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Rep. Nancy VanderMeer to Hospitals: “Thank you for your commitment during ever-changing challenges”
Nursing home bottlenecks, discharge delays, licensure processing and insurance barriers discussed at PPC

Wisconsin State Representative and former Tomah Health board member Nancy VanderMeer (R-Tomah) joined a meeting of WHA’s Public Policy Council (PPC) on Sept. 1. During her comments, Rep. VanderMeer expressed her appreciation for the



EDUCATIONAL EVENTS

September 14

Legal and Risk Management Issues in the Emergency Department Webinar

September 15

2021 Physician Leadership Development Conference: On-demand and Part 2 Virtual

September 16

WHA Information Center Data Tools for Everyday Use - 2021 Virtual Bag Lunch Webinar Series
Session 4: Answering Your Business Questions with Kaavio - Part 1 Webinar Series

work of the state’s hospitals during the COVID-19 pandemic and her support of key funding and public policy initiatives supporting Wisconsin hospitals.

VanderMeer, who served as lead author of COVID-19 response legislation from earlier this year, discussed the importance of these provisions, especially those related to streamlined licensure processes for out-of-state health care providers and a provision that provides reimbursement to hospitals when they cannot locate a skilled nursing facility bed to place a Medicaid patient ready for discharge.

Related to workforce, VanderMeer, who has authored the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact, the enhanced Nurse Licensure Compact and the Physical Therapy Licensure Compact in Wisconsin, told the PPC that she plans to continue this work with other health care professionals, initially with occupational therapists and speech pathologists.

VanderMeer, who represents the areas surrounding Fort McCoy, provided valuable information to council members about what she has heard from leadership at Fort McCoy regarding the Afghan refugee resettlement mission. VanderMeer appreciated

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WHA Introduces Hospital Finder Tool

Online resource allows users to filter hospital data by geography, medical specialty

The Wisconsin Hospital Association (WHA) has added an interactive hospital finder tool to its website, enhancing and improving the existing hospital directory information. The new map feature also allows visitors to search for hospitals in Wisconsin by specific services provided. The tool is available at wha.org/hospital-finder.

Wisconsin Hospital Finder

Select Type of Facility: All

Select Service of Interest: All

Search within this many miles...: 50

...of the following city: (All)

154 hospital(s) match your search criteria

AdventHealth Durand
adventhealth.com
1220 Third Avenue, PO Box 224
Durand, WI 54736
(715) 672-4211

Amery Regional Medical Center
amerymedicalcenter.org
265 Griffin Street East
Amery, WI 54001-1439
(715) 268-8000

Ascension All Saints Hospital
healthcare.ascension.or...
3801 Spring Street
Racine, WI 53405
(262) 687-4011

Ascension Calumet Hospital
affinityhealth.org
614 Memorial Drive
Chilton, WI 53014
(920) 849-2386

Ascension Columbia St. Mary's Hospital Milwaukee

Data comes from WHA's 2019 annual survey of hospitals.
* indicates a new hospital with no service data available as of time of publishing.
[Click here](#) for WHA's hospital directory.

© 2021 Mapbox © OpenStreetMap Cedar Rapids

The WHA hospital finder tool draws upon information collected in the state's annual hospital survey and leverages the data visualization capabilities of the Wisconsin Hospital Association Information Center (WHAIC). WHAIC is a wholly owned subsidiary of WHA dedicated to collecting, analyzing and communicating complete, accurate and timely data from the state's hospitals and ambulatory surgery centers.

"The hospital finder tool is just another example of how the Wisconsin Hospital Association Information Center is using existing data in better and more meaningful ways," said WHAIC Vice President Jennifer Mueller.

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hearing from hospital representatives who expressed concerns regarding care capacity, especially for complicated births. WHA President and CEO Eric Borgerding led a conversation with Rep. VanderMeer regarding WHA’s engagement with both federal and state officials to share information from the state’s hospitals as they care for Afghan refugee needs that exceed any capacity that might exist at Fort McCoy.

Tia Meyer, operations administrator at Mayo Clinic Health System in La Crosse, discussed challenges her system’s hospitals are experiencing right now with discharging patients due to lack of nursing home capabilities, unnecessarily long insurance prior authorization and delays in county guardianship processes—in one instance causing a patient to have his discharge delayed by 55 days. Meyer talked about the impact these delays have on patients and providers alike.

Policy agenda filled with proactive solutions to address key challenges

WHA’s plate remains full going into the fall legislative session, driven by member concerns on various issues impacting patient access to care, provider licensure, insurance-related burden and general hospital operations. WHA Senior Vice President of Public Policy Joanne Alig and Senior Vice President of Government Relations Kyle O’Brien led a discussion with council members regarding significant patient safety concerns being expressed by WHA members related to an insurance process called “white bagging.” According to a recent report, 83% of hospitals surveyed said that specialty medications delivered to them for patient administration through this process did not arrive on time, and another 66% of hospitals said that they have received the wrong dose.

In addition, WHA Policy Counsel Laura Leitch discussed challenges heard from WHA’s Post-Acute Care Workgroup members regarding discharge delays related to the guardianship process in Wisconsin. Leitch discussed potential policy solutions that could help ensure patients receive the right care in the most appropriate care setting.

Finally, WHA Senior Vice President of Workforce and Clinical Practice Ann Zenk discussed recurring challenges that hospitals continue to experience related to processes for health care providers seeking to become newly licensed in Wisconsin. Zenk highlighted recent interactions and communications with the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (DPS) that have resulted in a new commitment by the department to prioritize health care provider licenses.

Zenk then outlined the strategies WHA is pursuing to sustain the long-term strength of the state’s health care workforce, including making 2010 Wisconsin Act 10 licensure provisions more visible to applicants and employers, working with DPS on a software conversion to streamline health care licensure and creating better connection and understanding of the licensure challenges between DPS and WHA members.