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**WHA Board Approves 2019 Goals, Discusses Quality Initiatives, and Learns More About Upcoming Budget Session from Rep. Nygren**

WHA's new Board Chair, Damond Boatwright, SSM Health Care of Wisconsin's Regional President of Operations, kicked off the first board meeting of 2019 by thanking his predecessor, Bob Van Meeteren, President of the Reedsburg Area Medical Center. Boatwright also expressed his thoughts on his new role as chair.



At table, L to R: WHA President/CEO Eric Borgerding; WHA 2019 Board Chair Damond Boatwright; Daniel Meyer, President, Aurora BayCare Medical Center; Cathy Jacobson, President/CEO, Froedtert Health; John Russell, President/CEO Columbus Community Hospital; Kathryn Woodward, Administrative Fellow, SSM Health Wisconsin, Inc.

“We are guaranteed wonderful quality and great outcomes due to representation in our room—both WHA staff and the colleagues around this table,” said Boatwright. “I am humbled and honored to be in this seat today.” *(continued on page 3)*

**EDUCATIONAL EVENTS**

**Throughout 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

**Physician Engagement is Focus of 2019 WHA Physician Leader Conference**

There's still time to identify an up-and-coming physician leader from your organization and invite him or her to the annual WHA Physician Leadership Development Conference at The American Club in Kohler. This year's conference will be held March 15-16, and [registration is still open](#).



This year's agenda will focus on strategies to gain physician buy-in for change, to successfully communicate organizational vision and goals, to build trust and confidence among stakeholders, and to identify group dynamics and engage staff in decision making.

Sessions in the traditional physician leadership development track will be presented by Stephen Beeson, MD, and Michael Guthrie, MD, both nationally recognized faculty *(continued on page 2)*

from the American Association for Physician Leadership (AAPL). Both will discuss important and practical leadership skills that help physician leaders move beyond their clinical training and take a new approach to managerial decision making and problem solving.

Over the past 13 years, WHA has hosted nearly 2,000 physician leaders at the annual WHA Physician Leadership Development Conference, to assist members in providing the necessary education to new physician leaders and those identified as having leadership potential. Make sure your new physician leaders have the opportunity to attend by [registering them today](#).

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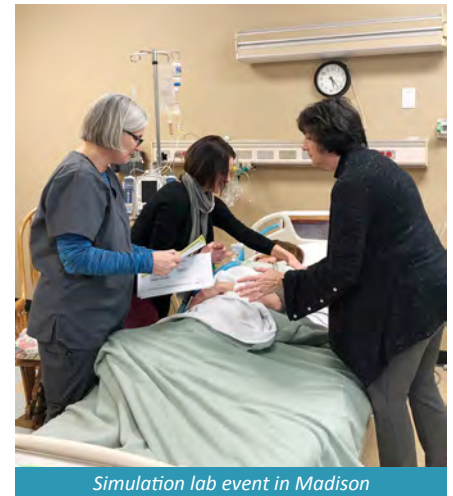
## WHA Offers Free Simulation Training: Ventilator-Associated Events

WHA is currently a partner in the Great Lakes Partners for Patients, an important collaboration that involves the Michigan Hospital & Health Association and the Illinois Hospital Association. Together, we continue efforts to improve patient safety and quality as part of a Hospital Improvement Innovation Network (HIIN). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) awards funding to HIINs for quality improvement efforts.

Over the past two years, the Great Lakes Partners for Patients HIIN has focused on reducing preventable readmissions by 12% and hospital-acquired harm by 20%. However, ventilator-associated events (VAEs) have not declined during that time, which has prompted CMS to include them as an area of focus for hospitals.

**To help support organizations improve patient outcomes, WHA is offering free simulation lab event training for ICU teams to review and practice strategies to prevent VAEs.**

- Participants will review best practices and tools that can be incorporated into patient care with minimal disruption, and the lab portion allows attendees to practice new strategies.
- A hands-on, true to life experience with an extensive collection of progressive medical equipment, simulator manikins, and trainers will be used. Equipment is carefully selected to closely replicate treating an actual procedure, injury or condition.
- Front line and management staff better understand and incorporate new skills into practice.
- Respiratory therapists, education coordinators, infection preventionists, nurses and other clinical leaders will learn how to improve their current processes and focus on reducing patient harm across all settings.



WHA is partnering with subject matter expert Pat Posa and two Wisconsin simulation centers to immerse participants in high-definition clinical scenarios. The Gundersen Health Center Integrated Center for Education (ICE House) and the Center for Healthcare Education and Simulation (CHES) venues provide multi-modal education focused on VAE and Critical Care.

Pat Posa, RN, MSA, CCRN-K, FAAN, is a recognized subject matter expert in improving care for ventilator-dependent patients, and leads simulation events for the Great Lakes Partners for Patients participant hospitals

The first session was provided at CHES last week, and feedback from the 13 organizations represented included, “I am so glad I came today!” and “I am going to take this back not just to our ICU, but across the organization, as we should be doing these assessments on all units.”

**Join us for the next training March 4 in La Crosse. [Register now](#).**

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## WHA Foundation Simulation Training Scholarship Deadline March 1



The WHA Foundation scholarship application process is currently open for hospital teams that want to participate in high fidelity clinical simulation training as a way to experience infrequently encountered clinical scenarios, as well as practice and improve team communication.

Up to 20 teams will be selected to participate in clinical simulation training, choosing from stroke, OB or severe sepsis/septic shock scenarios. The application deadline is 5:00 pm on March 1, 2019.

- Visit the [WHA Foundation webpage](#) for complete information on scholarship eligibility and criteria.
- To apply for a scholarship, visit: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/19SimScholarship>.
- Contact [Jennifer Frank](#) with any questions.

## Register for 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 and managers April 24-26 at The Glacier Canyon Lodge at the Wilderness Resort in Wisconsin Dells.



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.

Throughout the conference, you 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 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.

More information about the program is available [online](#). For registration questions, contact [Sherry Collins](#) at 608-274-1820.

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*WHA Board Approves 2019 Goals, Discusses Quality Initiatives, and Learns More About Upcoming Budget Session from Rep. Nygren . . . Continued from page 1*

### Stephen F. Brenton Health Policy Scholar Award



Emily Hoffmann  
Capodarco

The Board then welcomed guest Emily Hoffmann Capodarco, who is the 2018 Stephen F. Brenton Health Policy Scholar Award recipient. The endowed \$8,000/year scholarship was created by WHA, in conjunction with the UW Foundation, to honor former WHA President and CEO Steve Brenton by helping prepare the next generation of Wisconsin health care leaders. Hoffmann Capodarco is double majoring in law and public affairs at UW-Madison. She said she is drawn to the dual track of policy and law because it is fascinating to look at the health care industry from both sides.

Hoffmann Capodarco thanked WHA and the Board for its support, noting that both her parents were physicians, so she appreciates how health care plays a crucial role in the community.

“We respect and care for our communities. Health is interrelated to all other aspects of life—it’s a crucial foundation and springboard for everything else in our lives,” said Hoffmann Capodarco.

### WHA Identifies 2019 Goals and Priorities

As part of the President’s Report, Borgerding shared a comprehensive list of strategic goals for WHA and the WHA Information Center in 2019, which build upon the success and progress WHA achieved in 2018.

“Our 2019 agenda is typically robust, informed by the board and our members and capitalizes on the talent and knowledge our excellent team brings to the table,” Borgerding said. “Our annual goals focus on perennial priorities while also evolving with the dynamic health care environment. We are guided by member needs and priorities, and in doing so, WHA continues to expand its scope, relevance and impact. Developing, and then achieving, our agenda is what makes WHA one of Wisconsin’s most impactful advocacy organizations while consistently delivering value to our members.”

Key areas covered in WHA’s 2019 goals include:

- Medicaid funding, reimbursement and access to services;
- Coverage expansion and insurance market stability;
- Reforming and improving behavioral health;
- Expanding engagement with WHA member physician leaders;
- Health care workforce - growth and regulatory reform;
- Clinical performance improvement;
- Telemedicine services;
- Post-Acute Care ;
- Dental Access;
- Health IT and Emerging Technologies; and,
- Information, Analytics and Transparency.

*(continued on page 4)*



Boatwright observed, “WHA’s consistent framework is tried and true. It is enhanced with more physician engagement, is more comprehensive and robust, and is updated to reflect key issues.”

Senior Vice President of Finance and COO Brian Potter wrapped up the President’s Report by presenting 2018’s year-end financials. WHA has strong, stable finances and diversified revenue streams, which keep member dues low.

### State Advocacy Report

Borgerding then led an engaged discussion about the upcoming state legislative session, including Medicaid expansion and the state budget. Board members were briefed on the status of Medicaid today in Wisconsin, including current coverage, the projected \$300 million funding surplus in the Medicaid program and the nearly \$1.2 billion in unreimbursed hospital care that must be shifted to families and businesses. Borgerding said the debate over Medicaid expansion will revolve around money, including interest from those that want to spend hundreds of millions in Medicaid dollars on things that have nothing to do with health care, even as the program continues shifting costs to those with private insurance. Expanding and changing coverage for thousands of people who would become newly eligible for Medicaid will also be a focal point of the debate. Of the 76,000 people who would go onto Medicaid under expansion, it is estimated that 30,000 are uninsured. Another 38,000 who currently have subsidized private insurance through the ACA marketplace and 8,000 who have insurance through their employer would be moved onto Medicaid.



WHA Board Meeting - February 14, 2019

“Because of historically poor Medicaid reimbursement, cost-shifting and our already low uninsured rate and the fact that we have so many people in the expansion population already covered by private insurance, the discussion about Medicaid expansion in Wisconsin will be much different, more complicated, than it’s probably been in any other state,” Borgerding said. “Preserving Wisconsin’s coverage gains and finding ways to connect coverage to the roughly five percent of Wisconsinites that remain uninsured is a priority for WHA, and we look forward to working with policymakers to get there in a way that does not shift more costs to or increase insurance premiums for employers and families.”

### WHA Quality Improvement Initiatives

During the WHA Board Meeting, WHA Chief Quality Officer Beth Dibbert provided results from the past 26 months of quality improvement work with the Great Lakes Partners for Patients Hospital Improvement Innovation Network (HIIN). Since the beginning of the HIIN collaboration, hospitals have:

- Reduced knee surgery site infections by 34%;
- Reduced opioid-related adverse drug events by 31%; and,
- Reduced ventilator-associated complications by 29%.

Dibbert also reported that more than 97% of HIIN hospitals are now including patients when staff have change-of-shift bedside reporting.

“Engaging patients and families as an active part of the care team will be a focus of continued work for hospitals,” Dibbert said. “Effective communication is critical to healing, preventing unplanning readmissions, and overall patient and provider satisfaction.”



WHA Chief Quality Officer Beth Dibbert

The Board was informed of the impending refresh of hospital overall star ratings on Hospital Compare, as well as the publication of the hospitals that will face penalties under CMS’ Hospital-Acquired Conditions (HAC) penalty program. Wisconsin has traditionally out-performed most other states in these programs, and we predict this trend will continue.

*(continued on page 5)*

## State Representative John Nygren Shares State Budget Perspectives

Rep. John Nygren, Assembly Co-chair of the budget-writing Joint Finance Committee (JFC), visited the WHA Board to share his viewpoints on Wisconsin's upcoming budget session. In introducing Nygren, Borgerding noted that the representative has been an incredible partner of WHA, especially in the opioid, Prescription Drug Monitoring Program, and Medicaid Disproportionate Share Hospital funding arenas.

Born in Marinette and a third generation (former) insurance agent, Rep. Nygren is well-versed in the health care industry and the issues that lie ahead in the next biennial budget. Rep. Nygren spoke to the overall financial health of the state, which is projecting to have nearly \$2.4 billion in additional revenue for the 2019-21 biennium.

While being co-chair of the JFC in split government is new to Nygren, the representative said he hopes for bipartisanship in the months ahead and spoke about several of his goals during the budget session.



Rep. John Nygren



Rep. John Nygren (second from left) at WHA's Board Meeting

“We have significantly reduced our uninsured rate in Wisconsin, which leads to a healthier state overall, and we must protect those coverage gains,” Nygren said. “It’s estimated that expanding Medicaid will reduce Wisconsin’s uninsured rate by less than one percent, so we have to weigh the benefit against the cost and other impacts. I will be focusing on keeping the insurance market stable and avoiding cost shifts to Wisconsin hospitals or the taxpayers as discussions about access and coverage ensue in the months ahead.”

Rep. Nygren commended WHA for utilizing effective advocacy strategies that make it easier to support hospital and health system initiatives. While some advocacy organizations only work with legislative leadership, Nygren said WHA keeps all legislators

informed about the impact of proposed policies on patients, hospitals, and providers. He stated this “bottom-up” approach with his colleagues is a hallmark of WHA’s successful advocacy efforts over the years.