



KHA's Current Report
March 29, 2024

President's Perspective – KHA Board Delves into Advocacy, Workforce Initiatives

Earlier this week, the Kansas Hospital Association's Board of Directors met in Topeka to discuss business related to the association and those pertinent topics facing Kansas hospitals, including the latest advocacy issues on the state and federal levels.

The Kansas Legislature is expected to adjourn the regular portion of the 2024 session on Friday, April 5, and head home for a three-week break before they return on April 29, to begin the annual veto session. Several health care policy issues continue to remain in play, including increases to the Medicaid reimbursement rates for hospitals and physicians. The Senate and House Budget Conference Committee will negotiate the hospital Medicaid rate increase proposals, which is \$45.2 million all funds in the House and nearly \$80 million all funds in the Senate for the state fiscal year 2025. The Senate also is recommending an additional increase of \$147 million for all funds in the state fiscal year 2026. Besides increasing Medicaid rates, KHA will continue to advocate for policy initiatives to increase Kansans' health care coverage and reduce administrative burdens to health care providers. We appreciate everyone's involvement in KHA's advocacy efforts, especially the work from the membership in reaching out to elected officials regarding the hospital transparency legislation earlier this week.

The KHA Board also broke into small group discussions to discuss workforce recruitment and retention challenges and opportunities. Progress has been made among the membership in promoting health care careers. Last month, KHA spearheaded an effort with several KHA members, and the education community, to highlight health care careers during the 2024 Virtual Health Care Career Day. We also launched www.HappyInHealthCare.org, with an interactive career quiz, to help connect individuals to career information, scholarships and schools. The establishment of HOSA chapters for high school students continues in many Kansas communities to serve as a positive recruitment tool.

While a successful recruitment strategy is essential for the future, it also is vital to invest in retention efforts for the current workforce. Kansas hospitals are exploring several creative and innovative approaches to support and develop our current health care professionals. These efforts include mentorship programs, leveraging artificial intelligence to reduce administrative burdens, exploring alternative staffing models and maximizing flexibilities. Even though work remains to ensure a sustainable workforce, the future appears bright!

Additional highlights of the March board meeting are bulleted below:

- Approved changes to the KHA Executive Committee to move Tammy Peterson, president, Kansas City Division, The University of Kansas Health System, Kansas City, to the KHA Secretary/Treasurer position and Val Gleason, president and CEO, NMC Health, Newton to the at-large position
- Acknowledged Harold Courtois, CEO, of Memorial Health System, Abilene for his service on the KHA Executive Committee
- Received a recap from Larry Van Der Wege, administrator, Lindsborg Community Hospital, Lindsborg, regarding the recent American Hospital Association's Regional Policy Board Meeting
- Approved the KHA membership application for the New Birth Company, LLC, Overland Park (specialty hospital member)
- Discussed and adopted the KHA Finance Report
- Approved the recommendation by the KHA Communication Committee to change the name of the "Health Care Worker of the Year" award to the "Heart of Health Care Award"
- Reviewed the current public perception campaign and [member toolkit](#), "We Put Our Hearts Into It"
- Highlighted the work of the maternal health initiatives happening in Kansas
- Discussed the preparations for the 2024 KHA Convention and Trade Show, including the theme "Champions of Change"
- Received an update on the Kansas Hospital Association Political Action Committee fundraising status and upcoming activities

Contact KHA if you have any questions or need assistance on matters affecting your hospital. We hope to see you at [Spring District Meetings](#).

--Chad Austin

Pneumococcal Vaccine Update for Physicians and Clinicians – April 30

Please join us for a pneumococcal vaccine update webinar from noon to 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 30, and hear from Lynn Fisher, MD, family physician and Gretchen Homan, MD, pediatrician, who will provide updates impacting adult pneumococcal vaccine recommendations for adult and pediatric patients, respectively; and Monica Pando, RN, VFC coordinator, who will discuss navigating these updates from a clinical perspective.



--Hayley Finch-Genschorck

KHA Spring District Meetings Start Next Week – Register Today

The Kansas Hospital Association's District Meetings provide members with timely information and are essential in helping KHA learn about your top issues. We encourage CEOs, CFOs, HR executives, trustees and senior staff to join us. We want to have interactive conversations, so invite key staff working or interested in the topic areas below:

- The Kansas Medical Society Professionals' Health Program
- Financial Strategies - Managing Payer Denials, All Payers Scorecard and Financial Benchmarking
- Member Discussion on Workforce Strategies
- Public Perception Campaign
- Member Discussion on KHA 2025-2027 Strategic Planning
- State and Federal Advocacy
- KHSC and APS Spotlight Services
- Member Discussion on Regional and State Resources and Strategies

Join us for networking with your peers and KHA staff at 9:30 a.m. 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 1500 SW 10th Ave.	Topeka
Northwest	April 3	Rooks County Health Center 1210 N Washington St.	Plainville
Southwest	April 4	St. Catherine Hospital - Garden City 401 E. Spruce St.	Garden City
Southeast	April 9	Allen County Regional Hospital 3066 N. Kentucky St.	Iola
North Central	April 10	Salina Regional Health Center 400 S. Santa Fe Ave.	Salina
South Central	April 12	Ascension Via Christi St. Francis 929 N. St. Francis	Wichita

[Click to View Agenda](#)  [Click to Register](#) [CONTACT US](#)

--Cindy Samuelson

KONL Spring Conference – April 25

Register now for the Kansas Organization of Nurse Leaders 2024 Spring Conference – [Fostering Excellence through Resourcefulness](#). The conference is 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on April 25 at the [Drury Plaza Hotel in Wichita](#). [Register online](#) and pay with a credit card or check. The [brochure](#) is available for download.

--Lorri Dean

Health Related Social Needs FAQs

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services published [Health-Related Social Needs FAQs](#) about four services in the calendar year 2024 Physician Fee Schedule final rule:

- Caregiver training
- Social determinants of health risk assessment
- Community health integration
- Principal illness navigation

For more information, visit the [CMS Physician Fee Schedule](#).

--Karen Braman

Vaccination Community Navigator Training

IKC Community Health Specialists are hosting [Vaccination Community Navigator Trainings](#) in April. Each training features a different module, highlighting key concepts to enhance vaccine knowledge and confidence among community members. The Vaccination Community Navigator Program is a comprehensive, continuing education curriculum for Promotores/Community Health Workers, designed to build their capacity (measured through increased knowledge and reported confidence) to engage their communities in vaccine conversations and navigate people of all ages to vaccination services.

--Karen Braman

Apply for the 2025 AHA Foster G. McGaw Prize

Does your organization improve community health and well-being through leadership and community partnerships? We invite you to apply for the American Hospital Association's [2025 Foster G. McGaw Prize](#)! The Prize honors health delivery organizations that demonstrate alignment between community health needs and co-designed programs.

Honorees forge effective collaborations with a broad range of community organizations to improve access to care and address societal factors influencing health. Award winners have co-created mental health crisis clinics, expanded housing options to help people transition out of homelessness and used strategic investments to expand capacity in vital community benefit organizations. Like you, they are difference-makers in their communities.

This annual award will honor one winner and up to three finalists, who will be recognized at the 2025 AHA Leadership Summit in Nashville. AHA is now accepting applications through May 22. Learn about past honorees and [apply here](#). If you have questions, please email fostermcgaw@aha.org.

--Cindy Samuelson

Federal and National News

Congress Enacts Second Appropriations Package

Congress enacted another [appropriations package](#) that funds HHS through FFY 2024. The \$1.2 trillion package includes funding for Defense; Financial Services and General Government; Homeland Security; Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies; Legislative Branch; and, State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs. [Additional information](#) is available.

MLN Connects Provider eNews Available

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

- [CMS Roundup \(March 22, 2024\)](#)
- [Hospital Price Transparency: Tools to Help Hospitals Comply by July 1](#)