



Wyoming Hospital Association

# NEWSBRIEFS

Informational Newsletter for Wyoming Hospitals

Save The Date

WHA Annual Meeting & Convention  
September 5-6, 2018  
Laramie, WY

Volume 49, Number 19

May 11, 2018

## WHA Delegation Attends AHA Meeting and Conducts Hill Visits



This past week, a delegation of Wyoming Hospital Association members attended the 49<sup>th</sup> AHA Annual Membership Meeting in Washington, DC. WHA Chairman, Doug Faus, Ivinson Memorial Hospital's CEO was honored during the investiture ceremony on the evening of May 6, as the new AHA Board Chair Nancy Howell Agee took the oath of office.

Attendees of the meeting listened as Frank Sesno, former anchor and Washington bureau chief at CNN interviewed AHA Vice President of government relations and public policy, Tom Nickels and reviewed the key issues on Capitol Hill and within the administration impacting hospitals. Much of the conversation focused on the fact that a true repeal and replace effort is probably over and that now is the time to work on regulatory relief. The importance of protecting the 340b program and an update on the law suit filed by the AHA were also discussed during the meeting.

Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist for the Wall Street Journal, Peggy Noonan talked about her experiences and regaled the audience with stories from her life and the material she used to write her nine books on American politics, history and culture. Attendees also heard from Ron Fournier, nationally acclaimed

and award-winning writer who shared the story of his son and his life with autism.

The audience was addressed by Senator Susan Collins, CMS Administrator Seema Verma as well as AHA President Rick Pollack. The hard work and advocacy efforts of the AHA for the hospitals in the country was shared and the focus on working with administration on rolling back unnecessary and expensive rules and regulations was described. Administrator Verma expressed her interest and desire to help eliminate stifling and expensive rules and regulations and seemed anxious to work with the AHA and hospitals to try to make things better.

Congressman Joseph Crowley also addressed the audience and expressed his strong desire to find bi-partisan solutions to the problems that exist in healthcare and in the ACA. The attendees were also able to listen to Bob Schieffer, former moderator of Face the Nation and chief CNN Washington anchor Jake Tapper discuss fake news. Their debate was moderated by Frank Sesno. The meeting concluded with a special forum with HHS Secretary Alex Azar.

The Wyoming delegation, which included Doug Faus, CEO of Ivinson Memorial Hospital, Ryan Smith, CEO of Memorial Hospital of Converse County and CEO of South Lincoln Medical Center Karl

Sundberg, along with WHA President Eric Boley, were able to meet with the entire Wyoming congressional delegation. In their meetings with Senator Barrasso, Senator Enzi and Congresswoman Cheney, the group talked about the need to protect the 340b program and talked about the great community benefits that are being delivered because of 340b. The saline and injectable opioid shortage were also discussed and the delegates were asked to push the FDA and the DEA to make the necessary drugs more readily available. The fact that this is a critical problem that is endangering patients and hospitals ability to care for those patients was emphasized. Discussions were also had concerning protecting the CAH program and finding ways to strengthen rural healthcare.



Read News Briefs online at [www.wyohospitals.com](http://www.wyohospitals.com)

## CCH Named One of the Top 150 Places to Work in Healthcare

**Don't forget to send us a story about your hospital so we can feature you in our Member Spotlight**

Campbell County Health (CCH) has been named one of the Top 150 Places to Work in Healthcare by Becker's Healthcare, a leading source of business and legal information for the healthcare industry.

The list highlights hospitals, health systems and healthcare companies that promote diversity within the workforce, employee engagement and professional growth.

The organizations featured on the list offer benefits and opportunities for employees to build successful careers above and beyond the average healthcare provider or company; they encourage professional development and promote leadership from within.

Many members of the list offer unique wellness and personal benefits to ensure employees strike a

positive work/life balance as well as employee recognition programs to highlight their accomplishments.

In addition to providing a competitive benefits and vacation package, many members of this list support volunteerism and organize community outreach activities.

The list was developed based on editorial research.



## Third Annual Symposium on Suicide Preventions



This past week Governor Mead held the Third Annual Suicide Symposium on Suicide Prevention.

Three years ago Governor Matt Mead started the Symposium on Suicide Prevention in hopes of lowering Wyoming's suicide statistics.

According to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention suicide is the sixth leading cause of death overall.

"It touches all of us regardless of where we are

in our life. In fact it is one of the leading causes of death among young people in the state of Wyoming, so its a serious issue and one we need to continue to work on."

The event has continued to grow the last few years, this year they had to turn people down because there was not enough room for everyone. People who attended listened and shared stories of how suicide has effected their lives and received expert advice.

Governor Mead says that

Wyoming does good in a lot of things across the state but suicide is one that needs a lot of work.

" It's not a sign of weakness to need help its a sign of strength. Wyoming people value that strong attitude but reaching out to get help is a strength and we need to support those people."

Suicide is not only a major concern in our state its also an expensive one. It costs Wyoming about \$1,184,336 on average per suicide death.

**PAC  
CONTRIBUTORS  
2018**

**Irene Richardson  
Heidi Baskfield  
Barry Burkart  
Wyo Behavioral  
Institute  
Eric Boley  
Doug Faus  
Shelby Olind  
Doug McMillan  
Andy Fitzgerald  
Margie Molitor  
Ryan Smith**

**Annual Goal  
\$8500**

## Medicare Independence at Home Demonstration

The Medicare Independence at Home Demonstration saved \$7.8 million, or an average of \$89 per beneficiary, in its second performance year, according to corrected results released by CMS.

The demonstration, which began in 2012 and was extended through Sep-

tember 2019 by the Bipartisan Budget Act, is testing whether primary care services delivered at home by multi-disciplinary teams improve care and reduce costs for beneficiaries with multiple chronic conditions. According to the update, CMS awarded an aggregate \$5.3

million in incentive payments to seven practices that reduced Medicare expenditures and met quality goals in the second performance year. For more on the demonstration, visit <http://innovation.cms.gov/initiatives/Independence-at-Home>