

“I believe there are great solutions out there that we can’t even imagine yet. But we know by putting people together who want a better future that those things can become possible. If you put like-minded people together who believe they can shape their future, who believe there are better tomorrows, we have in our hands the ability to shape a better future.”

GOVERNOR MATT MEAD

Courtesy of Jackson Hole Technology Partnership Website

Wyoming’s 32nd Governor, Matt Mead, has faithfully served Wyoming for eight years and has been a friend of the state’s citizens, industries, and physicians. His deep Wyoming roots have helped him clearly recognize the unique challenges presented by western frontier medicine. Patients seeking care in Wyoming must often contend with long distance care, transportation issues, and escalating healthcare costs amongst a variety of other real and potential obstacles. Under Governor Mead’s leadership, the unique state of Wyoming has tackled head-on these healthcare challenges by planning and supporting the development of a viable infrastructure, encouraging medical care innovation, and addressing the escalating costs of providing quality healthcare.

As a citizen advocate, Governor Mead has protected current resident interests while planning for the long-range future of the state. Governor Mead recognizes that access to a vibrant healthcare community is critical to Wyoming’s future. The governor has led the state in intentional efforts to invest in local

infrastructure that will assure local communities are equipped and able to offer quality healthcare services and facilities. This infrastructure in support of Wyoming’s workforce will surely be appreciated for years to come by both local and statewide businesses. A few highlights of Governor Mead’s interaction with healthcare during these past eight years must include his emphasis on addressing physician workforce needs, Medicaid expansion, telehealth and information technology, and spurring innovation in healthcare through the ENDOW program and the Jackson Hole Technology Partnership.

Physician Workforce

As an advocate of Wyoming physician workforce issues, Governor Mead has supported the WWAMI program since taking office. The number of medical students per class has increased during the Governor’s tenure, which will serve the future Wyoming physician workforce well. The WWAMI facility at the University of Wyoming’s Health Sciences Center in Laramie is

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completing a renovation that maximizes the use of technology to include telehealth education. This state-of-the-art facility will help medical students make the most of their educational opportunities during the first two years of medical school in partnership with the University of Washington School of Medicine. Governor Mead has also supported the Wyoming Family Medicine residency programs in Casper and Cheyenne and has advocated leveraging Wyoming medical care by capitalizing on the talent Wyoming has within our own physician community.

During his tenure, the Wyoming Department of Health has also collaborated with the physician community to improve delivery of care to Wyoming citizens. Under Governor Mead's leadership, Wyoming Medicaid has outperformed private insurance in the recognition of the importance of telehealth and reimbursement for interactions such as email and telephone communication with patients.

Medicaid Expansion

Governor Mead has a unique track record with the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and Medicaid expansion. He initially opposed the ACA and was involved in litigation to stop its implementation. However, once the legality of the ACA was addressed - including the Supreme Court's decision to uphold the individual mandate - the governor assessed the question of Medicaid expansion mostly in economic terms.

In a discussion on Wyoming Public Radio's Open Spaces in September 2014, Governor Mead indicated that he was not sure where he stood on the issue of Medicaid expansion. He felt that the state of Wyoming deserved answers before committing resources to Medicaid expansion, and then he thoughtfully set out to answer these questions.

In February 2016, he cited the economic benefits Medicaid expansion would offer to Wyoming as it would provide coverage for 20,000 Wyoming citizens. Governor Mead asked the legislature to reconsider the issue of Medicaid expansion, which ultimately was voted down by the legislature.

Governor Mead recognized that the benefit to Medicaid expansion decreased with each passing year. Once it was clear that the Affordable Care Act (ACA) was the "law of the land,"

he asked the state legislature to consider the option of Medicaid expansion on its own merits. He did not want to dismiss Medicaid expansion simply because it was part of the ACA. Governor Mead reiterated the economic benefit to the state and vowed to continue to push for protections for the state should the federal government discontinue their funding obligations. He clearly viewed Medicaid expansion as a tool to strengthen Wyoming's healthcare infrastructure.

Telehealth & Health Information Technology

"One goal of the Governor's ENDOW program is for Wyoming residents to have access to affordable healthcare—including general and specialized—within 75 miles of home. Affordable is defined as having rates in the lowest 25% in the inter-mountain region. The Executive Council believes this can be accomplished, in part, with the use of advanced telehealth delivery tools such as virtual and augmented reality," from the ENDOW 2018 Final Report.

Centralizing Tech Coordination - Governor Mead created Enterprise Technology Services in 2012, which essentially placed all state information technology into one agency and allowed better coordination of technology communication and exchange systems as they developed.

Allowing Patients To Stay Closer to Home - Governor Mead was instrumental in assembling a public-private sector cooperative with the purpose of providing 100GB high speed fiber cable throughout the state that was integrated into a high-

Are you aware of the Community resources available Wyoming-Wide?

Wyoming 2-1-1 and Help Me Grow Wyoming are a part of a coordinated referral system and serve as the Centralized Access Point for statewide community information and referral services.



Wyoming 2-1-1 enables people to get help or give help. 2-1-1 is an easy to remember, free helpline which provides individuals with information and referrals they need to access health and human services.



Help Me Grow Wyoming is a statewide system that provides support and services to children, birth to eight years old, through developmental promotion, early detection, early intervention, linkage to resources and family support.

To connect to Wyoming 2-1-1 or Help Me Grow Wyoming, Dial 2-1-1

speed network. This high-speed fiber network is instrumental in allowing Wyoming to provide access to telehealth services across the state which, in turn, allows patients to stay closer to home while receiving quality care.

Developing a Health Information Exchange – Governor Mead ensured that the resources and expertise necessary to make telecommunication between doctors, patients, hospitals, and all other stakeholders in the system was a reality.

His administration's work to develop the high-speed fiber network previously described will also prove to be valuable in the years ahead as Wyoming refines its health information exchange. This important tool is even now helping doctors coordinate care between primary and specialty care medical providers.

Healthcare Innovation


ENDOW - Governor Mead established the Economically Needed Diversity Options for Wyoming (ENDOW) Executive Council to drive Wyoming's economy forward and develop opportunities that will allow our citizens to find good-paying jobs and meaningful work here in Wyoming both now and long into the future.

He recognizes the need for innovation and the unique opportunities provided in Wyoming that will allow creation of the

necessary ecosystem for new technologies in our state. One of the five building blocks that are the foundation of ENDOW is "Health and Quality of Life". Governor Mead understands that a thriving healthcare system across the state is crucial in attracting and retaining businesses in our state.

The recently released ENDOW report is a thoughtful 20-year strategic plan for the state which includes healthcare as a pillar and offers a good starting point for continued efforts in diversifying the state's economy, which requires a high-functioning healthcare system.

Jackson Hole Technology Partnership- Governor Mead is a founding member of the Jackson Hole Technology Partnership, which was founded with the intention of diversifying the Wyoming economy through expansion of the technology sector. Representatives from multiple industries, including healthcare, gather each year for the JHTP Summit. Innovation in healthcare delivery through use of technology is part of this effort.

Healthcare in the great state of Wyoming is better for having a thoughtful, forward-thinking leader in Governor Mead for the last eight years. We look forward to continuing many of the great efforts started during his tenure, and to continuing to work with him as a private citizen to improve healthcare delivery in Wyoming. 



Let's all put our hands together.

We recognize the Wyoming Medical Society for their commitment to affordable, quality health care. Their dedication is an inspiration to us all.