



# News briefs

## Wyoming Joining 13 States To Address Critical Health Care Worker Shortages

Wyoming will be one of 14 states joining a collaborative project to address a shortage of health care workers, according to a release from Governor Mark Gordon's office Tuesday.

During the six-month Next Generation of the Healthcare Workforce Learning Collaborative, governors' offices and other senior state officials across health, education and workforce development agencies "will join forces to develop innovative and evidence-based policies, programs, and practices to strengthen an enduring health care workforce," the release said.

Gordon's office and officials from the Wyoming Department of Health, Wyoming Department of Workforce Services, Wyoming Department of Education, University of Wyoming, and state community colleges will participate.

In March, Gordon said there were 380 vacant nursing positions across the state, and that the health care worker

shortage predated the COVID-19 pandemic. Declaring the situation a public health emergency, he signed an executive order temporarily allowing nurses and nursing assistants licensed in other jurisdictions to practice in Wyoming.

"Wyoming is not unique in facing health care workforce shortages, an issue that has only been exacerbated by the pandemic," Gordon said in the release. "Long-term solutions will require a coordinated effort that will benefit from this collaborative approach."

The release noted that Governor Gordon's Health Task Force "has been working to address nursing shortages through the use of traveling nurses early in the pandemic, as well as by using federal CARES and ARPA funding for recruitment and retention efforts."

The Wyoming Legislature recently approved additional funding for workforce issues in the health and human services area during the recent budget session, the release said.

During a series of virtual and in-person meetings in multiple states, Learning Collaborative participants will evaluate the status quo, share successes and best practices, evaluate data, and develop action plans, the release said.

The Learning Collaborative will publish findings and recommendations later this year.



**2022 PAC  
Contributions**

**Barry Burkart  
Tim Thornell  
Eric Boley  
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AMN Healthcare – Merritt Hawkins’ parent company, and an **Endorsed Business Partner** of WHA Resources, is conducting a national survey of hospital staffing trends.

When completed, the survey will offer a “state of the union” on hospital staffing, with data points to include:

- \*The percent of hospitals now recruiting physicians, nurses and allied professionals
- \*Current hospital physician, nurse and allied professional vacancy rates
- \*Current hospital physician, nurse and allied professional turnover rates
- \*Effect on staffing of COVID-19
- \*Strategies hospitals are using to recruit/retain providers

Below is a link to this concise, 15 question survey which takes less than five minutes to complete.

[https://amnhealthcare.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/preview/SV\\_ahFC64VDvND0uJU?Q\\_CHL=preview](https://amnhealthcare.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/preview/SV_ahFC64VDvND0uJU?Q_CHL=preview)



## Campbell County Health

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### Camp Med 2022

Campbell County Health (CCH) is hosting three sessions of Camp Med this summer. Camp Med is a one-day camp to introduce 11 and 12-year olds to careers in health care. Participants may visit various departments such as Surgery, Radiology, Lab, Rehab Services and orthopedics as well as learning CPR and touring EMS. Previous campers are not allowed to repeat the camp so others have a chance to attend.

Camp Med is free for participants; however, space is limited to 12 participants per session. Applications are taken on a first-come, first-served basis and are due on Friday, May 20. Applications must be returned to CCH Volunteer Coordinator Chris Buxton in Volunteer Services.

#### SAVE THE DATES

**National Hospital Week**  
May 8-14, 2022

**WHA Trustee Board Education**  
May 19, 2022  
7:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.  
Riverton, Wyoming

**WHA Annual Meeting**  
September 7-8, 2022  
Marian H. Rochelle Gateway Center/  
University of Wyoming Conference Center  
Laramie, Wyoming