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EDUCATIONAL EVENTS

April 17, 2019
Advocacy Day
Madison, WI

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GOVERNOR
TOMMY G. THOMPSON

TWO GOVERNORS, ONE BIG AUDIENCE



GOVERNOR
TONY EVERS

Gov. Evers Confirmed for Advocacy Day

WHA is pleased to announce Governor Evers is CONFIRMED, along with former Governor Tommy G. Thompson, for Advocacy Day on April 17. This means, for the first time, we will have TWO GOVERNORS, a Democrat and a Republican, at WHA's Advocacy Day.

Health care policy is bipartisan, and we are proud to have always resembled that tone in our advocacy. In a year with divided government, our bipartisan approach will be crucial, and it's more important than ever to get involved. **We need everyone's participation at Advocacy Day this year, especially at the Capitol for the legislative visits** where we can show legislators from both parties how important hospitals, and the high-quality care you deliver, are to the communities they represent.

If you have not already registered, please join us and bring a group from your hospital. There is no cost to attend. [More information and registration](#) can be found online.

If you have questions, contact Kari Hofer at 608-268-1816.

Proactive Legislative Agenda Helps WI Rank High for Physicians, But More to be Done

By Eric Borgerding, WHA President and CEO, and Mark Kaufman, MD, WHA Chief Medical Officer

A [recent study from WalletHub](#) ranks Wisconsin as the second-best state in the nation for physicians to practice medicine. This study used 18 metrics grouped into two categories: Opportunity & Competition and Medical Environment. Wisconsin ranked #1 in two metrics related to our favorable and balanced malpractice environment.

Like many other studies that rank Wisconsin favorably for health care, the WalletHub results illustrate the importance of a targeted and proactive public policy agenda that positively impacts Wisconsin's health care environment. The Wisconsin Hospital Association has a very concerted, multi-pronged public policy strategy aimed at creating an environment that attracts more physicians to Wisconsin and keeps more physicians practicing in Wisconsin.

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We have enacted and [sustained a rational, balanced and fair medical malpractice environment](#) that, frankly, probably attracts more doctors to Wisconsin than trial lawyers. We have enacted policies here that encourage and, equally important, protect in the courtroom care improvement work of hospitals and physicians. These types of policies are important when recruiting physicians to come to Wisconsin, especially from states where ads for trial lawyers touting mega malpractice payouts are seemingly ubiquitous.

In Wisconsin, we're leveraging public policy to help foster better health care, and it's working. Wisconsin [consistently ranks](#) as having one of the best and safest health care systems in the country. This performance, and now reputation, is attractive to physicians. We also have very high levels of people covered by health insurance; in fact, we have one of the [lowest uninsured rates](#) in the country, which leads to greater access to care. This is largely due to public policies we've enacted to make health insurance coverage available and [more affordable](#) to every person in the state.

Wisconsin is also investing in medical education, including expanding our medical school capacity and greatly increasing our [post-graduate residency opportunities](#). Once out of school and in full practice, we are streamlining and expediting [licensure for physicians](#) so they can take care of patients in multiple settings using the latest in telehealth technology. These and many other attributes are why Wisconsin ranks highly in so many national health care surveys.

But, there is more to be done. WHA is working hard to make Wisconsin an even better place for physicians to practice medicine and provide high quality and affordable care to patients. WHA's 2019 physician-specific advocacy priorities include advancing telemedicine, improving physician well-being, reducing the regulatory burden on physicians, expanding graduate medical education residency slots, and increasing Medicaid physician reimbursement.

We are also ramping up our educational offerings, including adding this year a new, and very well received, senior physician leader track to our Physician Leadership Development Conference in Kohler (now in its 14th year). This year, we are also addressing caregiver resiliency, partnering with Duke Health and the Wisconsin Medical Society to offer a [monthly webinar series](#) aimed at providing common sense, actionable education and strategies for all members of the health care team. Some 800 people and groups are participating in this great program every month.

These are all elements of WHA's intentional and ongoing strategy to make Wisconsin an attractive place for talented and dedicated professionals to pursue a fulfilling career...*caring for patients*. More to be done, more to come.



WHA Staff, Home Care Providers Meet to Discuss Post-Acute Care and Avoiding Readmissions

At the invitation of the Wisconsin Chapter of the Home Care Association of America (HCAOA), WHA Vice President of Policy Development Laura Rose met with the Chapter's Board of Directors at its meeting on March 28 in Madison. Home care agencies provide services to assist clients with activities of daily living including personal hygiene, medication reminders, assistance with housekeeping, meal preparation, shopping and companionship. These services, which are generally private pay, assist clients in maintaining independence while living in the community, but may also be used by patients to assist with their post-acute care after hospital discharge.

Rose, who leads WHA's policy work in post-acute care, was asked to share ways that home care providers could support transitions of care for hospitalized home care clients. WHA's Post-Acute Work Group members suggested conveying the following key messages to the HCAOA Board:

- It is necessary to find ways for hospital discharge planners and home care staff to exchange up-to-date patient information, preferably through an electronic health information exchange platform.
- It would be helpful if the manager of the home care agency serving the patient could come to the hospital to evaluate the patient's care needs and determine if these needs are within the agency's scope of practice.
- Home care agencies could be invited to the hospital to provide information to the hospital care coordination staff about the services available through home care agencies.

The HCAOA Board expressed interest in pursuing further connections with hospital staff to provide additional information about the services they can provide at the time of care transitions, which may ultimately help prevent hospital readmissions.

WONL Annual Convention for Nurse Leaders and Managers, April 24-26



The Wisconsin Organization of Nurse Leaders (WONL) will host their annual convention for current and aspiring nurse leaders April 24-26 at the Wilderness Resort in Wisconsin Dells.

The convention includes opportunities to network and share with other nurse leaders and managers. Anyone who has responsibilities for leading and managing nurses will benefit from the educational agenda and is welcome; you do not need to be a nurse or a member of WONL to attend.

Attendees will learn how leadership is changing, ways to affect that change, and principles that leaders can use to empower, energize and inspire yourself and those you lead. The convention will open with a focus on the role of nursing leadership in the current and future health care environment. Hear about the American Organization of Nurse Executives (AONE) strategic plan and regional nursing leadership, as well as workforce trends and policies facing Wisconsin hospitals, health systems and health care organizations.

Be sure to reserve a hotel room before April 3, 2019. A block of rooms for the WONL Annual Convention has been reserved April 24 and 25 at the Glacier Canyon Lodge Resort, Wisconsin Dells, WI.

[Click here](#) for more information, including a program brochure. For registration questions, contact [Sherry Collins](#) at 608-274-1820.