

LeadingAge Wyoming Newsletter

LeadingAge Wyoming Board Members



Shane Filipi



Karen Parker



Kate Craig



Nancy Bunot



Laura Carpenter



Eric Connell



Brenda Gorm

Your LeadingAge Wyoming Board of Directors is as follows:

Chair—Shane Filipi—Platte County Legacy Home, Wheatland

Chair-Elect—Karen Parker, The Heartland, Powell

Secretary/Treasurer—Kate Craig, Legacy Living & Rehabilitation Center, Gillette

Past Chair—Nancy Bunot, Rocky Mountain Care, Evanston

Director—Laura Carpenter, Cody Regional Health Long Term Care Center

Director—Eric Connell, New Horizons Care Center, Lovell

Director—Brenda Gorm, Amie Holt Care Center, Buffalo

Questions or concerns?

Eric Boley, LAW President

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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 Require-

ments-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. Details should be coming soon from OSLI on how the SLIB will administer these funds.

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.

Nurse and Nursing Assistant Staffing Emergency and Temporary Relief

Eric Boley, LeadingAge Wyoming President, has worked closely with the Governor's office and has gotten the 1135 waiver issue fixed for nurses and CNAs without a Wyoming license.

The Governor signed an Executive Order that will allow them to continue working in the state for another 60 days. You all need to get proactive and help them get a Wyoming license if you want them to stay longer than the 60 days. Everyone is asked to immediately seek licensure through the State of Wyoming Board of Nursing so that they may continue to practice in Wyoming after the expiration of this temporary order.

The Executive Order was signed March 14, 2022 and is in effect for 60 days.

We are very grateful to the Governor for hearing our plea for help and responding.