



KHA's Current Report
January 5, 2024

President's Perspective – Kansas Legislative Session on the Horizon

This week, legislators from across the state started arriving in Topeka for the commencement of the 2024 Kansas legislative session. While the session doesn't officially start until Monday, Jan. 8, legislators are using this week to move into their living quarters and legislative offices. Heading into the session, there has been varied speculation on the legislative priorities that will be considered, and ultimately, adopted by the legislature and the governor. The Kansas Hospital Association has been preparing for the 2024 session for the past several months, working with the KHA membership and hosting legislative gatherings throughout the state. As always, the start of a new legislative session brings a mixture of excitement and uncertainty as to what issues will ultimately make their way through the legislative process.

The advocacy efforts by KHA are an important part of our advocacy strategy, but equally, if not more critical, is to have the KHA membership closely monitoring and engaging with their elected officials to share why key legislation is essential for serving your community's health care needs. KHA's legislative platform is developed with the input from the membership, guidance from the KHA policy committees and approval from the KHA Board of Directors. Many of the legislative priorities for 2024 fall into two buckets: financial viability and workforce. The legislative proposals being pursued around financial viability include raising the Medicaid reimbursement rates, streamlining prior authorization processes, investing in behavioral health resources and increasing health care coverage through Medicaid expansion. KHA will be pursuing an equivalent number of legislative policies to address the health care workforce needs in Kansas.

KHA members will have the opportunity to stay informed on legislative developments through our frequent *Capitol Comments* newsletter. We encourage the membership to share their perspectives as issues are discussed. KHA also will continue to utilize our grassroots tool, VoterVoice. This platform allows members to sign up for alerts, find legislation and connect with their elected officials via the web or cell phone. If you have not yet registered to receive these updates, you can [go here to sign up](#).

One easy way for KHA members to become active in our state advocacy efforts is through participation in our annual KHA Advocacy Day. This year's event will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 16 and will include comments from several elected officials including Governor Laura Kelly, Secretary of State Scott Schwab, Senate President Ty Masterson and House Majority Leader Chris Croft. We also will be recognizing the inaugural KHA Advocacy All-Star graduates as they conclude their advocacy training. KHA Advocacy Day will conclude with a "grab-and-go" lunch at the Kansas Statehouse to allow hospital leaders to meet with their individual elected officials. [Register today](#). We hope you can join us on Jan. 16 in Topeka. Let's get started!

--Chad Austin

Join Us on Jan. 16 for Advocacy Day

As we prepare for the 2024 state legislative session, slated to start on Jan. 8, KHA encourages you to attend our Advocacy Day events on Jan. 16 at The Beacon, 420 SW 9th St., Topeka. The target audience includes senior-level administrators, trustees, directors, clinical management and practice administrators.

[KHA's Advocacy Day](#) attendees will hear from statewide elected officials about the latest developments, and tour the statehouse so you can see the beauty of our state capitol and visit with policymakers directly about the issues affecting your hospital.

The lunch with legislators will be a come-and-go opportunity to connect, so we highly encourage you to reach out to them to set meetings for the afternoon of Jan. 16. You can use the [KHA Advocacy Tool](#) to find, and contact, your state legislators in the House and Senate before you arrive in Topeka. If you need assistance accessing the tool, please contact the [KHA office](#).

We also are excited to honor the graduates of our first-ever KHA Advocacy All-Stars program. These individuals are ready to put their skills to work, advocating for the needs of Kansas hospitals.

- Casey Cockrum, managing director, FORVIS
- Linsey Coster, vice president of operations, Ascension Via Christi Hospitals
- Sara Davison, quality and care management, Lindsborg Community Hospital
- Sandy Dickerson, administrator and chief executive officer, Greenwood County Hospital
- Emersen Frazier, director of health equity and policy, Stormont Vail Health
- Charles Griffith, clinic director, Smith County Memorial Hospital
- Brian Howells, administrator, Wamego Health Center
- Jalin Johnson, director of operations, Minneola Healthcare
- Angie Johnson, chief nursing officer, Memorial Health System
- Allison Koonce, community outreach and engagement supervisor, LMH Health
- Marissa Murphy, critical care unit, NMC Health
- Monica Natzke, vice president, chief nursing officer, AdventHealth South Overland Park
- Jennifer Newton, chief nursing officer, Neosho Memorial Regional Medical Center

- Courtney Schmelzle, community relations coordinator, Nemaha Valley Community Hospital
- Curt Sudbeck, director of ancillary services, Nemaha Valley Community Hospital

[Click to Register](#)

--Tara Mays

Save the Date – Critical Issues Summit for Hospital Boards 2024

Mark your calendar for this year's Critical Issues Summit for Hospital Boards, on Feb. 29 and March 1, in Wichita. Hosted by the Kansas Hospital Association, the Critical Issues Summit brings together hospital leadership and trustees from across the state to promote the importance of good governance practices.

This event provides top-notch speakers, educational sessions and discussions on the most critical topics facing hospitals today. More information will be available in January 2024.

The summit will be at the Hyatt Regency Wichita, 400 W Waterman St., Wichita, KS 67202. A block of rooms has been reserved for the nights of Feb. 28 and Feb. 29 at the rate of \$133, plus tax. The room block is available until Wednesday, Feb. 7. After that, reservations will be taken on a space-available basis. To make your reservation and receive the special rate, call (316) 293-1234 and ask for the Kansas Hospital Association room block.

--Hayley Finch-Genschorck

QHi Back to Basics Training – Jan. 17

Please join us from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 17 for the next QHi Back to Basics training session. After a quick program update, we will walk through the [QHi site](#), demonstrating the basics of selecting measures, adding users, entering/uploading data and running/scheduling reports. All QHi participants are invited to attend this free webinar.

[Click to Register](#)

--Sally Othmer

Jaron Caffrey Promoted to Director of Workforce and Health Care Policy

The Kansas Hospital Association is excited to announce that Jaron Caffrey, formerly the program manager of workforce strategies, has been promoted to director of workforce and health care policy. Jaron began his KHA career as an intern with our data analytics team but found a niche addressing workforce challenges. In Jaron's new role, he will continue to focus on KHA's workforce activities as well as delve into other priority areas including health care finance and policy. His enthusiasm and passion for KHA is infectious. We know our members will continue enjoy working with Jaron in this new role. On behalf of the entire KHA staff, we congratulate Jaron on this promotion.

--Chad Austin

ASPR Grant Funding for Hospital PPE Expenses

The Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response COVID-19 Hospital Association Grant has funds still available for the grant period Apr. 9, 2023 - Feb. 28, 2024. Eligible grant expenses are limited to ASPR Funding Focus Area 2: Personal Protective Equipment Procurement and Optimization Measures. Grant funds may be used for the purchase of PPE, related supplies and equipment used to care for patients with, or suspected, to have COVID or other emerging respiratory pathogens. The grant funds are available through the Kansas Hospital Association on a first-come first-served basis until all the grant dollars are exhausted. All invoices for eligible expenses must be submitted to KHA no later than Feb.15, 2024. Please submit reimbursement requests to Melissa Willey at mwilley@kha-net.org. For questions, please contact Ron Marshall at rmarshall@kha-net.org.

--Ron Marshall

Healthy Kansas Hospitals – Toolkit # 1

As the primary source of health care in many communities, hospitals have the opportunity to establish norms and influence health decisions for patients, employees and the communities they serve. It is for this reason the Kansas Hospital Association provides leadership and shared knowledge to facilitate a collaborative and innovative approach for creating a worksite wellness committee as the first step in a sustainable wellness program.

This first toolkit of resources and templates is focused on creating a worksite wellness committee. The materials linked below are available online at www.HealthyKansasHospitals.org, as are the resources in Toolkit #2 (fostering changes in the hospital) and Toolkit #3 (nurturing strategies for a healthy culture).

Healthy Kansas Hospitals Toolkit #1:

- [Healthy Kansas Hospitals FAQs](#)
- [Creating a Worksite Wellness Committee](#)
- [PowerPoint on Creating a Wellness Committee](#)
- [Technical Assistance Resource on Creating a Wellness Committee](#)
- [Sample Wellness Committee Meeting Agenda](#)
- [Sample Wellness Committee Meeting Minutes](#)

- [Sample Employee Wellness Engagement Survey](#)
- [Sample Internal Communications](#)
- [Implementation Plan](#)

Special thanks to the Kansas Health Foundation for funding the original initiative in 2014. The Kansas Health Foundation is a private philanthropy dedicated to improving the health of all Kansans. For more information about the Kansas Health Foundation, visit www.kansashealth.org.

If your hospital would like to explore establishing a worksite wellness committee, please email [Hayley Finch-Genschorck](#) at (785) 233-7436. Thank you for your commitment to improving the health and wellbeing of Kansans.

--Hayley Finch-Genschorck

APS Introduction and Membership Information for KSHCSP

APS would like to introduce the [Kansas Society for Healthcare Central Service Professionals](#), the Kansas Chapter for the Healthcare Sterile Processing Association. KSHCSP provides support and education for individuals responsible for performing sterile processing in all types of facilities. The chapter sponsors workshops every year to provide members the opportunity to network with peers, as well as hear from expert speakers on a variety of current topics and standards. [Download the membership application](#) for KSHCSP.

If you have questions or need additional information, contact [Dennis George](#) at (913) 327-8730.

--Dennis George

CEO Staffing Changes

The Kansas Hospital Association would like to inform you of the latest member hospital administrator changes since our last hospital list printout in November:

- Leonard R. Hernandez, chief executive officer, SCK Health, Arkansas City
- Benjamin Anderson, MBA, MHCDs, president and chief executive officer, Hutchinson Regional Medical Center, Hutchinson
- Kevin Faughnder, chief executive officer, Norton County Hospital, Norton
- Jessica Eckels, interim chief executive officer, CKF Addiction Treatment, Salina
- Sarah Ragsdale, RN, BSN, chief executive officer, Smith County Memorial Hospital, Smith Center

Our [Kansas Hospitals and Health-Related Facilities list](#) is available on the KHA website in PDF (Adobe Acrobat Reader format) at www.kha-net.org. A username and password are required. Click on Kansas Hospitals, CEO Directories, Kansas Hospital List and Kansas Hospitals and Health-Related Facilities List. Please contact [Cheryl Carson](#) at (785) 233-7436 if you have updates and provide the start date of the new administrator/chief executive officer, picture, birthday and press release/bio.

--Cheryl Carson

Positions Available

Mitchell County Hospital Health Systems

400 W. Eighth, P.O. Box 399

Beloit, KS 67420-0399

Website: <https://www.mchks.com>

Licensed Specialist Clinical Social Worker

The successful LSCSW candidate contributes a positive team dynamic and provide excellent customer service. He/she provides therapeutic services for adults, adolescents and children utilizing group, individual and family therapy sessions. The LSCSW must have an ability in the areas of conflict resolution and effective problem solving. This position includes psychosocial assessment, treatment planning, crisis intervention, discharge planning, referral to appropriate community resources and networking with community service providers.

Qualifications:

- Unrestricted Kansas license as an LSCSW, licensed professional counselor or licensed master social worker
- One year of clinical experience is preferred
- The ability to work with both adult and child populations

Contact: [Nicki Cleveland](#) at (785) 738-9172 or ncleveland@mchks.com

Apply Online Today!
CLICK HERE

Physical Therapist

Mitchell County Hospital Health Systems Physical Therapy Department is currently seeking a full-time physical therapist with a strong work ethic to join our experienced staff. We treat a diverse caseload including outpatient, orthopedics, acute and geriatric patients. A \$10,000 sign-on bonus or option of student loan repayment is available with this position. M-F daytime hours with PRN weekend coverage.

Qualifications:

- Graduate of an accredited school of physical therapy
- Unrestricted Kansas license or eligibility as a physical therapist

Contact: [Amber Krier](#) at (785) 738-9250 or akrier@mchks.com

Apply Online Today!
CLICK HERE

If you have a management position available in your organization and would like it posted in *Current Report*, email the information to [Jan Fenwick](mailto:Jan.Fenwick@kshealthjobs.net). Also, don't forget to check out www.kshealthjobs.net for other health care openings in Kansas.

--Jan Fenwick

Federal and National News

CMS Proposes Appeal Rights for Certain Changes in Patient Status

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services [released](#) a proposed rule that would require HHS to establish appeals processes for certain Medicare beneficiaries who initially are admitted as hospital inpatients but subsequently are reclassified as outpatients receiving observation services. Specifically, the rule proposes standard, expedited and retrospective appeals processes. CMS states within the footnotes that "the appeals processes proposed in this rule do not extend to enrollees in Medicare Advantage plans." Comments are due Monday, Feb. 26.

CMS Finalizes CLIA Fees, Histocompatibility, Personnel and Alternative Sanctions for Certificate of Waiver Laboratories

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services [released](#) a [final rule](#) that adjusts laboratory fees, revises certain requirements for both the histocompatibility tests specialty as well as personnel qualifications and responsibilities, and allows CMS to impose alternative sanctions against noncompliant Certificate of Waiver laboratories.

ACMT, AACT Release Statement on Nalmefene

The American College of Medical Toxicology and American Academy of Clinical Toxicology released a [joint opinion](#) advising that nalmefene should not replace naloxone as the primary opioid antidote. Nalmefene was approved for use via injection in 1995 but was removed from the market in 2008. In May 2023, the Food and Drug Administration approved it as an intranasal product. Because Nalmefene was approved for use in the past, new clinical studies were not completed before approval of this new product. Due to the lack of new data, Naloxone should continue to be utilized to treat known or suspected opioid overdose.

HRSA Announces Funding Opportunity for PCTE-PARB

The Health Resources and Services Administration released a new [grant opportunity](#) to increase the number of trained physician assistants practicing in rural areas after graduation. The Primary Care Training and Enhancement: Physician Assistant Rural Training in Behavioral Health Program aims to address the need to train primary care physician assistants to prevent, identify, diagnose, treat and refer services for behavioral health conditions. Applications are due Friday, March 15.

MLN Connects Provider eNews Available

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services [issued](#) the following updates to *MLN Connects Provider eNews*:

- [CMS Roundup \(Dec 29, 2023\)](#)
- [In-Home Vaccine Administration: Additional Payment](#)
- [Organizational Providers: Do You Need to Revalidate Your Enrollment Record Soon?](#)
- [Value-Based Insurance Design Model: Learn about the Hospice Benefit Component](#)
- [CMS Health Information Handler Helps You Submit Medical Review Documentation Electronically](#)
- [Cervical Health: Encourage Screening](#)