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Thursday, May 20, 2021

Today's headlines:

- [State legislative wins highlight Council on Representation and Advocacy meeting](#)
- [HRSA provides funding opportunities](#)
- [MercyOne offers online community resource directory](#)
- [Carreon named MercyOne chief medical executive](#)

State legislative wins highlight Council on Representation and Advocacy meeting

Anticipated victories at the Iowa Statehouse highlighted Wednesday's Council on Representation and Advocacy meeting. Tuesday night's passage of a bill that provides payment parity for telehealth mental health services was the most-recently passed legislation discussed at the council meeting. Other important health care policies still being considered by the legislature include EMS, hospital trustee elections and tort reform. The legislature is expected to adjourn this week.

Other topics at the council meeting included:

- A federal update including the No Surprises Act, American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, Medicare sequester, and the infrastructure package. In addition, the status of the Provider Relief Fund, 340B and rural emergency hospital designation was discussed.
- Non-legislative Iowa Medicaid Enterprise payment policy movement, including the emergency payment policy and days awaiting placement.
- The health and human services budget bill and Medicaid policies.
- Legislation concerning workforce, vaccine passports, vaccinations, surgical smoke and psychiatric bed tracking.
- The IHA workforce survey results and a demonstration of an AEA module that provides resources hospitals and health systems can use in their local schools to generate interest in health care careers.
- The recently formed IHA Diversity, Health Equity and Inclusion Committee.
- IHA 2021 PAC Committee report.

The council approved several interim work groups to help develop IHA's 2022 positions, including workforce/diversity/health equity/inclusion, telehealth and mental health.

Iowa Hospital Association
TEE OFF GOLF CLASSIC

Copper Creek Golf Club | Pleasant Hill

Hitting the links to forge strong, effective hospital advocacy.

HRSA provides funding opportunities

Funding opportunities open through the Health Resources and Services Administration include:

- **[Community-based Workforce for COVID-19 Vaccine Outreach grant](#)** – As part of the large [federal investment in local-level response](#) to COVID-19, HRSA will make approximately 10 awards available with total funding of \$125 million. The funding will support vaccine outreach and education and will go to public or private nonprofit organizations with demonstrated experience in public health programs across broad geographic areas. Applicants must have partnerships with health and social service organizations that can hire community outreach workers from vulnerable, medically underserved communities.
- **[National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment Programs](#)** – HRSA extended the deadline to Thursday, May 27, for each of three loan repayment programs: the [NHSC Loan Repayment Program](#), the [NHSC Substance Use Disorder Workforce Loan Repayment Program](#) and the [NHSC Rural Community Loan Repayment Program](#).
- **[Nurse Corps Scholarship Program](#)** – This program provides financial support to students enrolled in nursing degree programs in exchange for a commitment to serve in high-need areas. Up to 20% of the awards will go to nurse practitioners specializing in psychiatric mental health; up to \$5 million will go to women's health nurse practitioners, certified nurse midwife advanced practice nurses and registered nurses pursuing careers in women's health; and up to \$2 million will support unlicensed assistive personnel and those in entry-level nursing careers pursuing associate or bachelor's degrees in nursing.
- **[Rural Maternity and Obstetrics Management Strategies Program](#)** – HRSA will make three awards, each \$1 million per year for four-year projects, through this program. Recipients must be networks established by three or more separately owned entities with at least two rural hospitals. The goal of the program is to test models for improved access to care in underserved areas. Applications are due Friday, June 4.

Iowa Trauma Coordinators Virtual Conference Series

May 28 | June 4 | June 18 | June 25



MercyOne offers online community resource directory

MercyOne has launched an [online directory](#) to connect people to community resources and social programs. The resource directory gives participating organizations the ability to respond to patients interested in programs including food and housing assistance, transportation resources, health care, employment and education. Searches in the directory are confidential and provided in a secure and easy-to-use platform.

MERCYONE

Dr. Hijinio Carreon
Systemwide Chief
Medical Executive
MercyOne

Carreon named MercyOne chief medical executive

Hijinio Carreon, DO, has been named MercyOne's systemwide chief medical executive. Dr. Carreon has been part of the MercyOne organization for more than 13 years, beginning as an emergency medicine physician. He was most recently chief medical officer and vice president of medical affairs for MercyOne Central Iowa. Dr. Carreon will work closely with clinicians and medical staff members across MercyOne, including serving as the system liaison to the ministries' chief medical officers. Besides his roles at MercyOne, Dr. Carreon is co-medical director of EMS for the Mercy College of Health Sciences, emergency physician trauma surveyor for the Iowa Department of Public Health and director at large for the Iowa American College of Emergency Physicians.



NewsStand

Iowa news

- [Why long-term care facilities are working to vaccinate more staff](#)
- [Iowa may soon see fewer births than deaths](#)
- [Tax proposal, with changes to mental health funding, passes House and Senate](#)

National news

- [Can the COVID-19 vaccine protect against virus variants?](#)
- [The impending challenges of telehealth systems](#)
- [600,000 children have received their first COVID-19 vaccine dose](#)

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Upcoming events

- [Iowa Trauma Coordinators Virtual Conference Series](#): Friday, May 28-Friday, June 25.
- [IHA Tee Off Golf Classic](#): Thursday, June 3.
- [NOONS IN JUNE: A Summer Leadership Forum Virtual Series](#): Thursday, June 3-Thursday, June 24.
- [Behavioral Affiliate of Iowa Conference Series](#): Friday, June 11-Friday, July 23.
- [Hospital Regulatory Webinar Series: Swing-bed Fundamentals](#): Tuesday, June 22.

Hospital jobs site connects hospitals with qualified candidates

Are you looking for qualified health care professionals for your Iowa hospital? [HospitalCareers.com](#) can help. This website connects thousands of nurses, providers and other hospital jobseekers with Iowa hospitals each year and is a main resource for jobseekers looking for work in health care.



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