



KHA's Current Report
February 16, 2024

President's Perspective - Rural Health Leaders Gather at AHA Leadership Forum

First of all, what a fun and exciting Super Bowl victory for the Kansas City Chiefs last Sunday night. For all of us long-time Chiefs fans, the past several years have been absolutely amazing! Let's try to run it back for a third time in a row next year!

This week, I had the opportunity to join health care leaders from across the country to discuss the current rural health care environment and the innovative solutions that are being explored by communities to ensure access to quality health care. Attendees of the American Hospital Association's Rural Health Care Leadership Forum heard from industry experts on topics that ranged from the impact of artificial intelligence on rural health care delivery, opportunities to recruit and retain a strong health care workforce, to building a culture of leadership. There were many practical and useful resources that were shared during the variety of presentations that could benefit many rural hospitals and communities.

Several breakout sessions focused on the use of AI to achieve efficiencies in the areas of administrative paperwork and revenue cycle management. I also was especially interested in learning how hospitals and health systems were combating the ever-growing number of cyber-attacks by empowering their staff members to take immediate steps when an attack occurs as well as proactively developing regional cyber-security contingency plans across multiple hospitals. Towards that end, KHA is partnering with the American Hospital Association, Missouri Hospital Association and The University of Kansas Health System to offer a [cyber-security education program](#) on Tuesday, April 23. This event is open to all KHA members and interested individuals may [register online](#).

Attendees also heard an update from AHA staff on federal advocacy initiatives being sought after on behalf of rural hospitals to address the challenges facing the industry. Legislation is being promoted to require commercial insurer accountability, support flexible payment options, ensure fair and adequate reimbursement, bolster the workforce and protect the 340B drug discount program. Among the advocacy priorities in the area of commercial insurer accountability is to require cost-based reimbursement for Critical Access Hospitals from Medicare Advantage Plans as well as building on recent regulations and legislation that further streamline and improve the prior authorization processes. KHA will continue to partner with AHA and the National Rural Health Association on federal advocacy policies to support and protect Kansas hospitals and the communities we serve.

I lastly want to thank the several current and former KHA members who attended as well as presented at the event. Presenters included recently appointed CEO Benjamin Anderson, Hutchinson Hospital and retired CEO Jeff Bowman, Southcentral Kansas Regional Medical Center. Benjamin discussed the need to build a culture of leadership and Jeff highlighted his experience in transitioning his community hospital into a rural emergency hospital. Other Kansas hospital and health care leaders who attended represented Holton Community Hospital, Anderson County Hospital, Allen County Regional Hospital, Community Memorial Healthcare, Hutchinson Regional Medical Center, LMH Health, Minneola Healthcare, Coffey County Hospital, Russell Regional Hospital, the Kansas Healthcare Collaborative and the University of Kansas School of Medicine. Thank you to everyone for attending and representing Kansas!

-Chad Austin

Registration Now Open for the KHA Spring District Meetings

KHA Spring District Meeting dates and locations have been set. These meetings are a great informational and networking opportunity for all CEOs, trustees and senior staff. Join us at 9:30 a.m. for networking. Meeting times will be from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. with lunch provided. You are free to attend at any location, so pick the location that best fits your schedule! These meetings are provided at no charge.

District	Date	Location	City
Northeast	April 2	Stormont Vail Health	Topeka
Northwest	April 3	Rooks County Health Center	Plainville
Southwest	April 4	St. Catherine Hospital - Garden City	Garden City
Southeast	April 9	Allen County Regional Hospital	Iola
North Central	April 10	Salina Regional Health Center	Salina
South Central	April 12	Ascension Via Christi St. Francis	Wichita

The save the date for this program may be accessed by using the link below. An agenda will be available in March.

<https://www.kha-net.org/EducationConventionTS/KHADistrictMeetings/d169589.aspx?type=view>

You may register for this program online by using the link below.

<https://registration.kha-net.org/>

Please contact the KHA Education Department (785) 233-7436 or [Melissa Willey](#) if you have any questions.

- Cindy Samuelson

2024 Critical Issues Summit

Plan to attend this year's Critical Issues Summit for Hospital Boards on February 29 – March 1, at the Hyatt Regency Wichita, Wichita, KS. The Critical Issues Summit, hosted by the Kansas Hospital Association, brings together hospital leadership and trustees from across the state and

promotes the importance of good governance practices. This event provides top notch speakers, educational sessions and discussions on the most critical topics facing hospitals today.

Session topics will include the following:

- Future Trends in Health Care and a Road Map for Navigating the Path Ahead
- Caring for Your Community and Its Unique Needs
- Strategies and Tactics to Keep Health Care Local
- Cybersecurity – What a Hospital Board Needs to Know?
- Explore Opportunities in Hospital Finance

The brochure for this program may be accessed by using the link below:

<https://www.kha-net.org/EducationConventionTS/EducationEvents/d169329.aspx?type=view>

You may register for this program online:

<https://registration.kha-net.org>

Please contact the KHA Education Department (785) 233-7436 or mwilley@kha-net.org if you have any questions.

-Hayley Finch-Genschorck

Trustee Recognition at Critical Issues Summit

As KHA attends board meetings across the state, it is obvious many governance best practices are being utilized. KHA encourages members to recognize board members for their dedication and service. KHA started the [Trustee Accountability and Recognition Program](#) in 2010 as a response for hospitals to demonstrate their accountability to legislators, attorneys generals and their communities.

The program annually recognizes trustees at the [KHA Critical Issues Summit](#). The [Trustee Accountability and Recognition Program](#) recognizes hospitals and trustees that:

1. Understand and embrace the need for governance accountability
2. Govern according to a standard of excellence
3. Formally recognize their adherence to governance best practices
4. Embrace community accountability
5. Structure their community benefit and outreach programs to meet identified community needs

We encourage hospitals to recognize trustees at this year's [Critical Issues Summit](#) by completing a [recognition form](#) by Feb. 23. Email or fax the form to [Cindy Samuelson](#) at (785) 233-6955.

-Cindy Samuelson

Hotel Deadline Fast Approaching: Infection Prevention Conference – March 21-22, 2024

This conference will help prepare health care professionals to be facilitators and resources for surveillance, prevention and control of infections. Attendees will discover proven strategies for implementing infection prevention programs. Time will be allotted during the conference for

attendees to network and discuss issues with other infection prevention professionals. All participants will receive infection prevention reference materials.

The brochure for this program may be accessed by using the link below.

<https://www.kha-net.org/EducationConventionTS/EducationEvents/d169467.aspx?type=view>

You may register for this program online by using the link below.

<https://registration.kha-net.org/>

Who Should Attend

This course is designed for infection prevention professionals in acute care, ambulatory care, long-term care, home health, mental health, correctional facilities and other interested professionals.

Location and Hotel Accommodations

This conference will be at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Wichita Airport, 42098 Airport Road, Wichita, KS 67209. A block of rooms has been reserved for the night of March 21, at the rate of \$119, plus tax. The hotel room block is available until Feb. 23. After that date, reservations will be taken on a space-available basis. Make your reservation by calling (316) 945-5272, provide the group name of Kansas Hospital Association.

Online Hotel Reservation Link:

<https://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/ictardt-kha-b812340f-46cd-4e9d-9c52-8d953e094576/>

Please contact the KHA Education Department (785) 233-7436 or mwilley@kha-net.org if you have any questions.

-Hayley Finch-Genschorck

Kansas State Board of Healing Arts Licensure Update

The Kansas State Board of Healing Arts has provided an update on health care professional licensure and information that can impact licensing timelines as well as suggested best practices to avoid licensing delays. KSBHA is the executive body tasked with licensing and regulating 16 health care professions in Kansas, including physicians and physician assistants.

The Board is composed of 15 members, 12 of whom are licensed health care professionals from various professions, including eight licensed physicians. The length of time to obtain a license in Kansas varies depending on the time of year, the license type sought and the completeness of the application submitted, as well as other factors which may be personal to each applicant. In general, applicants should allow four to six weeks for an application for licensure to be processed. KSBHA notes that there may be some unique circumstances when a Kansas hospital hires an out-of-state physician to come to Kansas for employment. Occasionally, that physician may run into a delay in obtaining their Kansas license to practice for various reasons. KSBHA has

shared the following ways a hospital/facility, and the applicant, may be able to help prevent or alleviate some of those delays.

1. If the candidate is licensed in another state, determine if they might qualify for licensure via the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact. This is an expedited licensure process and can save weeks if your candidate qualifies. Information on the IMLC can be found [here](#).
2. Determine through the interview process (interviews and resume/CV) whether your candidate is foreign trained and/or from an accredited program. Ensure they have the required number of approved hours of post-graduate training. If they graduated from a foreign medical school or an unaccredited program, try to determine if the program is substantially equivalent to an [ACGME](#) accredited program as this can cause licensure to take longer than expected.
3. Determine through the interview process (interviews) whether your candidate has anything in their background that may impact the licensure process. This could be any past professional misconduct/discipline of their license, any past legal issues (no matter how seemingly small), etc.
4. If your candidate is a new graduate, start the licensure process as early as possible and send final transcripts when they are available. Otherwise, ensure the application is complete when it is sent to avoid the Licensing Analyst from needing to contact the applicant for missing requirements. Ideally, do not set a work start date until licensure has been successfully accomplished. If you do set a date, be prepared for this date to be fluid.

If your candidate has any of these issues, you may wish to consider requesting they sign a third-party release of information form. This will allow the KSBHA staff to provide you with updates if the process is taking longer than expected. The release of information form can be found [here](#) (select "Third Party Release"). The KSBHA is happy to discuss any individual and/or unique situations as they come up, please feel free to contact Susan Gile, Executive Director, Susan.Gile@ks.gov, or Rebekah Moon, Licensing Administrator at Rebekah.Moon@ks.gov.

-Karen Braman

The Kansas Insurance Industry Is Hosting an Educational Event on the Medical Review Process

The Kansas Insurance Commissioner's Office is hosting a hybrid Industry Insight event to educate both insurers and providers on key issues within the department. The event will be from 8:30 a.m. to noon on Feb. 23, and will cover topics such as Standard Application Process for URO Certification, URAC Accreditation and Market Conduct.

Virtual Participation Registration:

[Click to Register](#)

In-Person Participation Registration:
(attendance will be limited):

[Click to Register](#)

-Tara Mays

Federal and National News

CMS Issues Revised Texting Guidance

CMS issued revised [guidance](#) on the texting of physician orders. The texting of patient information and patient orders among members of the health care team is permitted if accomplished through a HIPAA-compliant, secure texting platform and in compliance with the Conditions of Participation. MHA is evaluating the revised guidance and seeking clarification on certain requirements.

Maternal Syphilis Rate Triples Over Six Years

The CDC [reports](#) syphilis infections during pregnancy more than tripled between 2016 and 2022 to 280 cases per 100,000 births. In November, the CDC [reported](#) more than 3,700 mothers passed on the infection to their babies in 2022 — 10 times more than in 2012 — although timely testing and treatment could prevent most mothers from transmitting the infection to their babies.

The American Academy of Family Physicians recommends [screening](#) for all pregnant women. The CDC provided treatment [guidelines](#) for maternal and congenital syphilis.

Before You Go

READ: The Flex Monitoring Team published [“Lessons Learned from Efforts to Support Vulnerable Critical Access and Other Rural Hospitals”](#) summarizing state and federal programs, demonstrations, and models to support CAHs and other rural hospitals.