

News Briefs

June 6, 2025

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**Wyoming
Hospital
Association**

In This Issue

- WHA Spring Meeting Brings Healthcare Leaders Together in Casper
- AHA Video on Value of Medicaid
- WAHA Report on Violence
- Webinar on Boosting First Year Retentions
- Cancer Center Receives Transportation Grant
- Washakie Hospital Receives Membership Award from AHA
- Upcoming Events
- WHA PAC Goal

Successful Spring Meeting Brings Healthcare Leaders Together in Casper

Over 40 healthcare leaders from across the state gathered in Casper during the last week of May for the Wyoming Hospital Association Spring Meeting. The event proved to be an energizing and collaborative forum for discussion, insight, and statewide networking.

A highlight of the meeting was the powerful presentation on “Governance: A Call to Action” and “Building a Better Board”, offering board members and administrators actionable tools to strengthen governance and improve leadership practices within their organizations. This session was provided by Stacy Cantu.

Wyoming State Senator Eric Barlow delivered a timely legislative update, covering key healthcare policy developments, funding initiatives, and what Wyoming providers can expect in the months ahead. His remarks sparked engaged dialogue and a sense of unity in moving forward.

The agenda also featured peer-led roundtable discussions, allowing participants to share successes and challenges from their communities, brainstorm solutions, and strengthen professional networks. Attendees expressed appreciation for the opportunity to connect, learn, and collaborate in person.

“It’s always valuable when we can come together, share ideas, and walk away with strategies that support better care for our communities,” said one participant.

The Spring Meeting served as a dynamic kickoff to a year of advocacy, innovation, and shared purpose among Wyoming’s healthcare leaders.



Stacy Cantu Speaking During the May Spring Meeting



Senator Eric Barlow at the Spring Meeting



New AHA Video Series Highlights the Value of Medicaid and Need to Protect Access to Care

The American Hospital Association launched the first in a new video series, “Medicaid: Real Lives, Real Care,” highlighting the importance of Medicaid and why proposed cuts to the program would jeopardize access to care for patients and communities across America. If congressional proposals go into effect, hospitals — especially in rural and underserved areas — will be forced to make difficult decisions about whether they will have to reduce services, staff and potentially consider closing their doors. In this video, Ruby Kirby, R.N., CEO of Bolivar General Hospital and Camden General Hospital in Tennessee, explains why rural Americans need Medicaid and why Congress must protect it.

[Watch Video Here](#)

AHA Report Finds Workplace and Community Violence Costs Hospitals More Than \$18 billion Annually

The American Hospital Association released a new, comprehensive **report** that measures the substantial financial resources hospitals and health systems spend on preventing and responding to violence in their facilities and communities. Prepared by Harborview Injury and Prevention Research Center, part of the University of Washington School of Medicine, the report analyzes the financial costs and broader impacts of violence and threatening behavior and found that the total financial cost of violence to hospitals in 2023 was estimated at \$18.27 billion. These costs include health care treatment for victims, security staffing for health care facilities, and violence prevention programs and training, among other costs.

“It is an unacceptable reality that those who dedicate their lives to healing should face the threat of violence,” **said** AHA President and CEO Rick Pollack. “We know the enormous human and

emotional toll violence takes on our communities and caregivers. This report goes beyond that to break down the significant related financial costs incurred upon hospitals and health systems. With the increase in violent events within clinical settings across the country, the resources needed to protect hospital workers and care for victims has grown exponentially. Every member of the health care team bears an enormous risk and burden of this violence. This report is yet another reminder we must do more to protect them.”

[Read the Report Here](#)

Medical Solutions Webinar "Boost First-Year Retention: Strategies That Work"

Join us for an upcoming webinar on Wednesday, June 18th, from 1:30-2 pm CST:

"Boost First-Year Retention: Strategies That Work"

Join endorsed partner, Medical Solutions, for the upcoming Clinical Connections webinar featuring **Patti Artley, Chief Clinical Officer and Chief Nursing Officer** at Medical Solutions, and special guest Deborah Aders, SVP of Patient Care Services and Chief Nursing Officer at Onvida Health. Together, they will explore proven strategies to reduce first-year turnover, foster early engagement among new nurses, and strengthen leadership pipelines to support a more resilient workforce.

Join Patti Artley, Chief Nursing Officer at Medical Solutions, and special guest Deborah Aders, Senior Vice President of Patient Care Services and Chief Nursing Officer at Onvida Health. Together, they'll explore how Onvida Health is driving exceptional retention outcomes through strategic investment in new graduate career development and succession planning. This conversation will highlight how proactive talent development initiatives can foster long-term engagement, strengthen clinical leadership pipelines, and support a more resilient, future-ready workforce.

Learning Objectives:

- Proven Strategies to Reduce First-Year Turnover
- Learn how one organization is beating the odds with outstanding retention results.
- Career Development that Retains New Grads
- Discover programs that help new nurses see a future in your organization from day one.
- Succession Planning as a Retention Tool
- Understand how planning for the future builds confidence and commitment in today's workforce.

[Reserve Your Spot Now](#)



[Cancer Center Receives ACS](#)

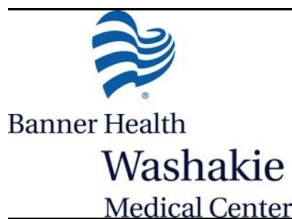
Sweetwater Regional Cancer Center recently received a \$6,000 grant from the American Cancer Society to provide transportation assistance to people with cancer during treatment from April 1, 2025, through March 31, 2026.

“We are deeply grateful to the American Cancer Society for their generous grant, which allows us to provide gas cards to our cancer patients,” said Tasha Harris, dosimetrist and Memorial Hospital of Sweetwater County Radiation Oncology Director. “We have many patients who travel long distances to come to treatment every day. This becomes a financial burden. Transportation should never be a barrier to receiving life-saving care, and thanks to ACS, every gas card brings hope, healing, and the support our patients need.”

The grant is part of the ACS nationwide investment of \$9 million that is expected to provide nearly 63,000 eligible patients with nearly 800,000 transportation and lodging services.

Access to high-quality cancer treatment impacts cancer outcomes. A lack of the transportation and lodging needed to receive quality care can lead to missed appointments, treatment interruptions, and delays in follow up care. In a 2023 Journal of the National Cancer Institute **study**, American Cancer Society researchers found that delayed care due to lack of transportation is associated with increased emergency room use and mortality risk among adults with and without cancer history. “Transportation obstacles or the cost of a hotel room should not be barriers that determine the survival of those needing cancer treatment,” said Dr. Arif Kamal, chief patient officer for the American Cancer Society. “Partnering with health systems and organizations across the country to provide funding to deliver the direct assistance needed helps to fill these equity gaps and improves cancer outcomes.

The American Cancer Society believes all people should have a fair and just opportunity to live a longer, healthier life free from cancer regardless of how much money they make, skin color, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability status or where they live. In addition to providing transportation and lodging funding to health systems and organizations, the American Cancer Society runs a **Road To Recovery** program that provides free rides to and from treatment and over 30 **Hope Lodge** communities that provide a free place to stay during treatment.



Washakie Medical Center Recognized for 75 Years of Membership in the American Hospital Association

The American Hospital Association (AHA) recently honored Washakie Medical Center in appreciation for the hospital’s 75 years of participation and leadership in the AHA as well as their commitment to Advancing Health in America. Mary Naylor, AHA Regional Executive, was on hand to present the award.

“The American Hospital Association is proud to recognize Washakie Medical Center for their 75 years of membership in the AHA and for their continued commitment to their patients and the Worland community. Lisa Van Brunt, CEO, and her leadership team have served to inform the association’s strategic priorities, as well as in effectively advocating with policy makers in Washington on behalf of hospitals, their patients and communities,” said Rick Pollack, AHA President and CEO. “We truly appreciate their leadership on crucial issues such as access to quality health care, assuring an adequate healthcare workforce, and affordability.”



June 11, 2025

WHA Regional 4 CEO Meeting - Afton, Wyoming

September 2, 2025

WHA Golf Tournament - Jacoby Golf Course, Laramie

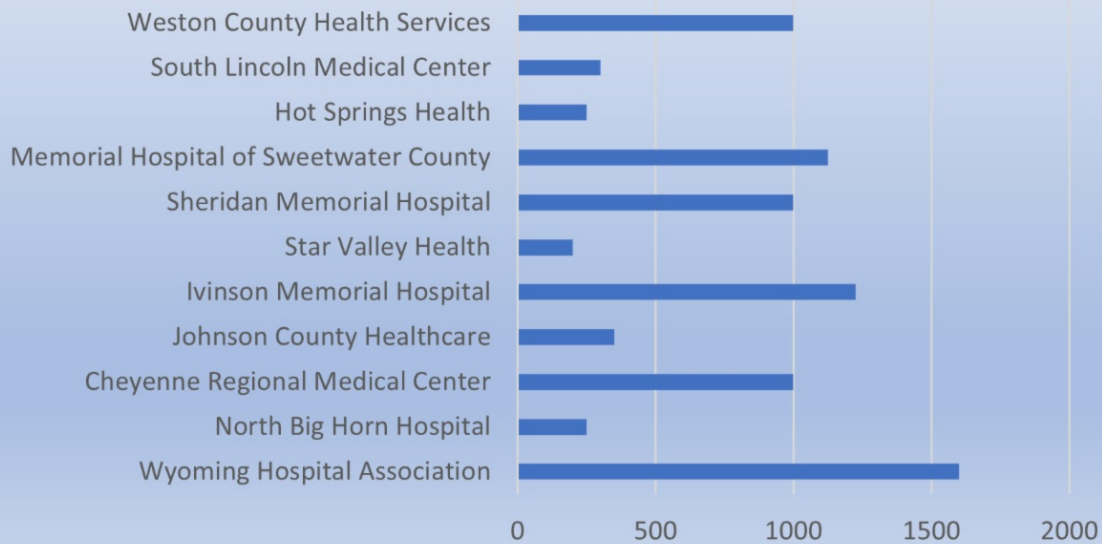
September 3-4, 2025

WHA/LAW Annual Meeting - Laramie, Wyoming

WHA PAC Goal for 2025

Contributors

PAC CONTRIBUTIONS

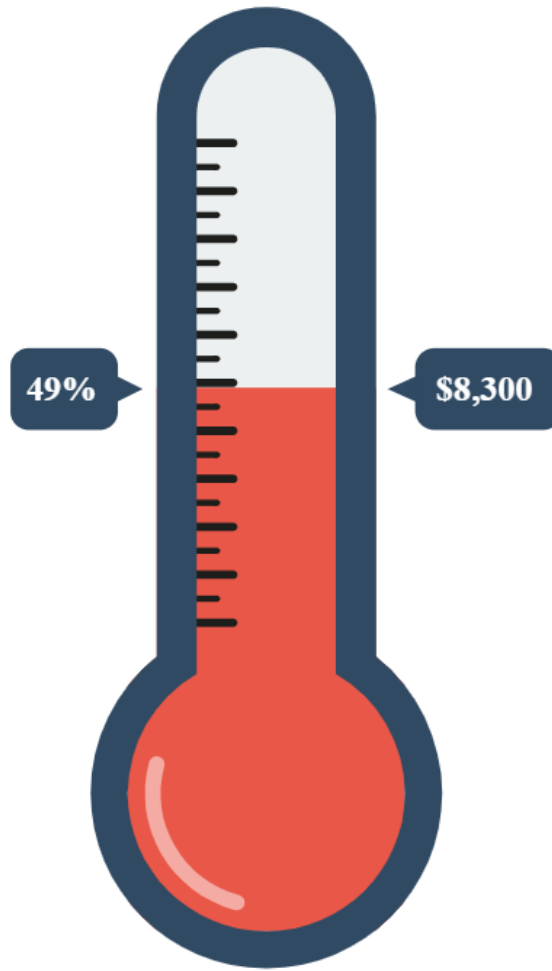


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GOAL: \$17,000

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