



Wyoming Hospital Association

NEWS BRIEFS

Informational Newsletter for Wyoming Hospitals

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April 10, 2020

WHA Behind the Scenes, But Working For You Every Day

WHA Calendar	
WHA Golf Tournament Casper	9/1
Annual Meeting & Convention Casper	9/2-9/3

The Wyoming Hospital Association has been at work these past several weeks advocating on your behalf as you fight on the front lines to care for your communities during this crisis. We wanted to take this opportunity to share what WHA has been doing to support Wyoming hospitals. As always, we encourage our members to reach out to us directly if there are concerns, or ideas on how we can better serve you.

SBA PPP Program

For those of you with fewer than 500 employees, Congresswoman Cheney’s office has indicated that they think you would be allowed to access the funding available through the SBA PPP program. We do not know if this is the case and have heard differing opinions, but if you could get funding through this program as opposed to the accelerated payment program, you would be better off. We believe our non-state owned governmental entities are ineligible but also think the guidance is broad and unclear so it may be worth exploring.

Lab Director Coordination

At the direction of Governor Gordon, WHA has been asked to arrange a meeting with him and the lab directors from every hospital around the state. The meeting is to discuss current lab capabilities and to explore options for ramping up additional COVID testing.

WHA Applying for Hospital Relief Funding

WHA is committed to supporting the urgent preparedness and response needs of Wyoming’s hospitals and health systems on the front lines of the COVID-19 outbreak. WHA has learned of a funding opportunity from HHS within the Hospital Preparedness Program that is designed specifically for state hospital associations. The application was submitted April 3rd and confirmation of award is expected April 10th.

Once funded, WHA will distribute funds to Wyoming hospitals. Those funds can be used by hospitals to: 1) train staff to implement COVID-19 preparedness plans; 2) procure supplies and equipment i.e. PPE; 3) train healthcare providers in the areas of infection control and triage; 4) retrofit separate areas to screen and treat large numbers of persons; 5) implement expanded telemedicine/telehealth capabilities; and, 6) increase patient beds to provide surge capacity using temporary structures.

Hospitals receiving funds will get a letter and subrecipient agreement outlining the amount for their facility along with details of how the money can be spent and reporting requirements.

There is \$50 million appropriation that will be distributed amongst 53 hospital associations. WHA will receive \$378,228 and we will distribute 100% of the total to the hospitals in Wyoming.

Advanced Payment Forgiveness

In an email to Paul Lee, Senior Executive of Strategic Health Care, Eric Boley, President of WHA said, “You can definitely add the Wyoming Hospital Association to your list of signers. I have been speaking with our congressional delegates about this exact problem and I believe we have some sympathetic and supportive representation. Senator Barrasso definitely understands the issue and the fact all this does is prolong the ultimate failure of many of our CAHs because they will not have the means to repay the money they receive from accepting the accelerated payments. Allowing them to access the SBA funding, in many cases, would have been a better alternative but many of the CAHs are non-state owned governmental entities and therefore they are not allowed to participate or apply for the PPP funding.” This was in support of a campaign Strategic Health Care is working on to have Congress help support rural hospitals and fight the debt incurred through accelerated payments.

Call with Wyoming Congressional Delegation

WHA coordinated a conference call with Senators Barrasso and Enzi and Congresswoman Cheney. Many of our member hospitals participated and shared the issues facing their facilities as they confront COVID19. Our Wyoming Delegation was able to hear first hand how hospitals are impacted, and about their immediate and long-term needs.

2020 PAC Contributions

Eric Boley
Barry Burkart
Carol Solie
Doug Faus
Heidi Baskfield
Doug McMillan

Member Spotlight

Sheridan VA Whole Health Program

Over the last two years, physicians within the Sheridan Veterans Affairs Health Care System have worked to adopt an approach to care that supports each individual's personalized health and well-being.

While historically, medical professionals typically treated patients' ailments, under the program the VA refers to as Whole Health, physicians and teams of medical professionals get to know what matters to patients and develops a personalized health plan based on values, needs and goals.

"The big picture about Whole Health is really trying to better align the patient's treatment with what is important to the patient," said Dr. James W. McDonald, chief of physical medicine and

rehabilitation at the Sheridan VA. "What values are important to the patient, what is important that they make progress in and help them meet their goals. We factor our decisions into their goals.

"It's a move away from the paternalistic way of practicing, telling patients what they need to do versus what is important to them," he continued. "We help them reach their own goals and visions."

The Whole Health program empowers and equips people to take charge of their own health and well-being. The Whole Health system includes human care, self care, clinical care and community aspects. It addresses every part of a patient's life — nutrition, rela-

tionships, spirituality, physical health and activity.

As part of the program, each veteran receiving care at the Sheridan VA completes a Personal Health Inventory, which asks questions around eight areas of self care — moving the body, surroundings, personal development, food and drink, recharge (sleep and refresh), relationships, spirit and soul and the power of the mind.



CDC Guidance

CDC Issues Guidance on Using Cloth Face Coverings

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has recommended wearing cloth face coverings to prevent COVID-19 transmission in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain, especially in areas with significant community-based transmission, citing recent studies showing that some people may spread the virus before or without showing symptoms.

The agency emphasized that the recommended coverings "are not surgical masks or N95 respirators. Those are critical supplies that must continue to be reserved for healthcare workers and other medical first responders, as recommended by current CDC guidance."

The American Hospital Association, American Medical Association, and American Nurses Association also called on the

public "to be mindful of the need to ensure N95 respirators and medical grade surgical masks remain prioritized for health care heroes — doctors, nurses and other front line caregivers and workers — and use non-medical reusable masks, instead, as the CDC suggests."

Merritt Hawkins



New COVID Recruiting Advisory From Merritt Hawkins

Merritt Hawkins, a **WHA Resources Endorsed Partner**, has completed a new advisory entitled, **MAINTAINING PHYSICIAN RECRUITING EFFORTS IN THE WAKE OF COVID-19**.

The advisory notes that among the many challenges presented by

the pandemic is its inhibiting effect on physician recruiting efforts, as potential candidates are restricted from traveling for interviews. It then outlines various steps hospitals can take to keep recruiting momentum going through virtual and other channels in order to ensure they maintain a vital flow of talent.

Wyoming Hospital Association members can obtain a com-

plete copy of the advisory by contacting Corey Johnson at Merritt Hawkins at corey.johnson@merrithawkins.com

