



KHA's Current Report
January 19, 2024

President's Perspective – Kansas Hospital Leaders Engage in Advocacy Efforts

Earlier this week, hospital leaders and advocates from across the state braved the cold temperatures, traveling to Topeka, to participate in Kansas Hospital Association's Advocacy Day. This annual event provides KHA members an opportunity to connect with their elected officials. Governor Laura Kelly welcomed attendees and highlighted the importance of the health care sector and the need to support Kansas hospitals. She reiterated her ardent support to strengthen rural Kansas communities, including their local hospitals, through policy initiatives such as Medicaid expansion. Attendees also heard from elected officials including Kansas Secretary of State Scott Schwab, Senate President Ty Masterson, House Majority Leader Chris Croft, and Kansas Department of Health and Environment Secretary Janet Stanek. Each of the presenters shared their support for Kansas hospitals and their willingness to explore health care policies during the 2024 legislative session.

One of the highlights of KHA Advocacy Day focuses on the luncheon opportunity for Kansas hospital leaders to meet with their state elected officials. Several of the advocacy topics emphasized by the KHA membership revolved around ensuring financial viability, promoting health care workforce opportunities and reducing the administrative burdens imposed by health insurance organizations through policies such as prior authorization and credentialing. While KHA Advocacy Day is a key opportunity to meet our elected officials, it will be vitally essential Kansas hospital leaders continue to engage in advocacy efforts throughout the legislative session.

In addition to KHA Advocacy Day, this week marked the first opportunity for the 2024 KHA Board of Directors to meet. The KHA Board discussed advocacy efforts occurring on the state and federal level, the current status of KanCare's request-for-proposal and its potential impact on Kansas hospitals and the health care community.

Additional highlights from the KHA Board meeting included:

- Welcomed new KHA Board members:
 - Jeremy Clingenpeel, CEO, Cheyenne County Hospital, Saint Francis
 - Kiley Floyd, CEO, Nemaha Valley Community Hospital, Seneca
 - Sam Huenergardt, CEO, AdventHealth Shawnee Mission, Shawnee Mission
 - Bob Moser, MD, executive director, Kansas Center for Rural Health, Salina

- Approved of several new KHA members to the following organizations and committees:
 - HealthWorks: Robin Durrett, DO, Kansas College of Osteopathic Medicine, Wichita
 - Kansas Healthcare Collaborative: Twilla Lee, CEO, CommonSpirit St. Catherine Hospital, Garden City; and Joben Rieth, CEO, Coffey County Hospital, Burlington
 - KHA Audit Committee Chairperson: Val Gleason, CEO, NMH Health, Newton
- Adopted the KHA finance and investment report
- Completed annual corporate compliance training
- Approved changes to the 2024 KHA Strategic Plan
- Learned about the KHA workforce initiatives, including the Virtual Health Care Career Fair, Feb. 1, in partnership with the Kansas Board of Regents and the Kansas Department of Education
- Received the latest information on KHA activities in the areas of communication, education, KHA-PAC and advancing health

KHA thanks the KHA members who advocated for our priorities. The key to effective grassroots advocacy is the personal interaction between elected officials and their constituents. If you were unable to attend this year's KHA Advocacy Day, you can still become part of our grassroots advocacy team by meeting with your elected officials when they are in their home districts. Let us know how we can assist you in this endeavor!

--Chad Austin

Register Now for the 2024 Critical Issues Summit

Register now and plan to attend the Kansas Hospital Association's Critical Issues Summit for Hospital Boards, Feb. 29-Mar. 1, in Wichita. The 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 critical topics facing hospitals today.

Location and Hotel Accommodations

The summit will be at the Hyatt Regency Wichita, 400 W Waterman St., Wichita. 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

CMS Finalizes Prior Authorization Rule

This week, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services released a [final rule](#) requiring Medicare Advantage, Medicaid and federally facilitated Marketplace plans to streamline their prior authorization processes. The Kansas Hospital Association has advocated with the agency during the past year to finalize this rule to alleviate provider burden and ensure timely access to care for patients. The new rule removes barriers to patient care by streamlining the prior authorization process, creates interoperable prior authorization standards, and requires more transparency and timeliness from payers on their prior authorization decisions. [The final rule](#):

- Requires payers to implement and maintain certain Health Level 7 Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources application programming interfaces to improve the electronic exchange of health care data, generally beginning Jan. 1, 2027.
- Adds a new measure for Merit-based Incentive Payment System eligible clinicians under the Promoting Interoperability performance category of MIPS, as well as for eligible hospitals and Critical Access Hospitals, under the Medicare Promoting Interoperability Program. This will incentivize providers to utilize these electronic interfaces.
- Payers must implement certain operational provisions, generally beginning Jan. 1, 2026.
- Payer-to-Payer interfaces requiring payers to share patient information about certain prior authorizations when a patient switches insurance.
- Payers must implement and maintain a prior authorization interface that is populated with its list of covered items and services and prompts providers on what documentation requirements are needed for prior authorization approval and supports the prior authorization request and response. The interface will communicate whether the payer approves the request and the specific reason for the denial. This must be implemented beginning Jan. 1, 2027.
- New prior authorization decision timeframes were established including 72 hours for urgent requests and seven calendar days for standard requests.
- Payers must publicly report certain prior authorization metrics annually by posting them on their website. The compliance date is Jan. 1, 2026.

Overall, KHA is pleased with the announcement and looks forward to working with the new streamlined approaches in the coming years.

--Shannan Flach

Why Kansas Is Leading the WAY in Chronic Care Management Webinar – Feb. 8

How did other Kansas hospitals and practices use Chronic Care Management in 2023? How do providers plan to use CCM in 2024? Learn the answers during a free webinar at noon on Thursday, Feb. 8.

Kansas resident and health consultant Chris Miller and ChartSpan leader Shane Grivich will break down:

- The biggest CCM trends of 2023
- Why more practices are likely to embrace CCM in 2024
- The specific benefits of CCM for Kansas practices

Can't attend? Register and we'll send you the recording!

[Click to Register](#)

--Steve Poage

Registration Open Now for Spring HOSA Conference

[Kansas HOSA](#) is seeking interested health care organizations to have an expo table, or break-out session, to speak to students at the upcoming [Kansas HOSA Spring Leadership Conference](#), March 27-28, at Kansas State University in Manhattan. Organizers estimate upwards of 800 attendees, primarily high school students. HOSA – Future Health Professionals is a career technical student organization that is 100 percent health care focused. Think of it as what FFA is to agriculture, HOSA is to health care.

Having an Expo Table:

The Expo is on March 27 in the Kansas State University Student Union. The cost to reserve a table is \$125, or \$40 for non-profit organizations. To secure your spot, [please register online by March 1](#). Space is limited, so early registration is encouraged to confirm your table.

Leading a Break-Out Session:

Sessions will be offered in 30- or 50-minute sessions and will be offered between one and three times depending on topic, room and presenter availability, at no cost to presenters. Kansas HOSA will cover your parking and meals.

[Click to Register](#)

Kansas HOSA State Leadership Conference 2024 – Speaker Registration

HOSA encourages interactive, engaging and hands-on aspects to your sessions as much as possible. Topics should focus on career exploration, real life experiences, leadership, skills training/education or competitive event preparation.

Timeline:

Registration is open through March 1, 2024 or until all spaces are filled. Conference attendee numbers will be known after Jan. 26. Scheduling of speaking sessions will occur February through early March. Primary Contact: [Tina Goosz-Garetson](#), Kansas HOSA State Advisor, at (620) 235-4040.

--Jaron Caffrey

Performance Period 2024 Eligible Clinician eCOM Education and Outreach Webinar

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services is presenting a webinar reviewing highlights for the 2024 performance period from 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. on Feb. 8. The webinar will provide education on the clinician level eCQM changes and recommend resources located on the [eCQI Resource Center](#).

[Click to Register](#)

--Sally Othmer

KSHIMSS 2024 Conference: Threat Level: Healthcare

The [Kansas Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society](#) 2024 conference is April 18-19 at the Drury Plaza Hotel Broadview in Wichita. Entitled *Threat Level: Healthcare*, the 2024 conference focuses on crucial aspects of safeguarding healthcare information. The programs will explore safe practices and strategies to include cyber tabletop exercises, the dynamic role of Health Information Networks during attacks and real-world experiences from attacks in Kansas.

[Early bird pricing and registration](#) is now open. Please visit the [Kansas Health Information Management Systems website](#) for more information and hotel discount information.

--Sally Othmer

Midwest HIDTA Public Health Survey

The Midwest High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Investigative Support Center and the Midwest HIDTA Overdose Response Strategy teams are requesting assistance from health care providers and stakeholders in completing a survey. Responses will be used to inform the Midwest HIDTA's annual Threat Assessment. The Office of National Drug Control Policy oversees the HIDTA program and requires the individual HIDTA programs to discuss the drug threats in their area of responsibility in an annual threat assessment. The Midwest HIDTA greatly appreciates the aid in completing the Midwest HIDTA Threat Assessment. For best results in completing the survey, it is highly recommended you [complete the entire survey](#) at one time. If you have trouble, please contact either [Katie Sheets](#) at (816) 891-5274 or [Larisa Allen](#) at (816) 891-5200. The Midwest HIDTA requests the voluntary survey be completed by Friday, Feb. 2, 2024. Thank you for your help in providing a valuable viewpoint on the drug threats that are present in the Midwest HIDTA region.

--Karen Braman

January KPQC Learning Forum – OB in the ED, High Stakes Outcomes

Please join the [Kansas Perinatal Quality Collaborative](#) January Learning Forum at noon on Jan. 23 for *OB in the ED, High Stakes Outcomes* featuring Abbie Weatherly, Jenna McClain, and Kimberlee Dick. Please [use this link to register](#) if you haven't already, and please share the Learning Forum invitation with your OB and ED colleagues! For questions, please contact one of the KPQC co-coordinators: [Terrah Stroda](#) or [Kari Smith](#).

--Karen Braman

KHA Membership Directory Advertising

The Kansas Hospital Association is partnering with E&M Consulting, Inc., to produce the KHA Membership Directory. The publication will be available in both print and digital formats. E&M will be managing the project, including advertising sales and layout/graphic design. E&M will be contacting associate members about advertising opportunities available. They are extremely professional and produce a high-quality publication, and we ask you give them a moment of your time. The publication will be mailed to every member – a great opportunity to promote and give your organization additional exposure. If you have any questions or would like to advertise, please contact an E&M sales associate at (800) 572-0011, ext. 0104, or advertising@eandmsales.com. As always, your support is greatly appreciated!

--Jan Fenwick

Position Available

Physical Therapist

Mitchell County Hospital Health Systems

400 W. Eighth, P.O. Box 399

Beloit, KS 67420-0399

Contact: [Amber Krier](#)

Phone: (785) 738-9250

Email: akrier@mchks.com

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

Apply Online Today!
CLICK HERE

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

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

--Jan Fenwick

Federal and National News

MLN Connects Provider eNews Available

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

- [CMS Finalizes Rule to Expand Access to Health Information and Improve the Prior Authorization Process](#)
- [Acute Hospital Care at Home Data Release](#)
- [CMS Roundup \(Jan. 12, 2024\)](#)
- [Medicare Part B Vaccine Administration: CY 2024 Payment Amounts](#)
- [Glaucoma Awareness Month: Act to Prevent Vision Loss](#)

Before You Go ...

The National Academies Forum on Drug Discovery, Development and Translation hosted a workshop focusing on better understanding the merit and practicality of different in-home drug disposal systems. A [publication](#) was released outlining potential development strategies, equity considerations and policy implications.