



KHA's Current Report
April 12, 2024

President's Perspective – Addressing Today's Issues and Planning for the Future

For the past two weeks, the Kansas Hospital Association has been traveling across Kansas and hosting our 2024 KHA Spring District Meetings. The meetings, which wrap up today, have been a great opportunity to meet with KHA members and discuss timely information about the pertinent issues facing Kansas hospitals. The chance to engage and network with peers serves many purposes, but most of all an opportunity to learn from each other and to share experiences. Thank you to all our members who attended.

Each KHA district meeting was kicked off with education about the Kansas Medical Society's Professionals' Health Program. The program, which has been available to Kansas health care providers for more than 30 years, provides resources and support to individuals needing assistance. Thank you to Mikel Thomas, MD, who joined us at all six meetings. If you have any follow-up questions or need to refer a health care provider to Kansas' professional wellness program, please contact [Angela Grittman](#) at (785) 231-1306.

The two most pressing topics for KHA members were also on the agenda: finance and workforce. We discussed managing payer denials, highlighted new data in the All Payers Scorecard and shared financial benchmarking and other best practices. In the area of workforce, we shared new turnover and vacancy rate data and surveyed members on current changes they are seeing.

Our current public perception campaign was also highlighted, and members were encouraged to launch local campaigns to complement our statewide efforts. This statewide campaign, "We Put Our Hearts Into It" has a goal to improve the public perception of health care in Kansas and Kansas hospitals. Key messages, photos, videos, storyboards, social posts and scripts are available in an [online shared folder](#) for KHA members.

Members also had the chance to learn the latest on KHA's advocacy efforts on the state and federal level. On the federal side, members heard about the recent budget discussions and remaining policy issues, including those that deal with site-neutral payments and the 340B drug discount program. We also discussed the status of several state legislative priority issues that were considered during the regular portion of the 2024 Kansas legislative session. A few of the legislative highlights focused on the proposed Medicaid rate increases, behavioral health investments and workforce initiatives that were adopted by the legislature.

Planning for the future was an important focus of these meetings. KHA collected valuable feedback on the future and insight into KHA's vision, mission, values and strategic priorities for the 2025-2027 KHA Strategic Plan. The feedback and results we collected will be shared with the KHA Board of Directors at their meeting in May as they draft the next three-year plan. We will bring this plan back to KHA members for review at the Fall District Meetings.

As you think of the future, please make sure and mark your calendar for the 2024 [Kansas Hospital Association Annual Convention](#) and [Trade Show, Champions of Change](#), Sept. 5-6 in Overland Park. As always, we greatly appreciate our KHA sponsors: Diamond-Level Sponsors: APS, KAMMCO, and KHSC; Platinum-Level Sponsor: Qualivis. Thanks to all of you who attended our Spring District Meetings. Your participation and involvement were much appreciated! Don't hesitate to let us know if you have any questions or need additional assistance.

--Chad Austin

Rural Emergency Hospital Webinar – April 24

Healthworks and the Kansas Hospital Association are hosting an informational webinar on April 24 for hospitals that would like to learn about the Rural Emergency Hospital model. During the webinar, we provide an overview of the model, share updates on the implementation, highlight technical assistance available and discuss the suitability of the REH for your community.



--Jennifer Findley

KHA-PAC Spotlight

PAC Highlights

We want to recognize and thank the following donors making contributions in 2024:

- Jeanette Siemens, member, board of trustees, Pratt Regional Medical Center, Pratt
- Terry Siek, vice president, patient care services | chief nursing officer, HaysMed, Hays
- Sarah Ragsdale, chief executive officer, Smith County Memorial Hospital, Smith Center
- Aimee Zimmerman, chief executive officer, Logan County Health Services, Oakley

There are still more exciting ways you can get involved in the KHA PAC coming up throughout 2024!

- KHA-PAC Auction and Raffle at the KHA Convention – Donate or sponsor an item for the KHA-PAC Auction during the KHA Convention on Sept. 5-6 in Overland Park. Ideas for auction items include:

- Weekend getaway (we all need it) with access to lodging and tickets
 - Corporate suite or tickets for concerts or sporting events
 - Round of golf at Kansas or out-of-state courses
 - Kid-friendly or family-friendly items
 - Unique jewelry or home décor from your community
 - Food or wine baskets
 - Products your company makes or services you offer
- KHA-PAC Wine and Bourbon Pull: Donate a bottle of wine or bourbon, and then take a chance by purchasing one at the PAC booth at the convention.
 - KHA-PAC Golf Outing – Join us for our KHA-PAC Golf Scramble. Details will be coming soon. By sponsoring our golf scramble, you can network with KHA members. Sponsors will be recognized in our newsletter, online and at the event. Hole sponsorships will be available.
 - Additional Fun KHA-PAC Events – Join us for fun regional KHA-PAC events throughout the year. Details on events for 2024 will come soon.

Thank you for your support of the KHA PAC. We couldn't do it without you!

To become a contributor, visit <https://kha-pac.square.site/>. Additional information, including suggested contribution levels, can be found at <https://www.kha-net.org/AboutKHA/KHAPAC/>.

If you have questions about the PAC or how to get involved, please contact [Tara Mays](#) at (785) 969-9270.

--Tara Mays

Immunize Kansas Coalition Regional Meetings – April 22-25

Connect and collaborate with Immunize Kansas Coalition partners in your community! [IKC regional meetings](#) will be held throughout Kansas April 22-25. The meeting dates and locations are listed below:

- Monday, April 22, 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m., Garden City
- Tuesday, April 23, 10:00 a.m. – Noon, Wichita
- Wednesday, April 24, 10:00 a.m. – Noon, Pittsburg
- Thursday, April 25, 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m., Topeka
- Thursday, April 25, 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m., Lenexa

Attendees will learn about IKC engagement opportunities, hear updates from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment on vaccine-related statutes and requirements, understand how we can increase community immunity together and more.

[Click to Register](#)

--Karen Braman

How Do Your Hospital Finances Measure Up? Webinar – May 2

Join Healthworks and KHA for an educational session at 2:00 p.m. on May 2 to learn how to utilize QHI's financial benchmarking tool effectively. Shannan Flach, vice president of health care finance and reimbursement and Sally Othmer, vice president of data and strategic analytics, will be joined by Wes Garrison, founder, of Data Basically, to walk through the tool, including the easy-upload process, review the QHI financial measures available and to demonstrate how to run and schedule reports.

QHI, an enterprise-wide benchmarking program managed by Healthworks, has been committed to improving the quality of care and financial viability of rural healthcare providers since 2003.

We encourage hospital CEOs, CFOs and other hospital financial leaders to participate in this webinar.



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--Hayley Finch-Genschorck

careLearning Informational Webinar – May 1

The Kansas Hospital Association invites your hospital to learn more about the *careLearning* education management solution at noon on May 1, 2024. The Kansas Hospital Association, along with 40 other state hospital associations, offers *careLearning*, a web-based, online educational tool for member hospitals.

Hospitals nationwide utilize this cost-effective learning solution to ensure all employees have required regulatory training and access to hundreds of healthcare-related courses. With a few quick clicks in the system, users can create an unlimited number of facility-specific courses, manage instructor-led meetings and automatically track and report upon them.



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--Hayley Finch-Genschorck

Stay Enrolled as a KanCare Provider – Don't Forget to Revalidate

The Kansas Medical Assistance Program has resumed provider revalidations after a pause in the process because of the Public Health Emergency, which ended May 11, 2023. Every KanCare provider must complete a revalidation to remain enrolled in the Kansas Medicaid program. A 60-day and a 30-day notice is being sent to each provider with their new due date and instructions on how to revalidate. Providers must revalidate by their due date or risk termination.

Revalidation notices will be sent to the email address on file for each provider. If this contact information is outdated, KMAP may not be able to contact the provider. Please make sure that providers are watching their email inbox or hospital mailbox for the notice. Failure to revalidate will result in the termination of KanCare enrollment. If a provider is unsure who the owner of their revalidation is, they should email KMAP at kansas-provider-enrollment@gainwelltechnologies.com or call (800) 933-6593.

If you have any questions, please reach out to [Shannan Flach](#) at (785) 233-7436.

--Shannan Flach

Immunizations for Adolescents and Young Adults – Ad Astra ECHO Series on Immunizations – May 3

Plan to join remotely from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on Friday, May 3, for an ECHO on immunizations for adolescents and young adults. This convening is part of the [Ad Astra ECHO Series, Immunizations in Kansas](#), hosted by the Kansas Health Institute. This session will provide a comprehensive understanding of the recommended vaccine schedule for adolescents and young adults. Participants will gain the knowledge and skills necessary to navigate the complexities of vaccination in this age group. They will also develop effective communication strategies and problem-solving skills, as well as explore innovative approaches for integrating immunization programs in various settings, focusing on fostering vaccine confidence among this group.

[Click to Register](#)

--Karen Braman

Partnerships and Strategies to Increase Access to SUD Treatment and Harm Reduction

In Kansas, drug deaths attributed to synthetic opioids, predominantly fentanyl, more than doubled between 2019 - 2020 and 2020 - 2021. Of the 678 Kansas residents who died because of a drug overdose in 2021, 63 percent involved an opioid, 51 percent involved a synthetic opioid and 41 percent involved a non-cocaine psychostimulant. [Join us](#) from noon to 1:00 p.m. on Friday, May 3, to hear how hospitals and communities are partnering to increase access to substance use disorder treatment and harm reduction.

Panelists include:

- Megan Beck, BSN, RN, clinical quality and stroke certification coordinator, Hutchinson Regional Medical Center
- Thomas Simmons, health educator, Reno County Health Department
- Daniel Warren, MD
- Shelly McMaster, RN, BSN, MBA, administrative director clinical integration, Stormont Vail Health
- Michaela Loxterman, LAC, vice president of medical integration, CKF Addiction Treatment

This webinar is the second in a series of opioid-related provider education webinars to be offered in 2024 for clinicians, quality professionals and hospital leaders. The program has been approved for 1.0 contact hours of continuing nursing education and is pending approval for 1.0 contact hours of continuing pharmacy education. There is no charge to attend as this program is funded through a grant from our partners at DCCCA.

[Click to Register](#)

--Karen Braman

Download Sexual Assault Awareness Month Toolkit

April is [Sexual Assault Awareness Month](#). The Kansas Sexual Assault Response Advisory Committee Awareness and Education subcommittee has created a [social media toolkit](#) to easily share messages and graphics related to sexual assault statistics and resources. Feel free to use these sample posts as written, or to adapt and incorporate them into communications that work best for your organization's goals. These graphics include a Facebook cover photo and graphics that coincide with sample posts for the platforms of Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

You can download them on the Kansas Sexual Assault Response Advisory Committee Awareness and Education subcommittee's [Google Drive](#) or from the Kansas Hospital Association's new [Box website](#).

--Shelby Stacy

Federal and National News

CDC Issues Health Alert for Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Virus

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued a [health advisory](#) to inform the health care community of a recently confirmed human infection with highly pathogenic avian influenza A(H5N1) virus in the U.S. following exposure to presumably infected dairy cattle. The USDA [reported](#) detections of the virus in U.S. dairy cattle in multiple states. This health advisory also includes a summary of interim CDC [recommendations](#) for preventing, monitoring, and conducting public health investigations of potential human infections with HPAI A(H5N1) virus.

Research Finds Many Medicaid Enrollees Were Unaware of Continuous Coverage Provided to Them

Research published in the [JAMA Health Forum](#) finds that many Medicaid participants who were provided continuous eligibility throughout the COVID public health emergency did not realize they were covered. The study highlights how the confusion created by the complex web of health care coverage for low-income individuals can prevent them from using the benefits available to them.

HRSA Hosts Roundtable on New National Survey on the State of the Nursing Workforce

Health Resources and Services Administration releases findings of the new [National Sample Survey of Registered Nurses](#) – the first comprehensive federal survey of nurses since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in the U.S.

The survey is a comprehensive picture of the nursing workforce, the largest health care profession in the U.S., conducted every four years by HRSA's National Center for Health Workforce Analysis in collaboration with the U.S. Census Bureau. Nearly 50,000 nurses responded to the survey questions and reported on topics such as education, training, job satisfaction, as well as their experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic.

CMS Issues Final CY 2025 Medicare Advantage and Part D Final Rule

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services [released](#) the calendar year 2025 Medicare Advantage and Part D [final rule](#). Specifically, the rule [revises](#) the caps on broker and agent fees, limits the distribution of personal beneficiary data by third-party marketing organizations, improves access to behavioral health care providers, implements annual health equity analysis of utilization management policies and standardizes the Medicare Advantage risk adjustment data validation appeals process.

CMS is also seeking [comments](#) on all aspects of data—both currently and not currently being collected—related to the Medicare Advantage program. Comments must be received by Wednesday, May 29.

MLN Connects Provider eNews Available

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

- [CMS Roundup \(Apr. 5, 2024\)](#)
- [Medicare Shared Savings Program: Application Toolkit Materials](#)
- [CMS Health Information Handler Helps You Submit Medical Review Documentation Electronically](#)
- [Help Improve the Health of Minority Populations](#)

Before You Go ...

- Aya Healthcare is hosting a webinar, *Diving into Resource Pools: Insider Tips for Building a Flexible Workforce*, at noon Tuesday, April 23. [Registration is required.](#)