

LeadingAge™ Wyoming

March 8, 2024



2024 Legislative Budget Session

The 2024 Legislative Budget Session is all but in the books, and the Wyoming Hospital Association and LeadingAge Wyoming are happy with the progress made. The passage of HB14- Prior Authorization Regulations, and HB15-Health Insurance Reimbursement of Overpayments are both huge accomplishments which will have a major impact for patients and providers all across the state.

HB14 creates new requirements for insurers to expedite the prior authorization process, including having a peer-to-peer consultation before a denial can be determined, expedited timelines for approvals, an electronic submission portal for prior authorizations, reporting requirements by the insurance companies to the Department of Insurance, gold carding for providers, and restrictions on step therapy requirements. This is a major step in improving access to care for patients and simplifying the prior authorization process for providers. The Wyoming Hospital Association and the Wyoming Medical Society partnered with insurance companies from around the state to reach a collective solution. Senator Dan Dockstader and Representative Sarah Penn, as well as Chairmen Baldwin and Zwonitzer, deserve special recognition for their leadership and extra work on this important issue.

HB15 puts in statute insurance companies have only two years to look back to recoup potential overpayments. This bill creates security and certainty for healthcare providers that they will not be accessed a huge repayment demand many years after claims have been paid. With razor thin or nonexistent margins, this legislation will help ensure there are not huge liabilities for organizations that could put the entities at jeopardy. Representative Ken Clouston was a huge proponent of this

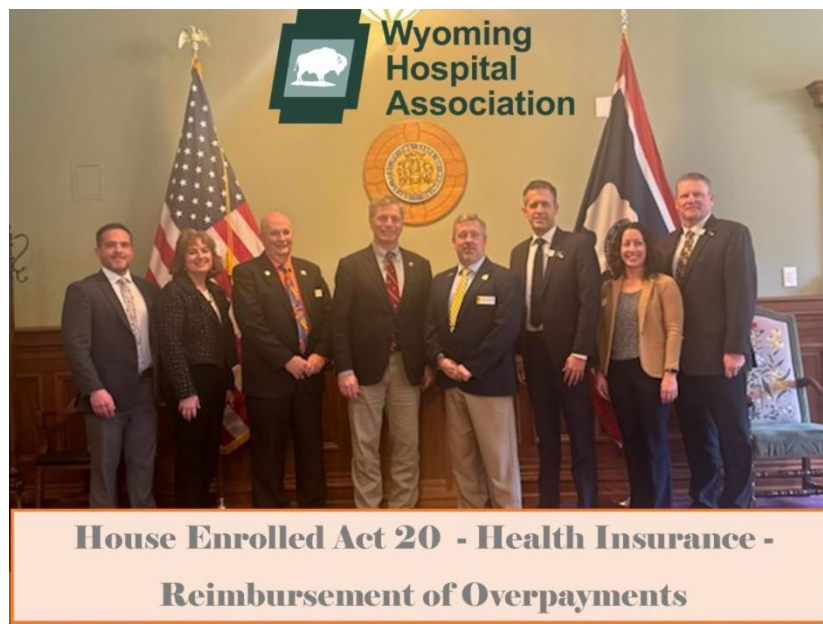
legislation and brought the topic forward to the Joint Labor Committee, which ultimately adopted the topic as a committee bill.

The defeat of HB 24-Certificate of Need Repeal (CoN) was also a major victory for LeadingAge Wyoming and the Wyoming Hospital Association. By repealing the CoN, critical access hospitals swing bed programs could have been in jeopardy. Nursing homes across the state may have also been in jeopardy and faced with huge staffing shortages, long term care could have become more fractured and difficult, had the CoN been repealed.

Late in the day on Thursday, SF132 passed the House and headed to a conference committee. This bill authorizes the Governor to allocate and distribute remaining ARPA funds to many areas, most importantly HHS capitol construction projects. These funds will be used to help cover inflationary cost increases to ARPA funded projects already approved by the SLIB. Eligible projects will include those that have already gone to bid or have already been started or completed. There are also budget amendments still in play within the budget that give the Governor authorization to utilize ARPA funds for the same projects. There are many legislators responsible for pushing for these funds including Senator Dave Kinsksey, Senator Dan Dockstader, Senator Tara Nethercott, Representative Dan Zwonitzer, and the House appropriations committee.

Finally, the focus of this session was on the state's biennial budget. The budget bill includes funding requested for maintaining Medicaid rates at the new levels set last session. Making these rates permanent moves nursing homes closer to covering their daily costs of delivering care to Medicaid recipients. The Wyoming Hospital Association and LeadingAge Wyoming are grateful to Governor Gordon and the Wyoming Department of Health for recognizing and responding to the need to assist our nursing homes who operate in an environment of challenging economics yet deliver high quality, critical care for residents across the state. Additionally, \$250,000 was added to the Department of Health Budget to assist hospitals maintain or obtain their trauma designations. This investment will allow our facilities to perform and complete essential site designation surveys, provide trauma specific education, and ultimately reduce morbidity, mortality and disability for trauma patients across Wyoming.

As we close the book on the 2024 Budget Session, we want to thank our policy makers who have dedicated their time and expertise to strengthen healthcare in our state. They are faced with competing priorities, finite dollars, along with policy and political complications. Many stepped up to face these challenges right along with us, and we owe them our appreciation. Most importantly, we want to thank our members for whom we are proud to serve. Our hospitals and nursing homes provide unwavering support, lend us their knowledge, and play a critical role in helping us advocate for sound policy to advance healthcare and improve the health of Wyoming.



LeadingAge Wyoming Spring Meeting

May 7-8, 2024
Holiday Inn
Cody, Wyoming

Jodi Eyigor



LeadingAge Wyoming will be holding our annual Spring Meeting on May 7-8, 2024 at the Holiday Inn, Cody, Wyoming. Jodi Eyigor is the Director of Nursing Home Quality Public Policy for LeadingAge national and will be a guest speaker at this year's meeting. As the Director, Nursing Home Quality & Policy Jodi is responsible for the analysis of health policy and regulatory changes related to long term care providers and in particular nursing homes. She develops and advocates LeadingAge's position on those issues. Jodi is an integral member of LeadingAge's Public Policy and Health Services team. More information on the meeting agendas will be sent in the next few weeks.

A block of rooms has been requested at the Holiday Inn in Cody, Wyoming. There are 40 rooms available from Monday, May 6 through the night of Friday, May 10, 2024. This block of rooms will remain in the computer system until thirty (30) days prior to first night arrival (April 6, 2024) or until such time as the full block of 40 rooms have been sold to attendees, whichever comes first. Rooms released for sale to the general public on April 6, 2024 will continue to be available to attendees, however, they will be available on a first come, first serve basis. Rate will be honored but availability will not be guaranteed by the hotel after the date of April 6, 2024.

To make reservations, please, contact the hotel directly at 1-307-587-5555 to make sleeping room reservations. Guests will be required to provide date of arrival/ departure, number of guests in party, room type preference, credit card for guarantee/confirmation, telephone number and address. A credit card will be required upon check-in. Payment is due upon departure by individual guests.

ATTENDEES SHOULD REQUEST THE SPECIAL RATE FOR THE "ZAM – WHA Spring Meeting" GROUP.

[Click here to register for the spring meeting](#)

LEAP DAY CELEBRATION



Westview residents celebrate
in "Froggy" style!!



Residents came together to enjoy a
delicious Froggy fare which included;

 Frog Eye Salad,  Cupcakes

 Key Lime Sparkling Water, and

 Fruit Snacks



Then a Competitive Battle of Leap
Frog



1st Place



2nd Place



3rd Place



4th Place

SADDLE SHOWCASE



Ray Tupling

Data Scientist Supervisor,
Mountain Pacific

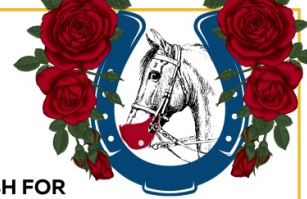
Ray Tupling has been a member of Mountain Pacific's analytics team since 2021. His background in statistics and economics helps to provide meaningful and critical insights for routine contract-metric reporting, health data research and ad hoc data requests.



Brought to you by...



2024 WYOMING INFECTION PREVENTION SUMMIT



RACE TO THE FINISH FOR INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL



April 30 / 1 – 8 PM

May 1 / 9 AM – 4 PM

Best Western Downtown
123 W E Street
Casper, WY 82601

Saddle up for a captivating ride as the Wyoming Center on Aging, Wyoming Department of Health and Mountain Pacific cordially invite you to join the race by registering for this **FREE**, in-person summit. You will experience an exhilarating horse race event, derby hat contest and more!

SESSION TOPICS INCLUDE:

- Epidemiology/Outbreak management
- Tuberculosis (TB)
- Sterilization and disinfection
- Legionella/water management plan
- Winning with leadership when the stakes are high
- Implementing a cleaning and disinfection program
- How to outsmart burnout
- Infection Control Assessment and Response (ICAR)
- OSHA safety and much more!



REGISTER

If you are interested in galloping into the spotlight as a conference or booth sponsor, contact Crystal Morse at cmorse@mpqhf.org. Continuing Education Units (CEUs) will be offered.

A block of rooms has been set aside at the Best Western under the name Infection Prevention Summit. The rate is \$95. Call 307-439-2074 before April 16 to book your stable.



[Register for the Summit Here](#)



May 7-8, 2024

Spring Meeting
Holiday Inn
Cody, Wyoming

August 26, 2024

Golf Tournament
Three Crowns Golf Club
Casper, Wyoming

August 27-28, 2024

Annual Meeting
Best Western Downtown Casper
Casper, Wyoming



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