

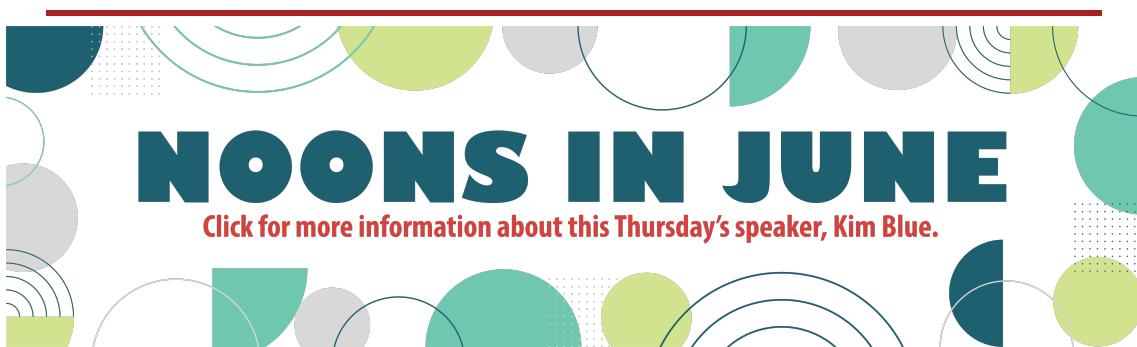
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Tuesday, June 15, 2021

## Today's headlines:

- [Thursday's Noons in June looks at organizational diversity and inclusion](#)
- [New Iowa Medicaid director shares vision with IHA board](#)
- [UnitedHealthcare will delay policy that would deny coverage for some ED visits](#)
- [OSHA updates COVID-19 precaution guidelines](#)
- [Morse stepping down as Hansen Family Hospital CEO](#)
- [Atlantic, Iowa hospital changes name](#)



### **Thursday's Noons in June looks at organizational diversity and inclusion**

This week's Noons in June session features a conversation with Zoom executive [Kim Blue](#), who will dive into intentional inclusion and being your authentic self in an organizational environment. Noons in June is scheduled from **noon-1 pm Thursday, June 17**. Click [HERE](#) to register.

Blue leads Zoom's worldwide team of human resources business partners. In this role, Blue has gained extensive experience in leading diversity and inclusion initiatives, providing her the collective understanding that inclusion allows for all perspectives to have a place at the table. That place at the table is not conditioned by an agreement of being like-minded.



### **New Iowa Medicaid director shares vision with IHA board**

Elizabeth Matney, the new director of the Iowa Medicaid program, acknowledges there is work to be done with Iowa's Medicaid program, and she's interested in working collaboratively with stakeholders.

Matney, just a couple of weeks into her new role, spoke at the IHA Board Meeting June 9. She said the department needs to become more "outcomes-oriented" and identified what she sees as some of the "lingering issues" that need addressed including maternal health and inequities in access that became even more evident this past year. The gaps in support for mental health patients also were exacerbated by the pandemic. Matney proposes using federal funds through the American Rescue Plan to address the infrastructure needs and provide step-down services for patients stuck in the emergency room or an inpatient level of care because there are no other options.

Matney reported plans to travel the state and accepted the invitation to meet with hospital leaders as part of her statewide tour. IHA government relations staff are coordinating with her office.

Before joining the governor's office in 2019 as a health care policy adviser, Matney was a deputy to former Medicaid director Mike Randol. She served as the Medicaid managed care director, coordinating with the national insurance companies the state hired to administrate benefits for most Medicaid members.

### **UnitedHealthcare will delay policy that would deny coverage for some ED visits**

After concerns raised by the AHA and other health groups, UnitedHealthcare announced it will delay until the end of the COVID-19 public health emergency its recently announced policy that would have retroactively denied coverage for emergency department claims the insurer deemed nonemergent. The policy was to take effect Thursday, July 1.

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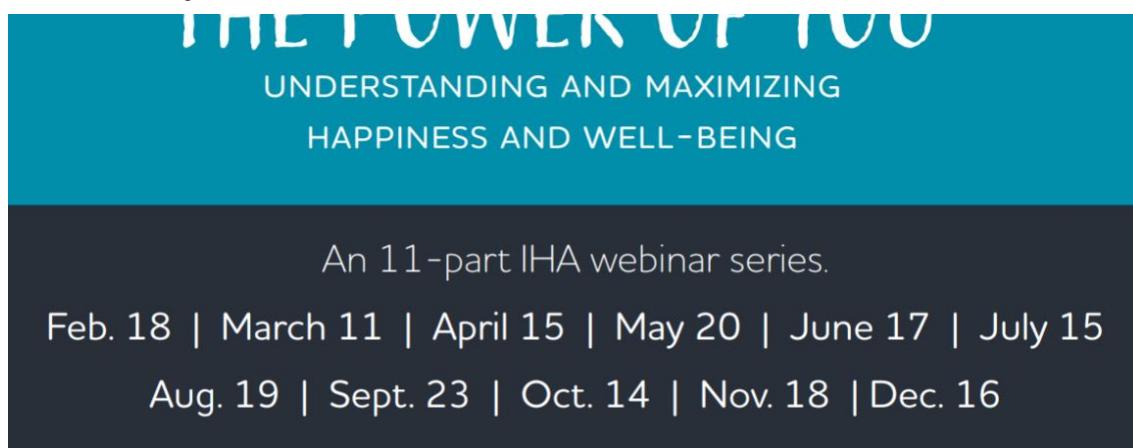
### **OSHA updates COVID-19 precaution guidelines**

Last Thursday, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration issued an emergency temporary standard for occupational exposure to COVID-19 that provides guidance for certain health care employers to use to help protect their staffs. Many of these items are ones hospitals are already doing while others may be new and need to be reviewed and implemented by hospitals. The standard exempts workplaces where all employees are fully vaccinated and people with possible COVID-19 infection are prohibited from entry. It also exempts well-defined hospital areas where there is no reasonable expectation that people with COVID-19 will be present. The key requirements of the standard include:

- Development of a COVID-19 plan.
- Patient screening and management.
- Standard and transmission-based precautions.
- Guidelines about personal protective equipment.
- Limiting employees present when providing aerosol-generating procedures on patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19.
- Physical distancing and physical barriers.
- Cleaning and disinfecting protocols.
- Ventilation requirements.
- Health screening and medical management.
- Providing reasonable time and paid leave for staff to receive vaccinations and vaccine side effects.
- Guidelines on training.
- Disclosure of anti-retaliation protections.
- COVID-19 recordkeeping.
- COVID-19 reporting requirements to OSHA.

This emergency temporary standard was released as an interim final rule and is effective immediately. Hospitals have 14 days to comply with most of the provisions in the publication and 30 days to comply with the remaining provisions. The Iowa Hospital Association is reviewing the details of this guidance and is working with the American Hospital Association to assess the impact of the changes.

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### Morse stepping down as Hansen Family Hospital CEO

Effective Thursday, July 1, Hansen Family Hospital's CEO Doug Morse will leave his position with the Iowa Falls hospital. Morse will work with the board and leadership at MercyOne North Iowa to begin the search for a new CEO. He will work as a contract employee to help the hospital transition through an interim CEO to a permanent new leader.

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### Atlantic, Iowa hospital changes name

Effective immediately, Cass County Health System in Atlantic has changed its name and will do business as Cass Health.

"Health care certainly doesn't look the same as it did when we opened in 1968, and neither does the area we serve," CEO Brett Altman said about the change. "Today, about 33% of our patients travel to Cass Health from outside of the county. As we have gotten more regional, we are no longer just a county health system."

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## NewsStand

### Iowa news

- [Iowa's COVID-19 recovery ranks fastest in nation](#)
- [New mental health resources coming for children in Polk County](#)
- [UnityPoint Health's new president and CEO is all about making a difference](#)

### National news

- [US COVID-19 cases, deaths at new lows](#)
- [Novavax offers US a fourth strong COVID-19 vaccine](#)
- [NewYork-Presbyterian, Community Health Network among latest to require employee vaccinations](#)

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

## Upcoming events

- [Hospital Regulatory Webinar Series: Swing-bed Fundamentals](#): Tuesday, June 22.
- [CPHQ Virtual Conference](#): Wednesday, July 21.
- [Iowa Quality Residency Program](#): Thursday, Oct. 21-Friday, April 8.
- [Swinging for Scholars and All-District Meeting](#): Thursday, Sept. 2.

## 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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