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WHA Hosts Governor's Council on Workforce Investment

The Governor's Council on Workforce Investment (CWI) held their most recent meeting on Nov. 17 at the Wisconsin Hospital Association (WHA) offices. Council member Ann Zenk, WHA senior vice president of workforce and clinical practice, provided an update on the challenges facing health care and the health care workforce, as well as the data-driven solutions WHA and their partners in education, government and industry are undertaking to overcome these challenges.



The Governor's Council on Workforce Investment met at WHA Nov. 17, 2026.

CWI brings together business leaders, state legislators, local elected officials, representatives from educational institutions and other key stakeholders to collaborate on solutions that will support employers in finding the skilled workers they need and connect workers and job seekers to the training that will prepare them to succeed in high-demand industries.

The council members were appreciative of Zenk's presentation, and WHA's annual Workforce Report, noting that while every industry is facing a similarly challenging environment, the health care workforce has the added challenge of meeting the ever-increasing demands of an aging population. CWI members also noted the pressures in their businesses caused by health care costs. As one member put it, "Our costs for health care for our employees are increasing, but we see the financial pressure hospitals are under; where is that money going?"

Zenk shared WHA's workforce recommendations to sustain Wisconsin's health care workforce and high-quality care, noting, "It's unlikely our shrinking available workforce can grow fast enough to keep pace with the health care needs of an aging population, so we need to make sure we grow the right teams, allow them to work to their full potential, support them with the right technology and relieve them of unnecessary work wherever we can."

The WHA presentation sparked conversation from group members about the importance of partnerships and learning from each other. The Governor's Council on Workforce Investment meets quarterly. You can find more information and resources on the CWI webpage.

Reach out to WHA's Ann Zenk for questions about CWI or any other workforce issue.

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EDUCATION EVENTS

Dec. 1, 2026
Fall 2026 Annual Survey Training

Dec. 3, 2026
Fall 2026 Annual Survey Training

Jan. 26, 2027
2027 WHA Health Care Leadership Academy