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## WHA Praises Grant Program Addressing Wisconsin Physician Shortage

***Estimated 133 additional physicians enrolled in WI-based residency programs by July 2020***

As the population ages and demand for health care continues to grow, new data from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) shows Wisconsin's Graduate Medical Education (GME) Program is gaining traction in heading off a projected Wisconsin primary care physician shortage.

By 2030, Wisconsin's population over the age of 65 is expected to double, increasing demand for primary care physician services. At the same time, almost 400 physicians per year leave the practice of medicine or reduce their hours in preparation for retirement. A 2011 study by the Wisconsin Hospital Association (WHA) predicted a shortfall in Wisconsin of over 2,000 physicians by 2030 and recommended increasing Wisconsin-based physician post-graduate training programs (GME) to help address the gap.

Today, a \$13 million grant program championed by WHA and enacted with bipartisan support from Gov. Scott Walker and the Legislature has led to the creation of 10 new Wisconsin GME programs and the expansion of nine existing programs. Hospitals provide dollar-for-dollar matching funding for the program and as a result, more primary care physicians will be ready to practice in Wisconsin this spring, and estimates show there will be up to 133 additional physicians enrolled in Wisconsin-based residency programs by July 2020.

WHA worked with the Legislature to secure additional funding for the program, which is proving a successful part of Wisconsin's "grow our own" strategy of training more physicians who will practice in Wisconsin.

"It is rewarding to see the GME grant program, a public-private partnership crafted between Wisconsin hospitals and state policymakers, moving forward toward fulfillment of our mutual objectives of expanding the number of primary care physicians, psychiatrists and other needed physicians in Wisconsin," said Eric Borgerding, WHA president and CEO.

The same 2011 WHA study also predicted that if a medical student is from Wisconsin, attends medical school in Wisconsin and completes residency (GME) training in Wisconsin, there is an 86 percent chance they will practice medicine in Wisconsin.

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## President's Column

### Hospital Week 2018: *In Service to Others*

May 6-12 is both National Nurses Week and National Hospital Week (see [www.wha.org/wha-newsletter-4-27-2018.aspx#s9](http://www.wha.org/wha-newsletter-4-27-2018.aspx#s9)), the time each year when we recognize and appreciate those in Wisconsin who dedicate their careers to making our health care some of the best, most accessible in the country. There are more than 150,000 committed people employed in Wisconsin health care, all contributing in some way to the care of others.

We are reminded of that dedication at many times, in many ways, but no more so than on April 26, when the Wisconsin health care community was stunned by the crash of an Ascension Wisconsin Spirit Medical Transport helicopter near Hazelhurst. Three people, all members of the flight team, lost their lives. They were just a few miles from their home base, returning to Howard Young Medical Center in Woodruff after transporting a patient to Madison.

We were devastated by the news. Our thoughts and prayers remain with the crew, their families and loved ones.

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## **President's Column (Cont'd. from page 1 . . . Hospital Week 2018: *In Service to Others*)**

All of Wisconsin's dedicated caregivers, their families and those who love and support them, make sacrifices every single day to serve their fellow human beings. They devote their lives to helping people they don't know, in times of their greatest need, often putting themselves at risk for the sake of others. Each deserves recognition and our gratitude, not just during this special week, but every week and every day.

Any loss of life is difficult. When such loss comes in the course of a selfless act, in service to others, it is even harder to fathom or reconcile. It is painful, and felt far and wide. Tragedies like this remind us not only how precious life is, but how thankful we are for those who work every day to preserve it, even at the risk of their own.

The WHA team expresses its deepest sympathies to the families, loved ones and colleagues of pilot Rico Caruso, 34, Hazelhurst; crewman Klint Mitchell, 30, Watersmeet, MI; and crewman Gregory Rosenthal, 43, Mosinee.

During this special week, please keep these dedicated health care servants and their loved ones in your thoughts and prayers—and take a moment to thank someone who works in service to others in Wisconsin health care.

The Howard Young Foundation has set up a "Helping Hands" fund to benefit the families of the Ascension Wisconsin Spirit Medical Transport team. Visit [www.howardyoungfoundation.org](http://www.howardyoungfoundation.org) to make a donation. You may also mail donations to the Howard Young Foundation, PO Box 470, Woodruff, WI, 54568 (make checks payable to Howard Young Foundation – Spirit).

Eric Borgerding  
President/CEO

## **Dean Lobb of Marquette School of Dentistry Meets with WHA Work Group** *Discuss serving dental patients with special needs*



*L to R: Laura Rose, WHA Vice President, Policy Development; William Lobb, DDS, Dean, Marquette School of Dentistry; Mary Czech-Mrochinski, Associate VP, Public Affairs, Marquette University*

Dental access is an issue at the forefront of health care, and this access can be most problematic for dental patients with special needs. In some cases, dentists may have to provide care in a hospital operating room under general anesthesia when a special needs patient presents with complex treatment needs. Appropriate training in special needs dentistry is key for dentists who want to provide this care.

Dr. William Lobb, DDS, Dean of the Marquette University School of Dentistry (MUSOD), met with WHA's Special Needs Dental Patients Work Group on Friday, May 11 to discuss this issue as this is an area of great interest among current Marquette students. A priority of MUSOD is enhancing training of dental students in special needs dentistry, and Dr. Lobb noted that MUSOD is one of eight dental schools in the U.S. that has a student chapter of the Special Care Dentistry Association.

Lobb told the Work Group that Wisconsin is one of a few states that does not currently have a post-graduate General Practice Residency program, in which special needs dentistry in a hospital setting is an area of emphasis. Dr. Lobb discussed the requirements of a residency program which include sponsorship by a hospital, or an educational institution affiliated with a hospital. He expressed interest in working with WHA and other interested parties to explore establishing a residency program in Wisconsin.

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## **Continued from page 2 . . . Dean of Marquette School of Dentistry Meets with WHA Work Group**

Marquette is also working on another training initiative in special needs dentistry with Children's Hospital of Wisconsin. Work Group members Dr. Lori Barbeau, DDS, and Pam Fraser of Children's Hospital have created opportunities for Marquette dental students to observe special needs patient care in the Children's Dental Clinic. They are also developing a training curriculum for use by practicing dentists who want to learn techniques for treating patients with special needs.

WHA's Work Group concluded its meeting by discussing funding issues, especially regarding Medicaid reimbursement for dental procedures. The Medicaid program reimburses dental care based on the type of procedure, regardless of how much time the procedure takes. With special needs patients, routine procedures can take much longer than average, but this extra time is not accounted for in the reimbursement formula. Within the next few months, WHA's Work Group will be developing proposals to address these and other issues affecting patients with special needs.

## **Member News: Mayo Clinic Health System Expands Psychiatry Residencies in NW Wisconsin**

Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker and state lawmakers joined leaders from Mayo Clinic Health System May 8 to announce the expansion of Mayo's psychiatry residency program in northwest Wisconsin. This expansion will include two new residents per training year, which may result in as many as eight new practicing clinicians in Eau Claire at one time.

"Across the nation, there is significant need for more psychiatric care providers. It is a critically important area of health care," said Richard Helmers, MD, regional vice president of Mayo Clinic Health System in northwest Wisconsin. "Increasing access to mental health care is vitally important to our patients and the overall health of the communities we live in."

Also this week, WHA sent out a press release announcing new data from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) Graduate Medical Education (GME) Program. The release stated that this program, initiated by WHA and championed by Gov. Walker and the state Legislature, will fund 133 additional Wisconsin-based residencies by July 2020. (To read more about the announcement, see story on page 1.)

## **Member News: Child & Adolescent Psychiatry Hospital to Grow Facility, Programs**

UnityPoint Health® – Meriter® announced it will invest more than \$11 million to improve behavioral health services aimed at children and teens in the region. The organization plans to add 10 inpatient beds to the UnityPoint Health – Meriter – Child & Adolescent Psychiatry Hospital, as well as critical outpatient services for kids and teens. The expansion is anticipated to open in fall 2019. Meriter will move ahead on the project as it works in partnership with UW Health to fully assess community needs.

The current hospital has 20 inpatient beds and turns away hundreds of children during the school year due to the lack of available beds. Meriter intends to improve the functionality of existing space by assigning its current 20 beds to adolescent care and adding 10 new beds specifically for children. It also plans to add key outpatient services in a new wing that can accommodate full-day and partial-day treatment programs for this same patient population, as well as provide evening community space.

Meriter plans to break ground for the expansion, which will double the footprint of its current site on the southwest side of Madison in fall 2018.

## Fast Facts from the WHA Information Center

### May is Mental Health Awareness Month

This month focuses on information that will encourage positive actions and protective measures for one's own mental health and whole-body health.



The WHA Information Center has provided some information from 2017 regarding mental health in Wisconsin. Unless specified below, WHA Information Center reviewed inpatient, observation and emergency department visits.

- Number of ER visits where mental health was the reason for the visit: 68,724 (3.7%)
- Average length of stay for inpatient mental health disorders (includes acute care and psychiatric care facilities and units): 7.9 days
- Percentage of visits for 13-18 year olds where mental health disorders were the reason for the visit or admission: 11.2%
- Percentage of adult visits and admissions where a diagnosis of schizophrenia or bipolar disorder was present: 0.9%
- Number of visits or admissions classified with substance dependence or abuse: 45,849 (1.8%)

*Data provided by the WHA Information Center (WHAIC). WHAIC ([www.whainfocenter.com](http://www.whainfocenter.com)) is dedicated to collecting, analyzing and disseminating complete, accurate and timely data and reports about charges, utilization, quality and efficiency provided by Wisconsin hospitals, ambulatory surgery centers and other health care providers.*

## Political Action Spotlight

### Will You Be on the First Contributor List for 2018?

#### ***Contribute to the Wisconsin Hospitals State PAC & Conduit before May 25***

The 2018 Wisconsin Hospitals State PAC & Conduit campaign is revving up to full gear. To date almost \$88,000 has been raised from 88 contributors. Is your name among them? Help the 2018 Wisconsin Hospitals State PAC and Conduit campaign rocket past the \$100,000 mark with your contribution. Make your contribution before May 25 to be included on our first contributor listing which will be published in the May 25 edition of WHA's *Valued Voice* newsletter.

The Wisconsin Hospitals State PAC and Conduit campaign 2018 goal is to raise \$312,500. "Participating in elections is fundamental to our democracy," said WHA President/CEO Eric Borgerding. "Just like voting, supporting the campaigns of candidates that help craft and carry forward good health care policy is another way those of us in the health care industry can engage in our democratic process, and the best way to do that is through a personal contribution to the Wisconsin Hospitals PAC and Conduit."

Supporting candidates to serve in Wisconsin's Capitol who understand the importance of health care to our state is a critical component of WHA's three-pronged advocacy approach. Please help lay the groundwork for success by contributing to the Wisconsin Hospitals State PAC and Conduit today. Contribute easily online at [www.whconduit.com](http://www.whconduit.com) or contact Kari Hofer, WHA vice president, advocacy, at 608-268-1816 or [khofer@wha.org](mailto:khofer@wha.org).

## Register Today for 2018 Wisconsin Rural Health Conference: June 27-29

Plan now to attend the 2018 Wisconsin Rural Health Conference, June 27-29, at The Osthoff Resort in Elkhart Lake. This annual event is the statewide forum for examining the issues that impact small and rural hospitals most, networking and collaborating with colleagues and bonding with your team of senior staff and members of your hospital board of trustees.

This year's agenda includes a variety of breakout sessions to give attendees the opportunity to examine and discuss models changing the delivery of and access to rural health care, public policy issues affecting rural health care and ways in which data and technology are improving health care for rural populations.

The conference will include the popular education track focused on governance issues, including new ways for boards to approach strategic planning, essential components for a successful and sustainable hospital foundation, and understanding some of the future reimbursement models that will impact hospitals.

Make attendance at this year's conference a priority by registering today. A full agenda and online registration are available at [www.cvent.com/d/3gqkxj](http://www.cvent.com/d/3gqkxj).

### Continued from page 1 . . . WHA Praises Grant Program Addressing WI Physician Shortage

"The bottom line is more medical students completing their graduate training in Wisconsin means more physicians practicing in Wisconsin, and in critically needed specialties," Borgerding said. "These matching grants are a textbook example of identifying a problem and then working with hospitals, health systems, medical schools, physician leaders, state agencies and elected officials to craft solutions."

Since the inception of the DHS GME grant program in 2013, three-year grants were awarded to support development of new GME programs at:

- Ascension St. Michael's Hospital, Stevens Point – Family Medicine
- Health Sisters Health System (HSBS) St. Mary's Hospital Medical Center, Green Bay – Family Medicine
- The Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwaukee – Addiction Psychiatry Fellowship
- Gundersen Medical Foundation, La Crosse – Family Medicine
- Monroe Clinic, Monroe – Family Medicine
- The Medical College of Wisconsin, Wausau/Central Wisconsin – Psychiatry
- The Medical College of Wisconsin, Green Bay/Northeast Wisconsin – Psychiatry
- University of Wisconsin, Madison – General Surgery
- Mayo Clinic Health System, Northwest Wisconsin - Family Medicine
- Health Partners, St. Croix Valley – Family Medicine

Existing accredited GME programs receiving new funding for new resident positions for the length of the residency are:

- Gundersen Lutheran Medical Center Family Medicine Resident Training Program
- SSM Health Monroe Clinic Hospital Rural Family Medicine Resident Training Program
- University of Wisconsin-Madison Addiction Medicine Fellowship Program
- University of Wisconsin-Madison Psychiatry Resident Training Program (initial & continuation grants)
- St. Mary's Hospital/University of Wisconsin Family Medicine Resident Training Program
- ThedaCare Regional Medical Center/The Medical College of Wisconsin, Fox Valley Family Medicine Training Program (initial and continuation grants)
- Gundersen Lutheran Medical Center General Surgery Resident Training Program
- University of Wisconsin-Madison General Surgery Resident Training Program
- The Medical College of Wisconsin General Surgery Resident Training Program

For additional information about the DHS GME Grant Program, contact Ann Zenk, WHA vice president, workforce and clinical practice, at [azenk@wha.org](mailto:azenk@wha.org).