



News briefs

2022 Wyoming Legislative Recap

The 2022 legislative session ended somewhere around 11:00 p.m., March 11, when the House and the Senate finally concurred on the redistricting plan for the next 10 years. Just like most everything during the session, this was a contentious time, and many left upset over the final plan.

With this being a budget session, the main focus was HB01/SF01-General Government Appropriations. The Governor submitted a conservative budget, but for the first time in many years, this budget contained no cuts to healthcare. In fact, modest increases were proposed in a few areas. The legislature approved most of the Governor's budget, and hospitals and nursing homes will not face any more devastating cuts this biennium. Nursing Homes will receive a slight increase including about \$2.5 million in additional state and federal funds. We thank the Governor and the legislature for helping protect health care this budget session.

From the Wyoming Hospital Association and LeadingAge Wyoming perspective, this was another successful yet hard fought session. Bills garnering attention were HB27-Visitation Rights, HB32-Vaccine Requirements-Limitations, HB38-Contracts in Restraint of Trade, and SF36-Pharmacy Benefits Managers. Each of these bills were debated and ultimately failed to pass. While the Pharmacy Benefits Managers bill did not pass it will more than likely be taken up as an interim topic so all sides can work on a compromise.

Other bills the WHA and LAW were actively involved with included SF23-Nursing Home Administrators, SF29-Liability for Governmental Healthcare Providers and SF66-ARPA Recovery Funds Appropriations. These bills all passed during the session, and have been signed into law by Governor Gordon. Obviously, the ARPA bill was important to everyone including healthcare facilities all across the state. As the dust settled, and after much information was provided through e-mail and testimony before the Appropriations Committee, \$85 million was approved for capital construction projects. There are many great projects which can now be funded due to this bills passing. Details should be coming soon from OSLI on how the SLIB will administer these funds. There is an additional \$10 million in another pot of money available for EMS regionalization projects. This program will be administered through the WDH.

The WHA and LAW submitted topics for consideration as interim topics. Rebasing and increase in reimbursement for nursing homes, along with a new provider assessment program (UPL) to help PRTFs access additional federal funding were submitted to the Joint Labor, Health and Social Services Committee. With the increase in violence towards healthcare workers, we suggested to the Joint Judiciary Committee they examine the issue and potentially consider legislation during the interim.

Management Council will meet in April to discuss and assign interim topics, but we feel confident these topics will be approved and worked on in the interim.

Overall, this was a highly successful legislative session and the grassroots efforts of members of the WHA and LAW were extremely useful and helped shape policy in the state.

Thanks to the following for volunteering for the WHA Nurse-For-The-Day program .

Ronda Boller, LPN
Gillette, Wyoming

Darcey Cowardin, RN, BSN, CPM
County Nurse Manager
Converse and Niobrara Counties

Jennifer James, MJ, DNP,
NEA-BC, PHNA-BC
Green River, Wyoming

Rachael Settles, MSN, RN,
PMH-BC
Wyoming State Board of Nursing

Vickie Winney, RN
Cowboy State Healthcare Training



**2022 PAC
Contributions**

**Barry Burkart
Tim Thornell**

HHS Announces Funding for Substance Use Treatment and Prevention Programs

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), is announcing two grant programs totaling \$25.6 million that will expand access to medication-assisted treatment for opioid use disorder and prevent the misuse of prescription drugs. By reducing barriers to accessing the most effective, evidenced-based treatments, this funding reflects the priorities of HHS' Overdose Prevention Strategy, as well as its new initiative to strengthen the nation's mental health and crisis care systems.

The Strategic Prevention Framework for Prescription Drugs (SPF Rx) grant program provides funds for state agencies, territories, and tribal entities that have completed a Strategic Prevention Framework State Incentive Grant plan or a similar state plan to target prescription drug misuse. The grant program will raise awareness about the dangers of sharing medications, fake or counterfeit pills sold online, and over prescribing. The grant will fund a total of \$3 million over five years for up to six grantees.

The Medication-Assisted Treatment – Prescription Drug and Opioid Addiction (MAT-PDOA) grant program provides resources to help expand and enhance access to Medications for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD). It will help increase the number of individuals with Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) receiving MOUD and decrease illicit opioid use and prescription opioid misuse. The grant will fund a total of \$22.6 million over 5 years for up to 30 grantees. No less than \$11 million will be awarded to Native American tribes, tribal organizations, or consortia.

CCH Behavioral Health Services Earns Three-year CARF Accreditation

CARF International announced that Campbell County Health Behavioral Health Services (BHS) has been accredited for a period of three years for its Intensive Outpatient Treatment Adult program, Outpatient Treatment Adult program, and Outpatient Treatment Children and Adolescent program. The latest accreditation is the third consecutive Three-Year Accreditation that the international accrediting body, CARF, has given to CCH's Behavioral Health Services.

This accreditation decision represents the highest level of accreditation that can be given to an organization and shows the organization's substantial conformance to the CARF standards. An organization receiving a Three-Year Accreditation has put itself through a rigorous peer review process. It has demonstrated to a team of surveyors during an on-site visit its commitment to offering programs and services that are measurable, accountable, and of the highest quality.

"We are very pleased to have earned this accreditation again," said Matt Miller, BHS Operations Manager. "The surveyors asked our clients about our services as part of the evaluation process. I'm proud to say that our clients described their individual therapists as 'amazing', 'compassionate', and 'skilled', a 'Godsend'; and that they felt they were treated with dignity and respect."



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- Perimeter-Based Security is Ineffective in the Evolving Enterprise
- Cloud Data Centers Require Shared Security Responsibility
- Third-Party SaaS and PaaS Applications Can't Be Trusted Blindly
- The Internet Network is an Unsecured Network
- Everyone in the Expanding Workforce Shouldn't Have All-Access
- You Cannot Verify the Security Status of All WFH Environments
- BYOD is Not as Secure as Work Devices
- Cyberattacks Are Increasing Advanced Persistent
- Threats (APTs) Are Becoming More Sophisticated
- The Security Stakes Are Higher

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Trustee Board Education
May 19, 2022
Riverton, Wyoming**