



# News briefs



## John Riggi AHA's Senior Adviser for Cybersecurity and Risk

John Riggi, the American Hospital Association's Adviser for Cybersecurity and Risk will be a guest speaker at this year's 2022 Annual Meeting.

Hackers are after hospitals' and health systems' information security systems and data like never before. And John Riggi, AHA's senior adviser for cybersecurity and risk, is here to help protect them. Riggi joined the American Hospital Association after a stint as a cybersecurity consultant and nearly three decades at the FBI. He's conducted educational seminars, traveled to various hospitals and health systems to help health care leaders safeguard their protocols, and testified on Capitol Hill to remind Congress about

how dedicated the field is to maintaining the latest security protocols.

John Riggi, having spent nearly 30 years as a highly decorated veteran of the FBI, serves as the first senior advisor for cybersecurity and risk for the American Hospital Association and their 5000+ member hospitals. John leverages his distinctive experience at the FBI and CIA in the investigation and disruption of cyber threats, international organized crime and terrorist organizations to assist on policy and advocacy issues and provide trusted advisory services for the nations' hospitals and health systems.

His trusted access to hospital leadership and government agencies enhances John's national perspective and ability to provide uniquely informed risk advisory services. John's unique national perspective is further informed by his direct role in assisting ransomware victim hospitals and health systems during and post attack.

He also served on the NY FBI SWAT Team for eight years. John is the recipient of the FBI Director's Award for Special Achievement in Counterterrorism and the CIA's George H.W. Bush Award for Excellence in Counterterrorism, the CIA's highest award in this category. John presents extensively on cybersecurity and risk topics and is frequently interviewed by the media.

Plan on joining us in Laramie for the WHA/LAW Annual Meeting September 7-8.

For more information or to register for the meeting, [www.wyohospitals.com](http://www.wyohospitals.com)



### 2022 PAC Contributions

- Barry Burkart
- Tim Thornell
- Eric Boley
- Irene Richardson
- Terry Moss
- Ken Harman
- Robin Roling
- Maureen Cadwell
- Mike Phillips
- Doug McMillan
- Mike McCafferty



WAHE Wyoming Association of Healthcare Executives  
CAHE Colorado Association of Healthcare Executives

ACHE Face to Face Session - Tuesday, September 6th, 6 pm to 9 pm  
Prior to the Wyoming Hospital Association Annual Meeting Sept. 7th and 8th  
Rib & Chop House - Laramie, Wyoming

Please plan to join the Wyoming & Colorado Association of Healthcare Executive's Face-to-Face evening session. We are looking forward to having you be a part of the discussion on: Behavioral Health, we have a fantastic mix of experience and lenses coming together.

Event Specifics: This event will follow the Wyoming Hospital Association's Golf Tournament at the Rib & Chop House in Laramie, WY, located at 2415 Grand Avenue, Laramie, WY 82070 ([www.ribandchophouse.com](http://www.ribandchophouse.com)). Our goal is to host 30-40 participants.

Panelists:

- James Corbett, MDiv, JD - Principal, Initium Health
- Nicole Deaner, MSW - VP, Behavioral Health, RubiconMD
- Nicko Kleppinger, BSN - Behavioral Health Clinical Manager, Ivinson Memorial Hospital
- Greg W. O'Barr, PhD - Administrator, BH & Population Health Services, Cheyenne Regional Medical Center

Questions can be sent to: Terry Moss, Chief Operations Officer, Ivinson Memorial Hospital  
P: (307) 755-4610 email: [tmoss@ivinsonhospital.org](mailto:tmoss@ivinsonhospital.org)

## First Responder Health and Wellness Conference

Officials from Wyoming Peace Officers Standards and Training are preparing to host the state's first-ever First Responder Health and Wellness Conference. This is a new opportunity stemming from a need to address high rates of suicide among law enforcement and a \$25,000 appropriation the Wyoming Legislature added to the budget earlier this year.

The conference, which is set to take place in Casper, is intended to provide Wyoming first responders and their agencies with the resources necessary to identify and prevent mental health crises and signs of suicide among law enforcement personnel, dispatchers, firefighters and emergency medical service providers in the state, POST Executive Director Chris Walsh said.

Studies have shown officers are at a higher risk for negative physical and mental health outcomes – including early death, heart attacks, illnesses and injuries, obesity and sleep disorders – than members of the general public. This trend is particularly strong in terms of suicide.

Law enforcement officers are significantly more likely to die by suicide than non-law-enforcement workers. One nationwide National Institutes of Health study found law enforcement personnel – particularly African-American and Hispanic male and female officers – are 54% more likely to die by suicide than those with typical occupations.

According to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention data, EMS providers are 39% more likely to die by suicide than the general public, and both firefighters and law enforcement officers are more likely to die by suicide than in the line of duty.

These troubling statistics, coupled with some first responder suicides in Wyoming, led the Legislature to take action during its budget session in March. A budget amendment, proposed by Sen. Bill Landen, R-Casper, appropriated \$25,000 for a statewide conference on first responder suicide prevention and the development of a plan to address the heightened risk of suicide among first responders.

The appropriation makes the First Responder Health and Wellness Conference free to attend for first responders, Walsh said, and it's on track to cost less than the allocated amount.

Walsh said first responders will learn about the physiological changes that take place in the body when faced with regular stressful or life-threatening situations as well as how to cope with that stress at work and at home.

In addition, Cheyenne-based licensed clinical psychologist Shaina Smith, who conducts many of the pre-employment psychological evaluations for first responders throughout the state, will discuss psychological warning flags during initial employment and throughout a first responder's career, Walsh said.

The goal is to ensure agencies are able to intervene in case of a mental health crisis and individual first responders themselves feel empowered to seek help when they need it.