



WHA Calendar	
Wyoming Budget Session	2/10

Appeals Court Finds ACA Mandate Unconstitutional, but Entire Law Stands for Now

A federal appeals court has ruled the Affordable Care Act's individual mandate is unconstitutional, but it did not invalidate the entire law.

The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals sent the case back to the district court in Texas to decide if any of the other provisions could exist without the mandate.

In a statement, AHA President and CEO Rick Pollack said, "Because of the Affordable Care

Act, 20 million people have health insurance, millions with pre-existing conditions have access to the care they need and new and innovative models of care have been launched. This wrong-headed decision puts all of that and more in jeopardy. America's hospitals and health systems are disappointed that the court has declined to rule on which parts of the ACA can re-

main. Sending the decision back to the federal district court that invalidated the entire law puts health coverage – and peace of mind – for millions of Americans at risk. We will continue to support and work for protecting patient care and coverage."

It is likely the Supreme Court will be asked to immediately review the decision.

Volunteer Health Services Program Applications Sought by Department of Health

Providers and facilities interested in offering volunteer healthcare services to low-income patients are invited to take advantage of a special legal liability option offered by the Wyoming Volunteer Health Services Program.

The program allows licensed healthcare providers and medical facilities to provide volunteer services for low-income Wyoming residents while being protected from liability for medical negligence under the state's sovereign immunity.

By entering into a contract with the state, volunteer providers are deemed public employees and facilities are deemed state medical facilities for purposes of what's known as the Wyoming Govern-

mental Claims Act. Any malpractice claim arising from uncompensated services rendered to eligible patients would be defended and paid by the state under the Governmental Claims Act.

Any healthcare provider, including physicians, dentists, physician assistants, nurses, pharmacists, optometrists, psychiatrists and psychologists, who is licensed or certified by Wyoming law is eligible to enter into a contract under the program. Eligible facilities include hospitals, clinics, medical offices and nursing homes.

Services provided under the program are intended for low-income persons. An eligible patient:

- Has income at or below 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Level
- Is not covered under a health insurance or healthcare policy, contract or plan
- Is covered under a health insurance or healthcare policy, contract or plan, but was denied coverage by the policy, contract or plan

Eligibility is determined by volunteer providers or facilities based on information from patients.

More information and important forms can be found on the Wyo2ming Department of Health website at <https://health.wyo.gov/admin/wyomings-volunteer-health-services-program/>.

- 2019 PAC Contributions**
- Barry Burkart
 - Bren Lowe
 - Margie Molitor
 - Doug Faus
 - Andy Fitzgerald
 - Maureen Cadwell
 - Dr. Carol Solie
 - Tim Thornell
 - Eric Boley
 - LifePoint
 - Robin Roling
 - Irene Richardson
 - Michele Chulick

MHCC Becomes a DAISY Foundation Site

Nurses at Memorial Hospital of Carbon County now have the opportunity to be recognized and honored through The DAISY Award for Extraordinary Nurses®. The award is part of the DAISY Foundation's mission to recognize the extraordinary, compassionate nursing care they provide patients and families every day. The kick-off event was held December 16th, 2019 at MHCC.

The DAISY Foundation is a not-for-profit organization, established in memory of J. Patrick Barnes, by members of his family. Patrick died at the age of 33 in late 1999 from complications of Idiopathic Thrombocytopenic Purpura (ITP), a little known but not uncommon auto-immune disease. (DAISY is an acronym for Diseases Attacking the Immune System.) The care Patrick

and his family received from nurses while he was ill inspired this unique means of thanking nurses for making a profound difference in the lives of their patients and patient families.

Awards are presented throughout the year at celebrations attended by the Honoree's colleagues, patients, and visitors. Each Honoree receives a certificate commending her or him as an "Extraordinary Nurse." The certificate reads:

"In deep appreciation of all you do, who you are, and the incredibly meaningful difference you make in the lives of so many people." Honorees also receive a DAISY Award pin and a beautiful and meaningful sculpture called A Healer's Touch, hand-carved by art-

ists of the Shona Tribe in Zimbabwe.

Said Chief Nursing Officer Phil Reints stated, "We are proud to be among the healthcare organizations participating in The DAISY Award program. Nurses are heroes every day. It's important that our nurses know their work is highly valued, and The DAISY Foundation provides a way for us to do that."



HRSA Rural Care Coordination Funding Program

The Health Resources and Services Administration have announced a new opportunity to apply for federal funding that improves access and quality of care through rural health consortiums.

The program will invest approximately \$7.5 million over three years to support up to 10 applicant organizations.

Each consortium will include at least three health care entities that will coordinate strategies for

collaboration, leadership and workforce, improved outcomes, and sustainability in rural communities.

Previously funded networks under this program designed and carried out projects focused on coordinated care for patients in the primary care setting, chronic disease management, and utilizing/enhancing Health Information

Technology, among other issues for rural communities.

For questions about the program, contact Kanokphan Mew Pongsiri at kpongsiri@hrsa.gov. Read the grant at <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=315879>

Legislative Session Nurse of the Day

The 2020 Wyoming Legislative Budget Session is scheduled to begin on February 10th.

The WHA Nurse of the Day program provides basic volunteer medical services, consultations and referrals on a limited, as-needed basis for legislators, staff and lobbyists, and occasionally visitors during the legislative session.

Services at Medical Aid Station are provided as a courtesy by the Wyoming Hospital Association and the Wyoming Medical Society, and operate on a totally volunteer basis. WHA & WMS administer the program and coordinate the placement of volunteer doctors and nurses.

Health care services in the Medical Aid Station are provided primarily as a convenience for people who experience non-emergency health care concerns during the Legislature, especially people who are away from home.

If you would like to volunteer, please contact the Association at 307-632-9344.