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Thursday, Feb. 25, 2021

Today's headlines:

- [Gov. Reynolds, legislators highlight 2021 Hospital Day on the Hill](#)
- [IHA issues two state action alerts](#)
- [ServiShare partner spotlight – Medical Solutions helps hospitals quickly find and hire the right clinicians](#)
- [Homeland Security offers threat and infrastructure protection services to hospitals](#)

Gov. Reynolds, legislators highlight 2021 Hospital Day on the Hill

Gov. Kim Reynolds and a panel of state legislators were featured at IHA's first virtual Hospital Day on the Hill Wednesday, Feb. 24. The event was hosted by IHA Board Chair Jason Harrington, president and CEO, Lakes Regional Healthcare, Spirit Lake.

The panel of Iowa legislators shared their insights about the health care issues rising to the top in

2021. Advocates were given the opportunity to engage with legislators directly as they responded to questions.

Participating on the panel were:

- Rep. Michael Bergan, Winneshiek County.
- Sen. Jeff Edler, Marshall County.
- Rep. John Forbes, Polk County.
- Sen. Liz Mathis, Linn County.
- Rep. Ann Meyer, Webster County.
- Sen. Amanda Ragan, Cerro Gordo County.
- Rep. Beth Wessel-Kroeschell, Story County.

A discussion between IHA President/CEO Kirk Norris and Tom Nickels, executive vice president for government relations and public policy for the American Hospital Association, focused on health care advocacy, policy and regulations. The session was moderated by Dave Price, political director and news anchor for NBC affiliate WHO-TV in Des Moines.

Members of the IHA advocacy team also reviewed the key legislative actions important to Iowa hospitals this year and shared information for successfully reaching out to legislators.

For more information about how to be involved as a hospital advocate, email any member of the IHA Government Relations team:

- [Maureen Keehnle](#), Senior Vice President and General Counsel
- [Kimberly Murphy](#), Vice President, Government Relations and Assistant General Counsel
- [Susan Horras](#), Vice President of Finance Policy
- [Jennifer Nutt](#), Vice President, Nursing and Clinical Services
- [Nicole Proesch](#), Vice President, Government Relations & Legal Counsel
- [Erin Cubit](#), Senior Director, Government Relations
- [Rachel Sigler](#), Administrative Support, Government Relations

IHA issues two state action alerts

IHA has issued two action alerts on the topics of telehealth payment parity and medical malpractice reform:

- During the first week of session, [legislation was introduced in the House](#) that would require health carriers to reimburse health care providers for mental health services provided through telehealth in the same manner and at the same rate as if the service were provided in person. This legislation is eligible to be voted on by the House, then go to the Senate for review. Senators need to understand the importance of telehealth payment parity. Click [HERE](#) to take action. After reaching out to your senator, please share any responses with [Erin Cubit](#) at IHA.
- Last week, legislators in the Iowa House introduced legislation related to [noneconomic damage awards against health care providers](#). Noneconomic damages are ones in which there is not a specific price on the outcome. Examples of these damages include pain, suffering, inconvenience, physical impairment and mental anguish. These damages drive up the cost of health care and put a significant financial strain on facilities, particularly in rural areas. This legislation puts a hard cap on noneconomic damages for personal injury or death of \$1 million for any occurrence. Because this legislation is eligible for floor debate, now is the time to reach out to representatives to ensure they hear the hospital perspective and are encouraged to keep the legislation moving. Click [HERE](#) to take action. After reaching out to your representative, please share any responses with [Nicole Proesch](#) at IHA.

Feel free to use [IHA's Advocacy Toolkit](#) if you need additional resources.



ServiShare partner spotlight – Medical Solutions helps hospitals quickly find and hire the right clinicians

Since 2001, ServiShare partner [Medical Solutions](#) has been successfully staffing facilities with skilled health care professionals. Their 97% traveler assignment completion rate is well above the industry standard of 83%.

Their group of 23 nurses, each with 12+ years of clinical experience, meets with unit managers to develop a thorough understanding of hiring expectations, technical requirements and cultural values. This clinical team also will prescreen, interview and recommend clinicians. After the hiring process is complete, Medical Solutions teams remain at facilities as a resource throughout the length of contracts.

For more information, contact Courtney Dobernecker at 402-225-0483 or courtney.dobernecker@medicalsolutions.com, or Nick Hovermale at 402-570-0633 or nick.hovermale@medicalsolutions.com.



Homeland Security offers threat and infrastructure protection services to hospitals

Through their Threat Information and Infrastructure Protection Program, the Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management offers insight and services necessary for enhancing risk management and asset protection. These free services are nonregulatory and include:

- Assessments of vulnerability and threat.
- Enhanced situational awareness and shared information.
- Exercise and training facilitation and support.
- Physical security and risk management collaboration.

For more information, click [HERE](#) or email Tierney Robinson at tierney.robinson@iowa.gov.



NewsStand

Iowa news

- [Second COVID-19 vaccines could be delayed for Polk County](#)
- [Hospital leaders predict post-COVID-19 challenges](#)
- [Why it seemed positive coronavirus cases spiked in Iowa](#)

National news

- [Executives with Pfizer, Moderna say they're ramping up vaccine supplies](#)
- [Analyses show J&J's one-dose vaccine works well](#)
- [Pharmacists say 'pooling' vaccines could save thousands of doses](#)

Click [HERE](#) to read daily NewsStand postings.

Upcoming events

- [Wage Index: Strategies and Trends in Iowa](#): Thursday, Feb. 25.

- [Iowa Rehabilitation Managers Virtual Spring Conference](#): Thursday, March 4.
- [COVID-19: A Physician's Perspective](#): Thursday, March 4.
- [IHA Crisis Management Webinar Series](#): Tuesday, March 9-Tuesday, April 6.
- [Special Governance Issues for Public Hospitals](#): Wednesday, March 10
- [Common Life Safety Code Deficiencies](#): Tuesday, March 16.
- [Critical Access and Rural Hospital Forum](#): Wednesday, March 24-Thursday, March 25.
- [Iowa Association for Healthcare Quality Virtual Spring Conference](#): Tuesday, April 13-Thursday, April 15.
- [IHA Virtual Governance Forum](#): Thursday, April 22-Friday, April 23.
- [Iowa Society for Health Care Human Resources Association Virtual Spring Conference](#): Wednesday, April 28-Thursday, April 29.
- [Governance Webinar Series](#): Tuesday, May 11-Tuesday, Nov. 16.



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