



Wyoming Hospital Association

NEWS BRIEFS

Informational Newsletter for Wyoming Hospitals

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Wyoming Telehealth Task Force

Lawmakers on the Wyoming Management Council have voted to establish a task force to examine the state’s telehealth, telework and overarching broadband capabilities.

The task force will consist of three representatives, three senators and three appointees by the governor’s office.

Telehealth was made a top priority for the Joint Labor, Health and Social Services Interim Committee, which will also examine mental health treatment and high health care costs over the interim.

Lawmakers viewed telehealth – and the broader issue of internet connectivity from home – as especially crucial given the effects of COVID-19. With more people working from home, the pandemic provides a unique opportunity for Wyoming to benefit from the online shift.

While their initial focus was on telehealth, lawmakers decided to expand the task force to include all topics related to broadband and telework.

Rep. Sue Wilson, R-Cheyenne, who chairs the House Labor, Health and Social Services

Committee, said she’s recently learned that not all health care insurers are treating telehealth services equitably, raising additional concerns that might be addressed by the task force.

Lawmakers also established a select committee to examine ways to boost the state’s mental health services. The team will consist of members of the Joint Labor, Health and Social Services Committee and the Joint Appropriations Committee.

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

Senator Barrasso Introduces Rural Health Relief Act

U.S. Senators Tina Smith (D-Minn.) and John Barrasso, M.D. (R-Wyo.)—co-chairs of the Senate Rural Health Caucus—announced that they will be introducing their bipartisan Rural Health Relief Act, which would provide relief to rural hospitals amid the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic by making them eligible for the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) created through the CARES Act.

“Rural hospitals need our help right now,” said Sen. Barrasso. “They are on the frontlines caring for our communities and fighting this pandemic. These facilities are critical for both the health and economic well-being of communities in Wyoming and across America. Supporting these facilities is a bipartisan priority that I strongly support.”

Sens. Smith and Barrasso have long worked across party lines to support rural health care. Last year, on National Rural Health Day, the senators introduced a bill to address the disparity in access to health care in rural America by supporting key rural health workforce programs.

Their bill—the Strengthening Our Rural Health Workforce Act—would help rural communities overcome these challenges by reauthorizing the Primary Care Training and Enhancement program—which creates more training positions for family, general internal, and general pediatric physicians—and guaranteeing that this training has a rural focus.

The bill would also improve the recruitment of providers by funding area health education centers (AHECs), which help

recruit and support practitioners in underserved and rural areas. Last year, Sens. Smith and Barrasso also introduced the Rural Health Clinic Modernization Act to modernize decades-old rules that are preventing communities from getting the best possible care at Rural Health Clinics.

Their legislation would expand the ability of physician assistants and nurse practitioners to provide care in these clinics and improve the ability of clinics to offer telehealth services.

2020 PAC Contributions

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

Member Spotlight

Cheyenne Regional Medical Center Achieves Magnet® Recognition

Cheyenne Regional Medical Center officials announced that CRMC has achieved Magnet recognition as a reflection of its nursing professionalism, teamwork and superiority in patient care.

The American Nurses Credentialing Center's Magnet Recognition Program® distinguishes organizations that meet rigorous standards for nursing excellence.

With this credential, CRMC joins the global community of Magnet-recognized organizations. Just 520 U.S. healthcare organizations out of over 6,300 U.S. hospitals have achieved Magnet recognition.

"Magnet recognition provides our community with the ultimate benchmark to measure the quality of patient care," said Tracy Garcia, CRMC's Chief Nursing Officer and Vice President of Clinical Services. "Achieving Magnet recognition reinforces the culture of excellence that is a cornerstone of how we serve our community. It's also tangible evidence of our nurses' commitment to providing the very best care to our patients, of which we are extremely proud."

Magnet recognition is considered the gold standard for nursing excellence and is a factor when the public judges healthcare organizations.

To achieve Magnet recognition, organizations must pass a rigorous and lengthy process that demands widespread participation from leadership and staff. This process includes an electronic application, written patient care documentation, an on-site visit and a review by the Commission on Magnet Recognition.



Honk for Heroes

Honk for Heroes

Star Valley Medical Center is hosting a reoccurring event, "Honk for Heroes". It will be every Wednesday evening at 7p. all of the Wyoming hospitals/healthcare centers/communities are invited to participate. It is planned to be a fun, uplifting way to let our communities know we care about the healthcare workers, ranchers, farmers, grocery store employees, truck drivers, paramedics, garbage men, etc.

Healthcare workers, ranchers, farmers, grocery store employees, truck drivers, paramedics, sanitation,

environmental services and many others put their lives at risk to make ours easier. Please make posters, decorate your cars & drive by the hospital with a friendly honk, to let them know we care.

OR join from wherever you are at: home, grocery store, or running essential errands & give a beep from wherever you are at!
 hashtags:
 #honkforheroes,
 #wyhoming,

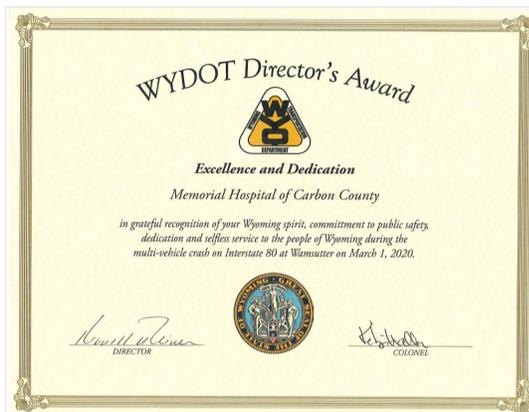
#WYthanksyou,
 #strongertogether,
 #healthcareheroes.

The event can be shared here:
<https://bit.ly/HonkforHeroes>.



WYDOT Award

MHCC Awarded WYDOT Director's Award



Memorial Hospital of Carbon County has been awarded the Wyoming Department of Transportation Director's Award for their commitment to public safety, dedication and selfless service during the multi-vehicle crash on I-80 on March 1st, 2020.

WYDOT thanked them for their compassionate care for accident victims and stranded travelers.

2005 Warren Avenue, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82001