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EDUCATIONAL EVENTS

Starting January 2019
Health Care Workforce Resilience
 Free Member Webinar Series

March 15, 2019
Physician Leadership Development Conference
 Kohler, WI

April 17, 2019
Advocacy Day
 Madison, WI

PRESIDENT’S COLUMN: THE PEAK IS NEVER PASSED

As we close the books on another eventful and successful year, I first and foremost want to thank our members for their tremendous support of WHA and our work. We are truly honored to be the voice of some of the consistently best performing hospitals and health systems in the nation. Our partnership remains strong and has never been more important as we navigate, together, the ongoing twists and turns of health care.

Uncertainty, perpetuated largely by inability to coalesce around health care policy, has become the norm today. A sharply divided President and Congress in Washington, D.C., a seemingly as divided Governor and Legislature in Wisconsin and now a third lawsuit threatening to overturn *every single aspect* of the Affordable Care Act, with nothing in its place, assure this environment will persist in 2019 and beyond. Amidst this ongoing turmoil, some things have remained steady and consistent: the quality of Wisconsin health care and the role, relevance and reach of WHA.

Once again, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) ranked Wisconsin health care as some of the very best. According to the AHRQ, in 2018 our state had the 4th best health care in the country, and 1st in the Midwest. Since AHRQ began issuing rankings, Wisconsin has been in the top four 10 of 12 years, ranking first in the nation in 2006, 2008, and 2017 and second in 2007, 2009, 2011, and 2015. We stand on these achievements while reaching even higher, because quality care results in better outcomes for patients and ultimately improved value for Wisconsin employers. *(continued on page 3)*

EVERS ADMINISTRATION ANNOUNCES NEW DHS SECRETARY

Today, Governor-elect Evers announced that Andrea Palm, a former top official at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) under President Obama’s administration, has been named Wisconsin’s new DHS Secretary. She will oversee DHS’ \$12 billion annual budget, which includes the state’s Medicaid and other public benefits programs.



Andrea Palm

Palm served as Senior Counselor to the HHS Secretary from 2014-2017, implementing the Affordable Care Act and launching the first open enrollment for the Health Insurance Marketplace. Prior to joining the Obama administration, Palm worked five years as a health policy adviser to then-U.S. Senator Hillary Clinton.

“Wisconsin is known for its consistently nation-leading quality health care, due in large measure to the hospitals, health systems, dedicated caregivers and health care professionals in this state,” said WHA President/CEO Eric Borgerding. “We have accomplished much, have much more to do, and look forward to meeting Secretary- *(continued on page 2)*

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Designate Palm and working with the Evers administration and the Legislature to preserve Wisconsin's top-quality care, sustain the health insurance coverage gains we have made over the past four years and assure that those who gain coverage also have access to care."

Palm's appointment must be confirmed by the Senate.

REGISTER TODAY: PHYSICIAN LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

Early Bird Discount Expires January 31

As physician leaders continue to move beyond their clinical training, they have the need to focus on employing a new approach to managerial decision making and problem solving. To assist with this transition, WHA will host its 14th annual "Physician Leadership Development Conference" Friday, March 15 and Saturday, March 16, 2019 at The American Club in Kohler. We encourage you to consider which of your physician leaders would benefit from further developing or enhancing their leadership skills, invite them to attend and encourage them to [register today](#).



An early bird discount is available until January 31, and the special room rate at The American Club is only available until the room block fills, which it does quickly each year, so plan to register and make your hotel reservations today. You can view the full 2019 conference agenda and [register online](#).

FEBRUARY 11 WEBINAR TO FOCUS ON MEDICATION ASSISTED TREATMENT IN WISCONSIN



On February 11, WHA is offering a complimentary webinar to members, "Buprenorphine 101: Demystifying Medication Assisted Treatment in Wisconsin." This program will provide an introduction to the evolving role of primary care physicians, emergency physicians, advanced practice providers, and nurses in prescribing and administering buprenorphine medication assisted treatment (MAT) for opioid use disorder. This webinar does not

qualify attendees for an X-waiver, but rather, it is an introduction to the X-waiver process and the content one needs to know to either be or support an X-waivered provider. [Registration is now open](#).

This session will be presented by Robert Redwood, MD, MPH. Dr. Redwood is WHA's physician improvement advisor and works full time as an emergency and preventive medicine physician at Divine Savior Hospital in Portage. It is designed for primary care or emergency medicine physicians, advanced practice providers and nurses, as well as any clinician or care coordinator who sees patients with substance abuse disorders. WHA members are encouraged to pass registration information for this webinar along to the appropriate personnel in their organizations.

The webinar is scheduled for Monday, February 11, from 12:00 -1:00 pm. This WHA Member Forum is complimentary and open only to WHA hospital and corporate members, but [pre-registration is required](#) to participate. Direct registration questions to [Sherry Collins](#) or call 608-274-1820.

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For our part, WHA's priorities and agenda are more focused than ever on crafting and delivering results that enable our members to do what they do best—continue delivering top quality, high-value health care. Whether it be reforming antiquated telehealth regulations, growing and modernizing the health care workforce, working to stabilize insurance markets, fighting for fair reimbursement from government health care programs, forging new partnerships with business leaders or expanding data and analytics to improve care, 2018 has been another great example of WHA's relevant work and impactful accomplishments. One of WHA's Board members paid us the ultimate compliment when she recently wrote, "WHA is a large part of why Wisconsin is number one in health care. WHA's passion, knowledge, strategy, and support is exceptional. Please pass along my appreciation to the fantastic team for all they do for our hospitals and the people of the state who count on great health care!"

The feeling is mutual! We are privileged to represent Wisconsin's hospitals and health systems and fortunate to work with tremendous health care leaders.

WHA celebrates its 100th year in 2020, a century of health care advocacy. Over those years our purpose has been shaped by the times and circumstances, our value tested by the ability to anticipate and affect directions and outcomes. So as we wrap up a successful 2018 and, briefly, take stock of what was accomplished, we never lose focus on what can be. WHA will always be a "valued voice," but today we *advocate, advance, and lead*.

To quote my favorite lyricist, "From first to last, the peak is never passed...one moment's high, and glory rolls on by, like a streak of lightning that flashes and fades in the summer sky." Indeed. WHA never settles. We will *always* focus on what's next.

Speaking of what's next...from our team to yours, wishing you all a safe and successful 2019!

Eric Borgerding,
President/CEO

To receive a copy of WHA's 2018 Annual Report, contact [Sherry Collins](#) at 608-274-1820.