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Thursday, June 17, 2021

Today's headlines:

- [Telehealth parity bill signed into law](#)
- [EMS essential service language becomes law](#)
- [MercyOne announces first vice president of MercyOne Children's Hospital](#)

Telehealth parity bill signed into law

Gov. Kim Reynolds signed the tax omnibus bill, [Senate File 619](#), into law on Wednesday. Among the many provisions in the legislation are requirements for telehealth mental health services to be provided at the same rate and in the same manner as if the services were provided in person. The bill also shifts funding for mental health services from the mental health and disability services regions to the state general fund.

The telehealth provision is effective immediately and retroactive to Jan. 1, 2021, and the property tax levy going to the regions for mental health services will be phased out over a two-year period. Payment parity for telehealth and sustainable mental health funding were priorities for the Iowa Hospital Association this legislative session and the association is very pleased to see the bill signed.

IHA would like to thank Gov. Reynolds and the legislators who worked on these issues including Rep. Joel Fry (R-Osceola), Rep. Ann Meyer (R-Fort Dodge) and Sen. Dan Dawson (R-Council Bluffs). Additionally, IHA would like to extend a big thank you to the hospitals and hospital CEOs who advocated to get this legislation passed.



Gov. Kim Reynolds signs Senate File 615 into law

EMS essential service language becomes law

Gov. Kim Reynolds last week signed legislation into law that eases the process for emergency medical services to be declared an essential service. Gov. Reynolds signed [Senate File 615](#), the end-of-year standings legislation, outside of the Monticello Ambulance Service.

A county or city EMS district now can begin the process to declare EMS an essential service without a lengthy petition process to start the declaration. The declaration for counties will remain in place for 10 or 15 years depending on the size of the county.

This was one of IHA's priorities this legislative session. Further details about the language will be included in the Legislative Summary, which will be released following the deadline for all bills to be signed. Questions about this legislation can be emailed to [Erin Cubit](#) at IHA.

14th Annual IHERF Swinging for Scholars

MercyOne announces first vice president of MercyOne Children's Hospital

Dan Fink has been named vice president at MercyOne Children's Hospital. Fink previously worked as executive director of Crown Point Christian Village, and has worked in operations at Cook Children's Medical Center in Fort Worth, Texas, Riley Hospital for Children in Indianapolis, Golisano Children's Hospital of Southwest Florida and Providence Children's Hospital in El Paso, Texas.

NewsStand

Iowa news

- [Vaccine demand continues to decrease in rural Iowa](#)
- [U of I Children's Hospital No. 15 in first US News Midwest rankings](#)
- [Twitter alerts that helped Iowans find a COVID-19 vaccine is shutting down](#)

National news

- [Some patients are reporting long-COVID-19 recoveries](#)
- [US surpasses 600,000 deaths from the coronavirus](#)
- [Bill would permanently expand telehealth services](#)

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.
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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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