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WYOMING**

Wyoming Hospital Association

# Wyoming Hospital Association

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Informational Newsletter for Wyoming Hospitals

Volume 52, Number 13

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## Wyoming Legislative Session Ends for 2021

The 66th General Session of the State of Wyoming legislature ended April 7, 2021. The session this year was a hybrid with both virtual and in-person meetings. It was also a split session with a short two week session in February followed by a 30 day session, running through the months of March and into April.

Eric Boley, WHA President, considers this another successful session but has expressed his disappointment that another year has passed without the state expanding Medicaid. Although efforts to expand Medicaid ultimately failed, expansion did make it farther through the process than any previous year. Bills were passed out of committee in both the Senate and the House with the House bill actually passing the entire House before dying in the Senate Labor, Health and Social Services (LHSS) Committee late in the session with a 2-3 vote.

Highlights of the session included the passage of SF53-Ground Ambulance Service Provider Assessment. Its passage was the culmination of many years work and will help bring additional federal funding to support EMS services all across the State of Wyoming. "I'd like to thank Senator Baldwin and Representative Wilson, the co-chairmen of the Joint LHSS committee for helping us get the legislation passed," said Eric Boley. "Special thanks to former chairman Charlie Scott for his support and help through the interim".

Another important bill to pass was SF19-Public Health Emergencies Immunity. SF19

was a collaborative effort with partners at the Wyoming Business Alliance, and brings added protection for healthcare providers and businesses over and above the important legislation passed in May during the special session. Eric Boley expressed his sincere gratitude to Chairman Tara Nethercott, the Senator Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, for the hours of hard work through the interim helping get the bill ready for the session. A special thanks to House Chairman Jared Olsen for his work with the Committee to get the bill through the House.

The final bill of great importance which passed in the final day of the session was SF118-Federal Emergency COVID-19 Relief Funding. SF118 was supported by the Governor and the Joint Appropriations Committee and extends the timeline for the use of the state CARES funding. This legislation will ensure CARES funding will be paid to those entities who applied for, and were awarded, CARES funding through the SLIB.

Projects had to be started and best efforts needed to be used to complete these projects under the original agreements with SLIB, but due to issues with COVID these projects were unable to be completed by the December 15th deadline. The WHA has been in constant contact with members, OSLI and the Governors' office doing everything possible to ensure funding was disbursed to SLIB CARES fund applicants.

"We are grateful to the grass-root efforts and the advocacy done by members all across the state during the session," expressed Boley. "Our legislators listen and respond when they hear from their constituents, and our work is made easier when members reach out to their legislators."

President Eric Boley expressed his gratitude to his staff members, especially Vice President Josh Hannes. "This has been another successful year but we face many challenges and will be working hard in the interim as plans have already begun for at least one special session and then the budget session in 2022. More information will be forthcoming on interim topics as they become available in the next few weeks.

WHA Calendar	
National Hospital Week	5/9-5/15
WHA Golf Tournament Casper	9/7 2021
Annual Meeting & Convention Casper	9/8-9/9 2021



### 2021 Contributions

Barry Burkart  
Tim Thornell  
Robin Roling  
Carol Solie



Bill signing for SF19-Public Health Emergencies-immunity

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

## SJH Nationally Recognized by Newsweek and More

### Member Spotlight

St. John's Health (SJH) is the recent recipient of national awards that showcase commitment to exceptional patient care.

Newsweek recognized St. John's Health with its Best Maternity Care Hospitals 2021 award. Only 217 hospitals in the U.S made the Newsweek list, and St. John's was the only Wyoming hospital selected.

Birth Center director Meredith Hein, RN, points to several reasons behind St. John's reputation for excellence in maternity care. "In addition to the skill and compassion of the labor and delivery team, we provide individualized care, including one-to-one care for laboring patients," she said.

St. John's Health was included on the 2021 list of Best Hospitals for Patient Experience from Women's Choice Awards (WCA). This award was based on doctor and nurse communications, staff responsiveness, and cleanliness. Previously, WCA also named St. John's Health as a Best Hospital for being in the top 1% for obstetrics, emergency care, orthopedics, and outpatient experience.

St. John's was also named one of the top 20 rural and community hospitals in the country. The National Rural Health Association announced the highest-ranked hospitals based on its Hospital Strength index.

The determining factors were based on eight indices: inpatient market share, outpatient market share, quality, outcomes, patient perspectives, costs, charge, and financial efficiency.

In another emblem of distinction, The Chartis Center for Rural Health included St. John's Health on its 2021 Top 100 Rural & Community Hospitals list. This recognition program is based on a comprehensive and objective assessment of rural hospital performance that uses public data and 36 independent indicators.



## HCAHPS Leadership Series

### Leadership Series

The Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (HCAHPS) is a core measure for the Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility (Flex) Program.

Custom Learning Systems developed the HCAHPS Breakthrough Leadership Series. This series has provided insightful solutions to improving the patient experience and HCAHPS scores. Please join the webinars and learn more about the benefits of this training.

The HCAHPS Breakthrough Leadership Series™ Schedule  
All webinars scheduled on Thursdays at: 10PT / 11MT / 12CT /

Webinar Date

1. **Leadership Engagement: The C-Suite Leader Role in HCAHPS Transformation™**  
April 15, 2021

Creating Leadership Inspiration, Engagement & Accountability to Drive HCAHPS Success 37 minutes

2. **Quiet at Night: The Quiet Revolution™** May 20, 2021  
How to Create a Restful, Healing Environment that Patients Perceive to Be Quiet 30 minutes

3. **Cleanliness of Patient Rooms: Cleanliness Matters™**  
June 17, 2021

Cleanliness Is Next to Godliness 30 minutes

Registration link: <https://www.webinars.customlearning.com>

Sponsor Code: WPCA14

For more information contact Ms. Kyle G. Cameron MPhil, M.S., Program Manager/Flex and SHIP Grants, Wyoming Office of Rural Health 307-777-8902



Wyoming  
Department  
of Health

## CMS Begins Recouping COVID-19 Accelerated and Advance Payments

### Accelerated Payments

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) April 1 released an article informing all Medicare providers and suppliers who requested and received COVID-19 Accelerated and Advance Payments that it began recovering those payments March

30, depending on the one-year anniversary of their first payment.

"Please be sure your billing staff are aware that the recovery has begun, or will begin soon but no sooner than one year from the date we issued the CAAP to you," the article states.

The article also gives information on how to identify recovered payments. For more on COVID-19 accelerated and advance payments, visit the CMS website at <https://www.cms.gov/medicare/covid-19-accelerated-and-advance-payments>