



April 23, 2020

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WHA Unveils “Thank You, Health Care Heroes” Video

Inspired by the multitude of positive messages of hope and determination WHA member hospitals and health systems have posted on their social media pages during the COVID-19 pandemic, WHA debuted a statewide “[Thank You, Health Care Heroes](#)” video on all WHA social media platforms April 22. The video is also featured on WHA’s website.



“The past few months have been a challenge,” WHA President and CEO Eric Borgerding said in a message to all WHA member leaders announcing the video. “But through it all, you have ‘leaned in,’ displaying hospitals’ strong commitment to serving the community.

“No matter the circumstances, hospitals are there every day. You are our fearless front line, and for that, we want to say thank you,” Borgerding said.

EDUCATIONAL EVENTS

April 30, 2020
Ensuring your infrastructure can support a remote workforce, telemedicine and increased patient load
 Webinar

May 5, 2020
Open Meetings in the Age of Technology
 Webinar

May 12, 2020
Resiliency Webinar: Signature Strengths at Work
 Webinar

US Senate Adds \$75 Billion to CARES Act Funding for Hospitals and Health Care Providers

The U.S. Senate agreed on April 21 to add nearly \$500 billion in additional funding for an interim coronavirus relief package. Dubbed “COVID 3.5,” the legislation was agreed to via unanimous consent in a pro-forma session, to prevent the need for the entire Senate to act on it. It is expected to gain approval soon from the U.S House of Representatives and President Donald Trump.

While most of the funding will inject additional funds into the depleted Paycheck Protection Program for small businesses, an additional \$75 billion was also added to the Public Health and Social Services Fund for hospitals and health care providers. That brings total funding for COVID relief for hospitals in this fund to \$175 billion.

WHA has been strongly advocating for additional funding targeted toward hospitals and health systems to assist them with significant losses they are facing after heeding the CDC’s and U.S. Surgeon General’s recommendations in mid-March to pause

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elective surgeries and medical procedures. Wisconsin hospitals are estimated to be losing \$265 million per week in operating revenue due to following this guidance. WHA has advocated that states receive this funding proportionally based on the amount of the U.S. population they serve to ensure states like Wisconsin are not shortchanged.

While the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services had previously distributed \$30 billion from this pot based on a Medicare fee-for-service formula, they acknowledged on April 22 that this had been done only to get revenues out as quickly as possible. HHS also said that they would be rebasing those payments along with another \$20 billion in payments to health care providers, so that providers would see payments from this \$50 billion pot based on their percent of overall net operating revenue. HHS also announced additional distributions that would soon be coming from the CARES Act, including:

- \$10 billion for hospitals and providers based on their share of COVID patients treated as of April 10.
- \$10 billion for rural hospitals.
- An unknown amount that would be used to pay providers Medicare rates for treating uninsured COVID patients.
- Future amounts for additional providers such as nursing homes, dentists, and Medicaid-only providers.

While it is unclear how the additional \$75 billion will be distributed, HHS said in a call on April 22 that they intend to base all distributions going forward on the principles of getting payments out quickly in a fair, equitable and transparent manner. WHA will continue advocating to Wisconsin's Congressional Delegation and the Trump administration that future distribution formulas take into consideration impacts on Wisconsin.

Attention! COVID-19 Resources for Hospitals

Many local organizations want to help you and your hospital through this difficult and challenging time. Please reference the [Hospital Member Resources](#) document on the WHA website for various resources and information.

THANK YOU WHA Corporate Members!

WHA is proud to highlight our valuable corporate members who have donated supplies, services and informational resources to Wisconsin hospitals during the COVID-19 pandemic. Reference the [Corporate Member Giving](#) document to see all the great work that has been done.

Note: If you are a corporate member and do not see your giving listed, please email [Leigh Ann Larson](#) with your donation and it will be added to the document.

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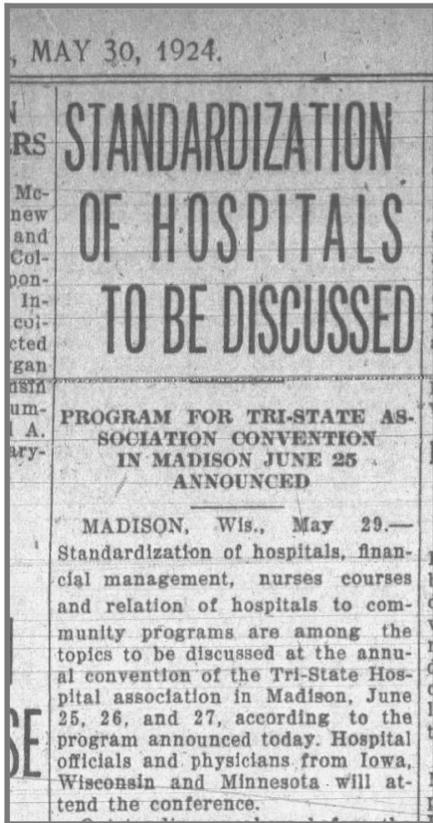


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Tri-State Hospital Assembly – A History of Collaboration with Other States



Eau Claire Leader Telegram -
May 30, 1924

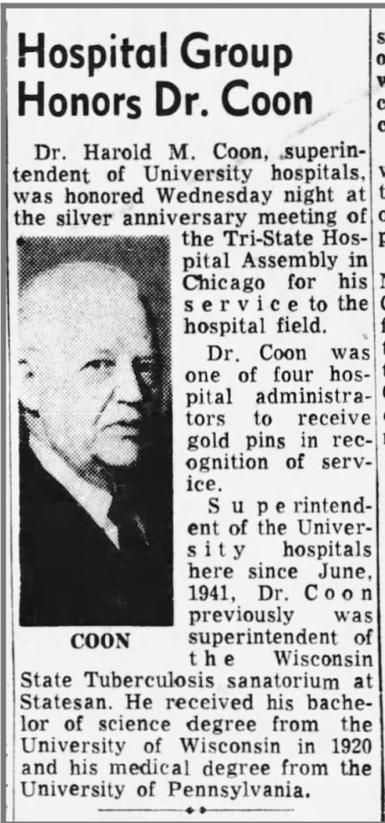


Capital Times, Madison -
April 25, 1956
26th annual meeting

In articles and documents from the early decades of the association, the “Tri-State Hospital Assembly” is mentioned often. From the beginning, WHA’s leaders saw the benefit of collaborating with other state hospital associations in order to maximize members’ ability to provide their communities with high-quality care.

The Tri-State Hospital Assembly officially began in 1930 – although there is an article from 1924 that indicates it also met before that in some capacity.

Through the years Wisconsin has collaborated with many other states; WHA has always worked in the best interests of Wisconsin’s hospitals and the patients they serve. That kind of commitment continues 100 years later.



WI State Journal - 1955
Silver anniversary



Wis. Rapids Daily Tribune -
April 27, 1967
37th annual meeting