



Wyoming Hospital Association

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NEWS BRIEFS



Informational Newsletter for Wyoming Hospitals

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2020 President's Message



Eric Boley, President

As 2020 comes to a close, it is a time for reflection. What a year this has been. It is hard to imagine a more challenging year. With that said, there is much to remember.

The Governor's COVID19 Pandemic Heroes Day Proclamation puts an exclamation point on the end of the year. Our state is so fortunate to have world class hospitals, nursing homes and incredible team members. The selfless and endless sacrifice of so many is impossible to quantify, and the gratitude owed is impossible to express.

The staff of the Wyoming Hospital Association and LeadingAge Wyoming is honored and humbled to represent and work for the incredible members of these associations.

As we reflect on this past year, there were many accomplishments of the WHA and LAW.

We had another extremely successful legislative session, helping pass the Electronic

Monitoring in Long-Term Care Facilities bill and the Special Senior Healthcare District bill. We have continued our work with the Wyoming Department of Health in getting the new Provider Supplemental Payment UPL approved by CMS and expect approval any day. We also have a new UPL for EMS Services ready to take to the upcoming legislative session as a committee bill, which we have worked on diligently during the interim with the Joint Labor Committee.

We have been in the trenches with members since COVID hit our state and we have not only tracked every penny of federal CARES funds due members, but we have worked with our Congressional delegates to ensure all monies were received. We also worked with our Congressional delegates to make our smaller hospitals eligible for the PPP program. We have advocated for and helped members procure state CARES funds for PPE, payroll and capital construction projects.

We attended every minute of the SLIB meetings, and advocated for each CARES act application,

some of which we helped members prepare.

We have been working with members and the Governor's office, utilizing \$20 million of state CARES funds to bring much needed staff to Wyoming to help treat and care for COVID patients. We will place over 300 traveling staff members, when all is said and done, in every corner of the state.

Finally, we have worked tirelessly with our Congressional delegates to get an extension on the use of state CARES funds, allowing all of the important projects which have been started to be completed and paid for using the CARES money. These projects will allow members to continue to battle COVID in 2021. We are grateful to be able to advocate for our members and ensure they have the tools necessary to succeed.

We look forward to a better and brighter 2021. No matter what, the WHA and LAW stand ready to do all we can for our members.



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CRMC One of 100 Best for General Surgery, Coronary

Cheyenne Regional Medical Center (CRMC) is one of “America’s 100 Best Hospitals” for General Surgery and Coronary Intervention for 2021, according to research recently released by Healthgrades, an online independent hospital and physician quality and safety ratings organization.

“As part of our mission to inspire great health, we’ve made a commitment to our patients, community, employees and pro-

viders that our hospital and health system will make quality care a top priority,” said Tim Thornell, CRMC’s chief executive officer and president.

Patients treated at hospitals receiving “America’s 100 Best Hospitals for General Surgery” award have, on average, a 28.6 percent lower risk of experiencing a complication or dying while in the hospital than if they were treated in hospitals that did not receive

the award, according to Healthgrades.

Healthgrades also reported that patients treated at hospitals receiving “America’s 100 Best Hospitals for Coronary Intervention” award have, on average, a 46.5 percent lower risk of dying than if they were treated in hospitals that did not receive the



Doug Faus 2020 Grassroots Champion

Doug Faus, CEO of Iverson Memorial Hospital, has received the 2020 AHA Grassroots Champion Award. This distinguished award is given to one person from each of the states and is selected by the state hospital association.

The American Hospital Association Grassroots Champion Award recognizes those hospital leaders who most effectively educate elected officials on how major issues affect the hospital’s vital role in the community, who have done an exemplary job in broadening the base of community support for the hospital and who are tireless advocates for hospitals and their patients.

Doug Faus has been a leader in the state of Wyoming. His

service on the AHA Regional Policy Board is one factor used to select him for this distinguished award. Through his service on the RPB he has actively advocated for and helped drive policy protecting and benefiting hospitals and rural healthcare. His strident voice along with his calm and measured approach are characteristics adding credibility to the message he delivers.

Visits with both federal and state legislators are other examples of his determination to be a grassroot advocate. He is constantly looking for solutions to healthcare problems and is willing to look outside the box and offer ideas on changes to improve the delivery of care, while also looking at ways to protect the

ability to deliver care in every community. His relationship with legislators is beneficial, and his voice is heard as he speaks with Wyoming representatives.

Congratulations to Doug Faus, the 2020 AHA Grassroots Champion for Wyoming.



Billings Clinic and Basin Hospital Approve Affiliation

Billings Clinic will be welcoming Three Rivers Health (formerly the South Big Horn County Hospital District) in Basin, Wyoming, as a health system affiliate on Jan. 1, 2021. The Three Rivers Board of Directors also approved the affiliation.

“We are extremely pleased to formalize this partnership,” said Tadd Greenfield, Three Rivers Health CEO. “Billings Clinic has a proven track record across our

region for their quality of care, partnerships and outreach services in rural communities. Working together with an organization that understands and excels at rural health care is incredibly important.”

In September, both health care organizations approved an exclusive Letter of Intent to start the process of exploring a formal affiliation.

Three Rivers was considering options for partnership with a larger health care organization to enhance medical services and help the organization adapt to the evolving health care industry.



Three Rivers
HEALTH

Governor's Proclamation



COVID-19 PANDEMIC HEROES DAY

WHEREAS, many Wyoming citizens are protecting and caring for the public as both career and volunteer health care professionals, first responders and caregivers during the fight against the COVID pandemic; and

WHEREAS, these brave individuals, which include doctors, nurses, hospital staff, nursing home and long-term care staff, emergency medical services, law enforcement and emergency management, dedicate their lives to increasing the safety and quality of life of Wyomingites; and

WHEREAS, health care professionals, first responders and caregivers risk their own safety in the performance of their duties to save the citizens of Wyoming during this pandemic; and

WHEREAS, health care professionals, first responders and caregivers are our first and best defense against this frightening pandemic; and

WHEREAS, health care professionals, first responders and caregivers are ready to aid the people of Wyoming 24 hours a day, seven days a week; and

WHEREAS, the people of Wyoming owe our health care professionals, first responders and caregivers a debt of gratitude for their hard work and sacrifice during this pandemic;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARK GORDON, Governor of the State of Wyoming, do hereby recognize this 16th day of December as

COVID-19 Pandemic Heroes Day

in the State of Wyoming, and I call this observance to the attention of all our citizens.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Executive Seal of the Governor of Wyoming to be affixed this 15th day of December, 2020.





The Honorable Mark Gordon
33rd Governor of the Great State of Wyoming