona County residents.

A limited number of 7th annual suicide prevention golf tournament entries are available. The event includes lunch, awards and drawings. Sponsors are recognized at the event, on social media and at the event on banners and in gift bags.

[More information can be found here](#)



September 2, 2025

WHA Golf Tournament - Jacoby Golf Course, Laramie

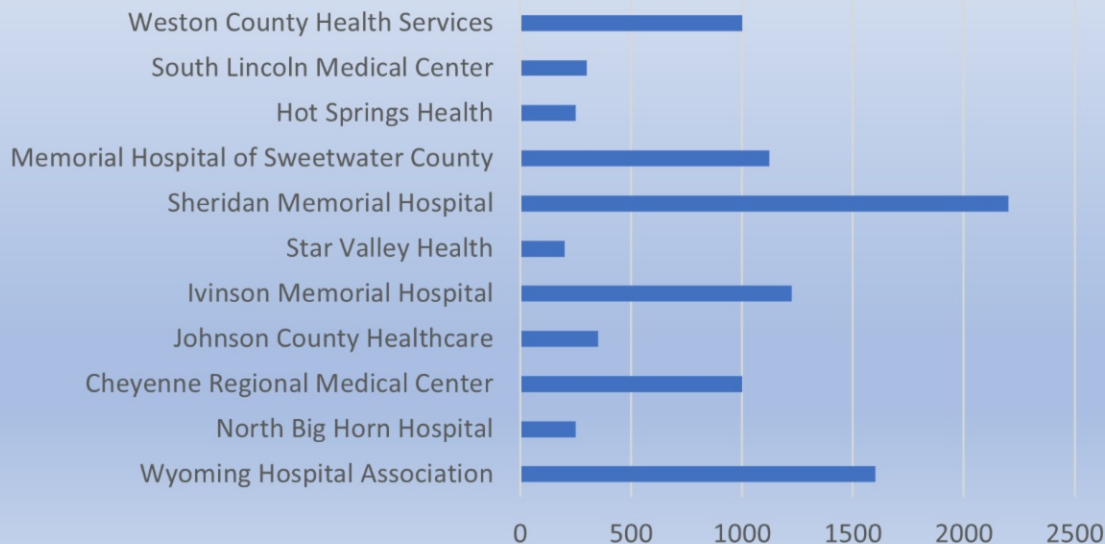
September 3-4, 2025

WHA/LAW Annual Meeting - Laramie, Wyoming

WHA PAC Goal for 2025

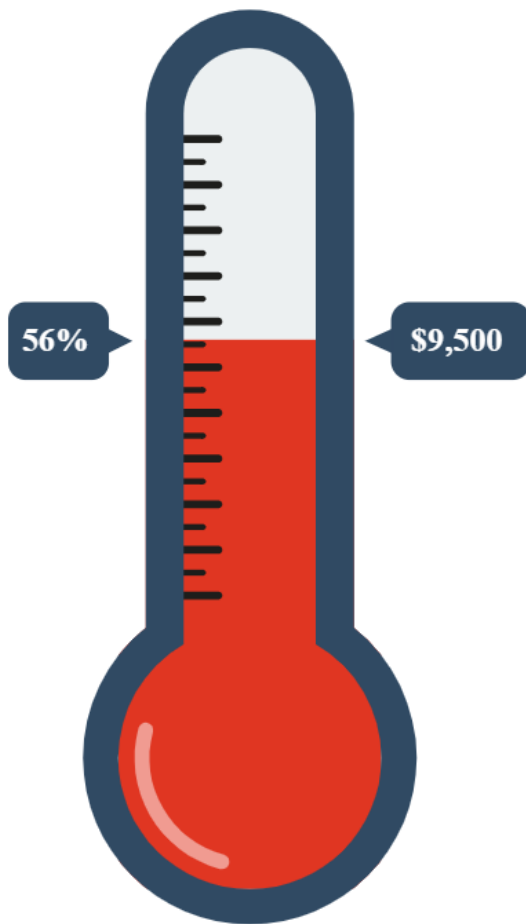
Contributors

PAC CONTRIBUTIONS



WHA PAC

GOAL: \$17,000



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Eric Boley
Eric Connell
Tim Thornell
Shelli Shelton
Doug Faus
Mike Hunsaker
Ron Mischke
Darcy Robertson
Barbara Sowada
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