



KAHRMM

Kansas Association for Healthcare
Resource & Materials Management

KAHRMM Newsletter March 2021

President's Message – March 2021

I hope March finds everyone doing ok, and you survived the arctic blast a few weeks ago. In my opinion, it can wait another 20 years or so before it does it again.

The KAHRMM Board held a conference call a couple of weeks ago. One of the main discussions was the planning of events and activities – some of which may be virtual and coming soon. Others will most likely be later in the year and a little different, depending on recommendations regarding gatherings.

In case you missed it, the Central Plains Expo has been disbanded and will not happen again as the same event. With that being said, the board is hoping to be able to do a golf tournament and mini vendor show possibly this fall. In the future, we also hope to have a similar event as CPE, with KAHRMM being the prime sponsor and the chance for others within your hospital to attend as well.

Special Olympics also has been canceled for 2021 by the Special Olympics of Kansas.

Lori Knoeber will be contacting you about your membership listing information and getting that updated. Please take time to check it when she sends it to you. Remember, if you paid dues for KAHRMM last year, this year is free. This does not include the AHRMM dues for those who are members of AHRMM.

Any questions or comments, please direct them to me at michaelmorgan@mcphersonhospital.org.

Thank you for what you do!

--Mike Morgan

Surviving COVID-19

As I was getting ready for work this morning and listened to the local news, I heard the best story! The University of Kansas Health System St. Francis Campus in Topeka had **ZERO** COVID-19 patients! This is the first time they have not had a COVID-19 patient since March 17 of last year. You can only imagine the relief from all the frontline workers.

As a support service to those frontline workers, I can only sit back and remember listening to all the news in November/December 2019 of what was happening in China. I remember the day that my buyer and I were discussing what we had heard and seen on the news the night before. The day was December 24, 2019, and we decided we were going to start ordering heavy on personal protective equipment.

Today, I can say I am so glad we listened to our gut! We already had a three-to-four-month supply of normal usage PPE by the end of February. We wanted to get to at least a six-month supply; so, the first week of March, we ordered heavy and hit that goal. Then we started getting the dreaded allocation report from our distributor. The first one had 20 items. Then every report that followed had more items.

As we moved into the OMG phase of COVID-19, we placed disposable orders for our controlled air-purifying respirators we had just received in early February. We had ordered four. Thank goodness we had these later in the summer, as our COVID-19 patients didn't appear until late summer.

We were able to keep afloat with our stock because of the steps we took early on and due to several bulk purchases we were able to jump on at strategic points in 2020.

To be able to say, "We did not run out of anything and have lived to talk about it!" is the best thing that can be said about 2020. And while all of this was going on, we also opened two new clinics and purchased an existing clinic that needed a complete overhaul.

To say we are exhausted is an understatement, and we are a Critical Access Hospital. Our experience was nothing compared to what larger facilities have endured. Our hats are off to all of them, all of the frontline workers and all the supporting cast of hard workers.

As COVID-19 begins to come to, what I hope is, an end, I pray everyone has and will continue to take care of themselves and their families. Nothing is more important than those you love.

This summer, please take some time to enjoy each other and some time to yourself. Everyone in Supply Chain needs to take a breather and pat themselves on the back. WE SURVIVED!

--Lisa Feil-Neavitt

Has Your Contact information Recently Changed?

This month, as we march into spring, I'll be reaching out to KAHRMM members to confirm the contact information we have on file is still correct. If you've recently changed position title, employer or have a new email address, we ask you to send your updated information to Lori Knoeber at lknoeber@srhc.com or any board member to ensure you continue to receive KAHRMM monthly newsletters and event invitations. With our starting to see declining COVID-19 cases across the state, we are encouraged we'll be able to gather as a group once again before the end of this year. On behalf of the KAHRMM Board, thank you for your tireless efforts to assist your communities in the journey to better health.

--Lori Knoeber

AHRMM Update – Policies and Procedures Manual for the Health Care Supply Chain, 2nd Edition

AHRMM has come out with the new *Policies and Procedures Manual for the Health Care Supply Chain, 2nd Edition*. The manual contains more than 160 revised and new policies and procedures for the current leading practices in supply chain. The updated manual includes policies and procedures, as well tools to run a well-organized and successful supply chain. It covers the areas of administration, contracts, strategic sourcing, purchasing, inventory management, receiving and shipping, print and copy, distribution, linens, central services and much more.

The updated manual includes forms, spreadsheets and checklists to assist you with developing and/or updating your policies, as well as a glossary and list of resources to help educate and support your team. The manual also has the capability to edit and tailor all policies, procedures and tools to your specific needs. It is downloadable in an easy-to-use Microsoft Word format.

To learn more about this new manual and to order, visit [AHRMM's website](#).

February Natural Gas Pricing Issue

Note: The article below was taken from the March 5 issue of *KHA's Current Report* newsletter.

APS and the Kansas Hospital Association want to update members on the [natural gas pricing crisis](#) that occurred during February and how it may affect your natural gas bills in the coming months. The natural gas issues are different and dependent upon:

- If your hospital is participating in the APS natural gas purchasing program
- If your hospital is in an area where service is provided by Kansas Gas Service, Atmos Energy, Black Hills Energy, and Spire or Ameren in Missouri
- If your hospital is in an area served by a municipal natural gas system

APS Purchasing Program

The APS gas contract price is among the lowest in Kansas and Missouri and does not appear to have the high-price exposure being faced by other supply programs throughout the state. The APS purchasing program covers the volumes each hospital participant has nominated in their contract as needed supply for their operations. However, if a hospital exceeded the amount nominated in their APS contract, the natural gas distribution system will still continue delivery service, but at a non-contract default rate. The default rate is the price listed as the day-trade price in the area, as listed in a public index, which skyrocketed during several days in mid-February. The [daily rate](#) at times was more than 100 times the APS natural gas price.

Hospitals Not Part of the APS Purchasing Program

If a hospital is not part of the APS Purchasing Program, it will either be subject to the terms of their separate natural gas supply contract or their gas distribution company. If the hospital is a customer of the distributor, they should expect major increases in their gas bill, since the distributors' gas-supply costs increased during the month. February 2021 natural gas bills may be as high as up to 10 times the amount of the February 2020 natural gas bill.

Hospitals in Areas Served by Municipal Natural Gas Systems

The municipal systems in Kansas that are a part of KMGA, have experienced – through no fault of their own – increases in natural gas supply costs caused by suppliers who used the extreme winter weather crisis to increase prices from \$3 per unit in the early days of February to prices exceeding \$600 per unit in mid-February 2021. These extraordinary high prices will be reflected in future bills to hospitals in these areas, but the timing and amount of these increases are not yet known. The Kansas Legislature and governor have approved legislation establishing a low-interest rate loan program to assist in payments for these municipal systems.

Litigation has been initiated regarding these enormous price increases. This week, the City of Mulberry, Kansas, initiated [litigation in Crawford County](#) contending the BP Energy Company violated the anti-profiteering sections of the Kansas Consumer Protection Act by increasing the price of natural gas during a declared state of emergency, from \$2.98 cents per unit to \$329.61 cents per unit. We are carefully monitoring this litigation as we believe it will likely bring to light the facts surrounding what can only be described as price gouging during a disaster.

If hospitals have questions, contact [Dennis George](#) at (888) 941-2771.

--*Dennis George*

KAHRMM Calendar of Events

Virtual, On-Demand Now through June 2021

AHRMM20+ Virtual Attendees

To Be Determined

KAHRMM Educational Sessions

Aug. 9-11, 2021

AHRMM21 Conference & Exhibition

Boston, MA

Sept. 9-10, 2021

KHA Annual Convention & Trade Show

Overland Park

Oct. 3-9, 2021

National Health Care Supply Chain Week

The KAHRMM Bulletin Board

Message from AHRMM: "After speaking and consulting with the AHRMM Chapter Relations Committee, we at AHRMM have made the decision to WAIVE CHAPTER RECOGNITION WORKBOOKS FOR THE 2021 YEAR. We realize this past year has been extraordinary and this coming year looks to be no different. We hope this gives you the time to focus your attention where it's needed most."

AHRMM Conference 2021: [Click here](#) for updates for the AHRMM21 Conference & Exhibition.

AHRMM: [AHRMM20+ Conference & Exhibition](#) is now available on-demand. For additional information, please visit [AHRMM's website](#).

KAHRMM Membership: The KAHRMM Board has elected to extend your membership into 2021 if you paid your 2020 membership before the end of 2020. The new amount for dues is \$50 and \$75 after Sept. 30. Please see the [2021 KAHRMM Membership Form](#) on [KAHRMM's website](#).

AHRMM MEMBERSHIP: Consider becoming an [AHRMM member](#) for access to abundant information and resources. Explore [AHRMM's website](#).

AHRMM Update on COVID-19: For up-to-date information coming from AHRMM and AHA concerning the COVID-19, visit www.ahrmm.org/ahrmm-covid-19.

If you have updates from your Supply Chain you would like to share with your KAHRMM peers, please send them to [Cindy Howard Reeves](#).

PLEASE VISIT the [KAHRMM WEBSITE](#).

KAHRMM Mission

The Mission of the Kansas Association for Healthcare and Resource Management is to advance the profession of health care purchasing and materials management by:

- Assisting members through training and mentoring opportunities which promote excellence
- Establishing proactive, collaborative partnerships through networking
- Promoting high ethical standards

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- **Special Olympics:** [Dale Montgomery](#) and [Randy Lott](#)

KHA DISTRICT MAP

