



Wyoming Hospital Association

News briefs

Funds Disbursed to Health Care Entities

The Wyoming Hospital Association (WHA) has entered into a contractual agreement with Wyoming Department of Health to provide a disbursement support of federal funds (CDFA # 21.027) to address staff retention, recruitment issues and vaccine incentive programs related to COVID-19 pandemic.

For each eligible category facilities will have access to maximum amounts and funds will be distributed in two ways.

- Funds to address Staff Retention have been distributed up-front, in a lump sum. Eligible expenses under this program must take place between September 23, 2021, and December 31, 2021.

- Funds for Staff Recruitment will be disbursed on a reimbursement basis up to a maximum amount.
- Funds for Vaccine Promotion and Incentive Programs will be disbursed on a reimbursement basis up to a maximum amount.

Facilities will be required to submit to WHA documentation of paid expenses directly associated with Recruitment and Vaccine Promotion and Incentive Programs within their facilities to receive reimbursement.

Each facility is required to submit a written plan describing how the money will be spent in these areas.

Eligible expenses under these programs must take place between September 23, 2021, and December 31, 2021.

Written plans for all three eligible categories will need to be submitted to rose@wyohospitals.com by 5pm on October 29th. Failure to submit written plans by the deadline will result in the matter being turned over to the Wyoming Department of Health for non-compliance and repayment of funds received.

Baldwin AAPA Legislator of the Year

For the first time, the national American Academy of Physician Assistants presented the AAPA Legislator of the Year Award in recognition of a Legislator and their work on behalf of the PA profession.

This honor was awarded to Wyoming Legislator, Senator Fred Baldwin, PAC. An official presentation of this recognition was presented October 8th during national PA week (October 6th-12th).

Fred Baldwin, PA-C is a Wyoming State Senator for Senate District 14.

Fred was instrumental in getting the Senate file bill SF0033 - the Physician Assistants



Amendment bill passed into law (officially to start on January 1, 2022) this past legislative session.

This bill (also known as OTP or Optimal Team Practice) was written to update the law to reflect current PA practice.

Senator Baldwin is the current Senator Chairman on the Labor, Health/Social Services Committee and also serves on the Revenue Committee. He has also served on the Transportation/Military Affairs Committee, and the Travel/Recreation/ Wildlife Committee as well as the Governor's Opioid Addiction Task Force and Governor's Healthcare Task Force.



2021 Contributions

- Barry Burkart
- Tim Thornell
- Robin Roling
- Carol Solie
- Irene Richardson
- Doug Faus
- Eric Boley
- Colleen Heeter
- Maureen Cadwell
- Mike Phillips
- Will Wagnon
- Doug McMillan
- Margie Molitor
- Terry Moss



The [Financial Guide for the Rural Health Care Leader During COVID and Post-Covid](https://www.ruralcenter.org/sites/default/files/COVID%20Financial%20Guide%20for%20the%20Rural%20Health%20Care%20Leader.pdf) was created for state Flex Program personnel, leaders of critical access hospitals (CAHs), provider-based rural health clinics (RHCs), and others that assist these providers in managing long term financial performance.

The content is designed to be non-technical and to provide guidance towards the potential and anticipated impact of the COVID Public Health Emergency (PHE). The guide discusses the top financial indicators during and after the PHE. It also presents strategies on how to address the financial indicators and includes action plans that guide CAH and provider-based RHC leaders as organizations as you navigate the challenges of the PHE and post-PHE periods.

For a copy of the Guide, click (Control + Click) on the link above or:

<https://www.ruralcenter.org/sites/default/files/COVID%20Financial%20Guide%20for%20the%20Rural%20Health%20Care%20Leader.pdf>

Sweetwater County Hospital's Good Catch Campaign

A campaign aimed at improving the recognition and reporting of potential risks in the hospital's processes and systems has proven successful just out of the gate.

Memorial Hospital of Sweetwater County kicked off the Good Catch campaign in early June. The campaign, initiated and managed by American Data Network PSO, offers MHSC the opportunity to significantly increase near-miss reporting; develop proactive, data-driven improvement activities; and recognize those who are actively promoting a strong culture of safety.

A Good Catch, often referred to in hospitals as a near miss or close call, is an event that does not reach a patient because of chance or timely intervention. A Good Catch is a win for patients, staff and hospitals because corrective action is taken, and it presents the opportunity to prevent future risk.

"It's a great campaign because everyone in the hospital can be involved. Everyone can make a differ-

ence," said Valerie Boggs, an MHSC quality analyst registered nurse. "In June, MHSC had 18 good catches. This included everything from a rug as a trip hazard to extending the automatic lighting time in bathrooms.

"A great example of a Good Catch at MHSC comes from the Cardiopulmonary Department," Boggs said. "They had a large chair that was awkward for older patients to get into, and the arm on the chair also was broken. Staff were fearful a patient could fall while trying to seat themselves in this chair. After entering this Good Catch into the electronic reporting program we established, they were able to quickly get a new chair and prevent harm from happening."

Phyllis Ragland, Clinical Patient Safety Advisor with American Data Network PSO, said the initiative is grounded in efforts to promote and support patient safety activities including education to increase awareness, non-punitive reporting, and analysis of near-miss data that holds valuable predictors of vulnerabilities that can lead to actual incidents.

The initiative incorporates a tiered awards program to spotlight individual staff members and physicians who recognize and report near-miss events, as well as teams and organizations that design and implement innovative improvement strategies and processes proven to mitigate risk and harm.

