

Pam Cook

From: Pam Cook
Sent: Thursday, November 21, 2024 2:18 PM
Subject: NDHA Informer 11-21-24

Importance: High

There will not be an Informer next week. The NDHA office will be closed on Thursday, November 28 and Friday, November 29 to celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday.



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INFORMER

Weekly Newsletter

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National Rural
Health Day
Celebrating the **Power of Rural!**®



The staff at NDHA would like to take this opportunity to wish all of you who work in rural health a Happy National Rural Health Day! We appreciate your dedication to the well-being of your patients and the communities you serve. Thank you for providing every rural resident access to quality and affordable healthcare. NDHA celebrates you today!

President's Message

by Tim Blasl, President, NDHA

When I became the NDHA President six years ago, I never would have guessed the major challenges our hospitals would face in just a few years. During that time, we dealt with an opioid crisis, the near-repeal of the Affordable Care Act, the COVID-19 pandemic, a troubling workforce shortage, and the strain to meet behavioral health treatment needs.

I am so proud of how our hospitals step up, work together, and do what is right for their patients and communities when difficulties arise. We will certainly have more challenges to come and, whether we like it or not, health care plays an ever-increasing role in politics. With a new President and newly elected state legislators, health policy is in flux. Elections - whether federal or state - always have consequences for the direction of health policy. To help hospitals continue to provide care, no matter what the political landscape, NDHA assists its members in several ways.

NDHA commissioned two studies to tell the story of how important our hospitals are to patients and communities. One study examines the current state of hospital care in North Dakota and identifies improvement opportunities in areas such as access to care, quality, and cost to value. The other study is an economic impact analysis that shows North Dakota hospitals directly employ 20,549 workers and contribute \$1.7 billion in labor income. In total, our hospitals support the creation of 36,259 jobs and create \$3 billion in labor income and generate \$9.1 billion dollars for the state's economy. In order to continue caring for patients and being a major economic engine in their communities, hospitals need fair Medicaid reimbursement rates, sufficient workforce, and adequate behavioral health resources. These studies will be critical in supporting these key policy priorities during the next legislative session, which starts January 7, 2025.

During the legislative off season, NDHA monitored several interim committees. The Health Care Committee studies included Medicaid value-based care reimbursement, contract nursing agencies, and prior authorization; the Human Services Committee studies included the state's behavioral health system, expansion of FQHCs, and Medicaid reimbursement rates; and the

Health Services Committee studies included fentanyl deaths and funding and access to emergency medical services. Several NDHA members served on a newly created Health Care Task Force of stakeholders which recommended adoption of a Medicaid Expansion fact sheet to inform policy decisions; the biennial collection of state health care spending and utilization data; the formation of a Statewide Quality Collaborative to evaluate and improve care through a core set of measures for payors and providers; and funding outreach and preventive care education campaigns.

It is essential that lawmakers understand the challenges hospitals face. If you have not done so already, I encourage you to contact your state legislators and have ongoing conversations with them about the obstacles you face and why additional support is needed. Show them the amazing work that your hospital does to provide care 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Thank you for the great work that you do every day. We value your membership!



New Date for the 2025 Hospital Day at the Capitol

Tuesday, March 25, 2025

The event will be a joint venture with ND Medical Association (Physicians), ND Academy of Family Physicians, ND Emergency Medical Services Association, the ND Academy of Physician Assistants, the North Dakota Academy of Pediatrics, and the North Dakota Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons.

This is a great opportunity to connect with lawmakers on issues or specific healthcare bills, and to connect and become better acquainted with your lawmakers.

Watch for more information to come!

Midwest EMSC ED Pediatric Symposium

Linked below you will find the Midwest EMSC Symposium flyer for December 5th. This symposium is geared towards ED PECCs and will focus on providing a core understanding and implementation strategies in conducting pediatric quality improvement (QI) initiatives, including inter facility transfer processes, case reviews and multi-hospital QI projects.

[Flyer.](#)

NDHA Education Calendar

All times listed are Central time.

Keep in mind that if you register and are unable to attend a live webinar, you will receive a link of the recording as soon as it becomes available from the host.

NDHA Members: Starting October 1, 2024, your vouchers reset, and all member hospitals have 3 vouchers to use towards NDHA education until the end of September 2025. Each voucher has a value of \$225. Let me know if you have any questions.

December, 2024

EMTALA 2024: Two-part Series

Dates: Part 1 – 12/3/24; Part 2 – 12/10/24

From: 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

- [View description](#)

Free for NDHA Members:

Evolving Workforce Architecture: Constructing a Stable Foundation for Versatile Staffing

Medical Solutions

Date: 12/3/24 | From: Noon – 1:00 p.m.

- [View description](#)

Medical Solutions is a Strategic Business Partner of Hospital Services, Inc., d/b/a HSI Solutions, a subsidiary of the North Dakota Hospital Association (NDHA). Revenue share earned from Strategic Business Partner relationships helps offset the expenses of NDHA and strengthens the value of its programs.

January, 2025

Mastering Metamorphosis – Championing Change that Lasts

Date: 1/15/25 | From: 11:00 a.m. – Noon

(FYI: This webinar is presented by Molly Mackey. She presented on psychological safety at NDHA's convention last month.)

- [View description](#)

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