

News Briefs



**Wyoming
Hospital
Association**

June 26, 2026

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In This Issue

- WHA President Named to RHTP Advisory Committee
- DataGen Quality Webinar Series
- Memorial Hospital Carbon County Demonstrates Financial Turnaround
- Patient Ambassador Program
- Deadline Extended for SOPS Survey Results
- Upcoming Events
- 2026 WHA PAC Goal

WHA President Named to RHTP Advisory Committee

Eric Boley, President of the Wyoming Hospital Association, has been asked to serve on the RHTP Advisory Committee. Boley, along with 8 other individuals, as well as two state legislators were requested to serve by Governor Mark Gordon.

During its most recent legislative session, the Wyoming Legislature enacted House Enrolled Act 21 (Wyoming rural health transformation program). Within that act was established the Rural Health Transformation Advisory Committee, which includes nine members appointed by the Governor. The committee is expecting 2-4 meetings per year where in-person and virtual attendance will be offered. This is meaningful work wherein this committee will review and approve grants, awards, or expenditures in excess of \$500,000. In addition, the committee will have the opportunity to provide feedback and direction on the management of this program. There will be an initial meeting scheduled ASAP, followed by a second meeting the week of August 10-14th where the committee will be making decisions on awards and expenditures.

RFP and RFA guidance and forms are currently being finalized, with the process to apply beginning July 1 and closing at the end of July. All funds need to be obligated by the end of October, with actual funds needing to be expended by October of 2027.

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](#)



Memorial Hospital of Carbon County Demonstrates Financial Turnaround and Strategic Progress

Written by: Stephanie Hinkle, COO Memorial Hospital of Carbon County

Memorial Hospital of Carbon County is marking a period of significant progress and transformation, as leadership highlights recent accomplishments that underscore the hospital's financial recovery, operational improvements, and long-term strategic vision.

After facing serious financial challenges common across rural healthcare systems, the hospital has made measurable strides toward stability while continuing to invest in its workforce and patient care.

Strengthening Financial Stability

Over the past 18 months, Memorial Hospital of Carbon County has dramatically improved its financial position through a series of targeted initiatives and disciplined fiscal management. One of the most notable indicators of progress is the increase in days cash on hand—from just three days in January 2025 to 25 days by June 2026—a critical benchmark that reflects improved liquidity and financial resilience.

At the same time, the hospital significantly reduced its outstanding payables, lowering obligations from more than \$9 million to under \$3 million, easing financial pressure and improving operational flexibility.

Leadership also established a dedicated "Rainy Day" reserve fund to ensure stability in meeting employee payroll obligations, a key step in protecting both staff and essential services during uncertain times.

"These improvements didn't happen overnight," said CEO Kerry Ashment. "They are the result of thoughtful planning, accountability, and a shared commitment to securing the hospital's future."

Enhancing Revenue Cycle Performance

A major focus of the hospital's turnaround has been strengthening its revenue cycle operations. Over the past year, Memorial Hospital implemented several improvements designed to increase efficiency and maximize reimbursement.

Key actions included:

- Bringing medical coding services back in-house to improve accuracy and oversight
- Partnering with a new revenue cycle firm to optimize billing and collections
- Streamlining payor enrollment processes
- Strengthening relationships with insurance carriers

These efforts have helped ensure the hospital is better positioned to capture revenue appropriately while reducing administrative delays and inefficiencies.

Investing in Workforce and Competitiveness

Recognizing that quality care begins with a strong workforce, Memorial Hospital of Carbon County conducted a comprehensive salary analysis in early 2026. As a result, the organization was able to adjust wages for a number of positions, improving its competitiveness within the regional healthcare market.

This investment supports recruitment and retention efforts while reinforcing the hospital's commitment to valuing its employees.

"Our staff are the foundation of everything we do," said COO Stephanie Hinkle. "Ensuring we remain competitive as an employer is essential to maintaining high-quality care for our community."

Strategic Planning and Transparency

In addition to financial improvements, the hospital has taken important steps to strengthen governance and transparency.

Leadership developed and implemented a three-year strategic plan, providing a clear roadmap for the organization's future. The plan outlines priorities for financial sustainability, service delivery, and community engagement.

To foster openness and accountability, the hospital now provides quarterly updates to the board, employees, and community members, sharing both progress and ongoing challenges.

This commitment to transparency has helped build trust and align stakeholders around shared goals.

Embracing Lean Principles

Memorial Hospital has also focused on improving operational efficiency by adopting lean business principles across departments. Managers are receiving ongoing education and support to identify waste, improve processes, and enhance overall performance.

This intentional approach to continuous improvement is helping ensure that resources are used effectively while maintaining high standards of patient care.

Looking Ahead

Hospital leaders emphasize that while meaningful progress has been made, the work is ongoing. Continued focus on financial stewardship,

"This is a story of resilience and forward momentum," noted CFO Joy Coulston. "We are building a stronger, more sustainable organization—one that will continue to serve Carbon County for generations to come."

Patient Ambassador Program

The University of Wyoming Rural Health Institute is looking for passionate individuals to join the *Patient Ambassador Program*: people who have navigated the rural health system and want to help make it better for others.

As a Patient Ambassador, you'll have the opportunity to:

- Advise on programs, research, and policy that affect rural communities
- Share your story to raise awareness of rural health challenges
- Support other patients navigating the health system
- Attend events related to health care and public health efforts
-

Express Interest Here

We're not looking for formal qualifications. We're looking for lived experience, a willingness to engage, and a passion for better rural health outcomes. Ambassadors come from all walks of life — caregivers, patients, community members — and all backgrounds are welcome.



Deadline Extended to Share Your SOPS Hospital Survey Results

Voluntary data submission for AHRQ's Surveys on Patient Safety Culture® (SOPS®) Hospital Database **has been extended until July 3**. Hospitals that administered the SOPS Hospital Survey 2.0 any time between July 2024 and June 2026 may submit their most recent data. Participating hospitals will receive feedback reports comparing their results with aggregated, de-identified results from all contributors.

The SOPS Hospital Database will accept data from **SOPS Hospital Survey 2.0** and the following **supplemental items**:

- Health IT Patient Safety Supplemental Items
- Workplace Safety Supplemental Items
- Value and Efficiency Supplemental Items

Learn more about database submission.

To register and submit data, go to <https://sopsdatabase.ahrq.gov/default.aspx?mode=hospital>.

Watch this brief animated video: **Why Submit to the AHRQ SOPS Databases?**

Email DatabasesOnSafetyCulture@westat.com with questions or call 1-888-324-9790.

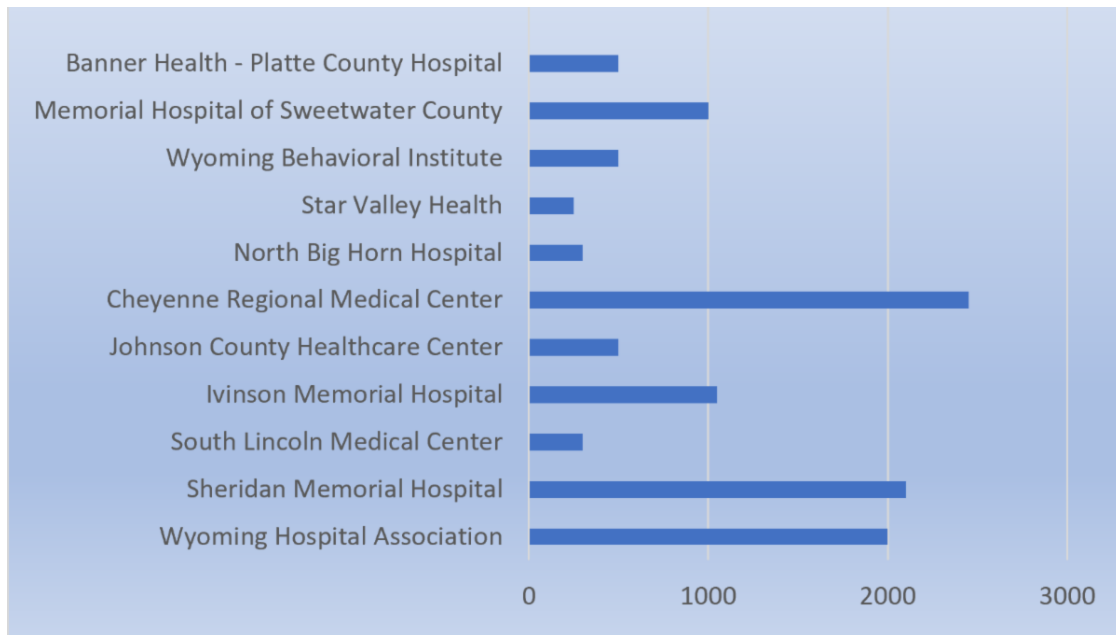
WYOMING HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

Upcoming Events

Mark your calendar · 2026

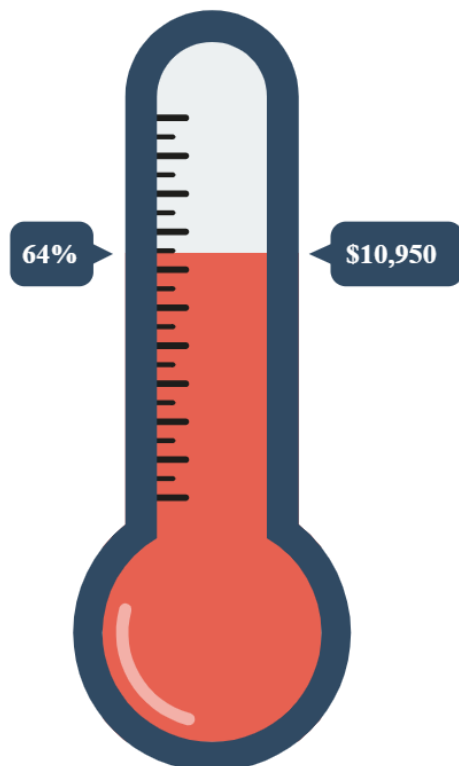
SEP 8	GOLF WHA Golf Tournament Tuesday, September 8, 2026 Cheyenne Country Club
SEP 9-10	ANNUAL WHA Annual Meeting Wednesday-Thursday, Sep 9-10, 2026 Little America Hotel & Resort, Cheyenne

WHA PAC Goal for 2026 Contributors



WHA PAC

GOAL: \$17,000



Barry Burkart
Eric Boley
Kelsey Prestesater
Jenifer Shassetz
Dave Ryerse
Terry Moss
Mike McCafferty
Shelli Shelton
Joe Wright
Tim Thornell
Doug Faus
Luke Senden
Joanna Vilos
Robin Roling
Scott Fox
Darcy Robertson
Mike Hunsaker
Mike Phillips
Steven Leafgreen
Brad Jackson
Irene Richardson
Sandy Dugger



Mark Drumhiller
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