

VIRTUAL

ADVOCACY DAY

March 23, 2022

In Review

WHA's Advocacy Day Gives Voice to Wisconsin Hospitals

Nearly 1,000 hospital and health system leaders, frontline workers, supporters, volunteers and stakeholders attended the WHA's 2022 Advocacy Day, held virtually on March 23, to learn from industry experts, receive updates on significant WHA initiatives and engage directly with elected leaders on issues of critical importance to health care providers and the patients they serve.



WHA President and CEO Eric Borgerding welcomed almost 1,000 virtual attendees representing nearly every hospital and health system in the state to WHA's Advocacy Day. "As we emerge from a second long year with COVID, we are cautiously optimistic for what lies ahead, and firm in our resolve to learn from this experience and take on the residual impacts and lasting challenges we still face."

WHA President and CEO Eric Borgerding welcomed attendees in a [recorded message](#) that was both reflective and optimistic. "Throughout two long years of COVID, Wisconsin hospitals and health systems have persevered and made WHA so proud to be your voice and advocate," Borgerding said, recalling that Wisconsin's health care workers had been tested like never before. "You adapted and stepped up to every new challenge with courage and professionalism, and saved thousands of lives in doing so," he added.

While audience members are undoubtedly anxious to put COVID in the rearview mirror, Borgerding cautioned, "We can't do that just yet, because there are so many opportunities to emerge stronger and better. And together, we will do just that."



925 Attendees

353 Legislator Visits

1 Unified Voice



WHA Board Chair and Prairie Ridge Health CEO John Russell emceed WHA's Advocacy Day, greeting attendees with praise for their resilience: "We coordinated, we collaborated, we tested and we vaccinated, all while caring for more patients than any of us would have previously believed we could handle."

Award Winners

2022 Advocacy All-Star Award Advocate Aurora Health



WHA presented Advocate Aurora Health with its 2022 Advocacy All-Star Award for the health system's exemplary dedication to grassroots advocacy on behalf of the state's health care providers in partnership with WHA. The award was accepted by Advocate Aurora Health President and CEO Jim Skogsbergh

2022 Health Care Advocate of the Year Award Rep. Evan Goyke (D-Milwaukee)



WHA President and CEO Eric Borgerding presents State Rep. Evan Goyke with WHA's Health Care Advocate of the Year Award in the Wisconsin State Capitol.

Featured Speakers

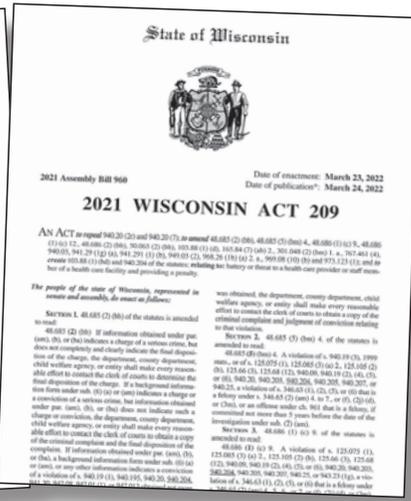
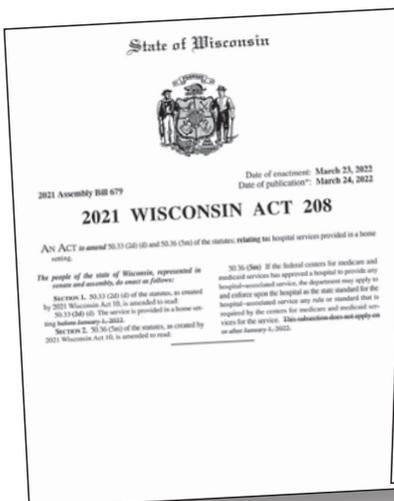


Eric Borgerding
President & CEO,
Wisconsin Hospital Association



Dr. Scott Gottlieb
Former Commissioner of the
U.S. Food and Drug Administration

In a keynote discussion about lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic and the nation's response to it with WHA President and CEO Eric Borgerding, former U.S. Food and Drug Administration Commissioner Dr. Scott Gottlieb argued that the federal government must invest in public health capacity to prepare for the next health emergency. "We're going to have to get the tools of national security more involved in our public health mission," Gottlieb said.



Gov. Evers praised hospitals and their workers for going above and beyond in their roles during the state's greatest public health crisis before announcing his signing of two important pieces of bipartisan legislation for Wisconsin hospitals and the patients they serve. Assembly Bill 960 protects Wisconsin health care workers and their families from threats and acts of violence, while Assembly Bill 679 permanently enables hospitals to deliver in-patient level care in a patient's home.



Governor Tony Evers

Legislative Panel



WHA Senior Vice President of Government Relations Kyle O'Brien hosted a legislative panel discussion focused on the vital role Wisconsin hospitals and health systems play in their communities. Participants included Wisconsin State Sen. Joan Ballweg (R-Markesan), Wisconsin State Sen. LaTonya Johnson (D-Milwaukee), Rep. Tony Kurtz (R-Wonewoc) and Rep. Evan Goyke (D-Milwaukee).

Advocacy Day Sponsors



WHA thanks the sponsors of this year's Advocacy Day, whose generous support and engagement helped us deliver value to member attendees with programming that educates, motivates and advocates for hospitals and health systems in Wisconsin.

Legislative Visits

Following the morning gathering, hospital representatives met virtually with their state senators and representatives in 33 meetings with elected leaders. They thanked lawmakers for enacting public policies that help Wisconsin hospitals, providers, staff and their patients.



Health care representatives with Sen. Devin LeMahieu, Rep. Terry Katsma, Rep. Paul Tittl and Rep. Tyler Vorpagel



Health care representatives with Sen. Pat Testin, Rep. Katrina Shankland, Rep. Nancy VanderMeer, Rep. Scott Krug (staff)



Health care representatives with Senator Jeff Smith, Rep. Jodi Emerson and Rep. Warren Petryk



Health care representatives with Sen. Brad Pfaff (Staff), Rep. Loren Oldenburg, Rep. Jill Billings (Staff) and Rep. Steve Doyle (Staff)

Stay Informed



WHA's Hospitals Education and Advocacy Team (HEAT) is a statewide network designed to facilitate grassroots involvement in

health care policy. The HEAT program provides members with information, strategy and assistance to share their perspectives on legislative issues that impact hospitals and the communities they serve. Sign up for HEAT alerts at www.wha.org/actioncenter.

