



KHA's Current Report
April 26, 2024

President's Perspective – KHA Members Advocate in Washington, DC

Last week, hospital and health system leaders from across the country gathered in Washington, DC, to attend the 2024 American Hospital Association Annual Meeting. AHA assembled an outstanding speaker line-up that included industry leaders, elected officials and political pundits. The AHA Annual Meeting allows hospital leaders to spend time on Capitol Hill advocating to their elected officials.

Kansas hospital leaders had the opportunity to visit with members of the Kansas Congressional Delegation, and their staff, on Capitol Hill. Our topics of conversation broke down into two major categories: workforce and reimbursement. On the workforce front, we were encouraged to find broad support for our drive to protect our hospitals' nurses and grow the pool of potential nursing hires. To that end, we want to thank Senator Jerry Moran for his work on simplifying the process of hiring foreign BSN graduates and Congressman Tracey Mann for cosponsoring a bill to reallocate unused temporary work visas to nurses. Also, kudos to Congressman Jake LaTurner and Congresswoman Sharice Davids for cosponsoring the SAVE Act, which makes it a federal crime to assault a health care worker.

On reimbursement, we continue to educate our delegation on how the insurance industry's lack of accountability to any effective oversight body emboldens them to continuously undermine the 340B Drug Pricing Program, engage in questionable practices for signing up seniors for Medicare Advantage plans and deny coverage for Medicare Advantage beneficiaries indefinitely for procedures generally covered by traditional Medicare. We also discussed the need for extending various Medicare programs like the low-volume hospital and Medicare dependent hospital designations, while rejecting any sequestration increases either in percentage or duration.

We discussed the need to modify the Rural Emergency Hospital program and feel confident a Senate bill will be introduced later this year, as well as a provision on this matter in a larger House Ways and Means Committee rural health care bill. Finally, we discussed the need for providing grant dollars for hospitals struggling to keep up with possible cybersecurity requirements coming out of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

Thanks to the Kansas Hospital Association members who were able to join us:

- Molly Haase, AdventHealth, Shawnee Mission
- Paul Kempinski and Dallas Polen, Children's Mercy Hospital, Overland Park
- Nicole Milo, CommonSpirit, Centennial, CO
- Carrie Lutz, Holton Community Hospital, Holton
- George Stover, Hospital District #1 of Rice County, Lyons
- Larry Van Der Wege, Lindsborg Community Hospital, Lindsborg
- Kiley Floyd, Curt Sudbeck, Niki Buesing and Courtney Schmelzle, Nemaha Valley Community Hospital, Seneca
- Ashley Hutchinson, Salina Regional Health Center, Salina
- Bobby Olm-Shipman, Tim Van Zandt and Jake Vance, Saint Luke's South Hospital, Overland Park
- Greg Bentz, Saint Luke's South Hospital Board, Overland Park
- Sherri Vaughn, MD and Kenny Wilk, The University of Kansas Health System, Kansas City

--Chad Austin

Register for the AHA Health Equity Conference in Kansas City

The American Hospital Association is hosting its annual Accelerating Health Equity Conference to Help Advance Community Health, Well-Being and Equity on May 7-9 at the Sheraton Kansas City Hotel at Crown Center. This conference brings together professionals focused on improving community and population health with those striving to advance diversity, equity and inclusion within hospital management and executive levels. The Kansas Hospital Association and Missouri Hospital Association are collaborating on this event.

Discussion topics include:

- Community health and investment, population health management
- Community engagement and partnership
- Strategy and mission
- Diversity, equity and inclusion

The full agenda and registration information are available at <https://equityconference.aha.org>.

--Hayley Finch-Genschorck

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

Join Healthworks and the Kansas Hospital Association 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 Databasically, Inc., to walk through the tool, including the easy-upload process, review the QHi financial measures available, and demonstrate how to run and schedule reports.

QHi, an enterprise-wide benchmarking program managed by Healthworks, is committed to improving the quality of care and financial viability of rural health care providers since 2003.

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



--Hayley Finch-Genschorck

Prairie Dog Culture

If you have ever seen a prairie dog town, there are sentries posted throughout. Their job is to bark if they see danger. This puts the town on alert and helps protect the collective. What does this have to do with cyber security? Some people are better at spotting adversaries than others. By leveraging them, you can help protect your company overall.

The reality is for companies under 500 employees, one in four phishing emails will be responded to, but only 2 percent will be reported. The trick is to get those who spot the phishing attempt to share it with those who do not. Teaching staff to speak up when they see a phishing attempt will cause others to be more alert when checking their email. It promotes a safety culture of awareness, where everyone is open to asking questions related to these types of attacks, in short, a Prairie Dog Culture.

If you have an internal message board, chat (via Teams, for example) or similar tool, have people post what they see and explain how they spotted it or ask for feedback if they're unsure. If you have a weekly meeting, take turns bringing a real-life example and sharing or simply make it a habit to share via email. Once you create this kind of culture, this will not be a problem; everyone will be on the lookout.

--Justin Dempsey, [Nex-Tech Technology](#) Services Manager

KHSC's Newest Endorsed Partner AblePay Addresses Affordability Gap in Health Care

AblePay is one of the Kansas Health Service Corporation's newest endorsed partners. AblePay addresses the patient affordability gap for Kansas hospitals and the patients they serve. KHSC is sponsoring a free webinar at noon on May 8 where members can learn more about the solution already being implemented in four Kansas hospitals.

During this demonstration webinar, you will learn how the AblePay solution will increase your revenue while providing a better patient experience overall. They will also share, through provider case studies, how its program positively changes patient payment behavior.

[Click to Register](#)

--Steve Poage

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 March:

- Tracy Duran, RN, BSN, MSN, hospital administrator (no longer interim), Stormont Vail Health Flint Hills Campus, Junction City
- Kerry Herbine, chief executive officer, Community HealthCare System, Inc., Onaga
- Shawn Perry, chief financial officer (receiving CEO mailings), AdventHealth Ottawa, Ottawa
- Dallas Purkepile, chief executive officer, AdventHealth South Overland Park, Overland Park
- Katie Bruels, RN-MSN, DNP, interim chief executive officer, Menorah Medical Center, Overland Park (Kirk McCarty starts as chief executive officer on June 1)
- Frank Safrit, PhD, MSN, RN, chief executive officer, Grisell Memorial Hospital District #1, Ransom

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

Health Observances and Recognition Days for May – Mark Your Calendar for National Hospital Week – May 12-18

#WeAreHealthcare [National Hospital Week](#), May 12-18, is an opportunity to highlight our hospitals, health systems and health care workers and the innovative ways they are supporting and connected to their community. Hospitals find innovative ways to support the needs of patients and communities. During National Hospital Week, and all weeks, we recognize hospitals, health care systems, networks and others who provide care to their community.

May Month-Long Observances

- Arthritis Awareness Month
- Asthma and Allergy Awareness Month (National)
- Better Sleep Month
- Better Hearing and Speech Month
- Celiac Disease Awareness Month (National)
- Critical Care Awareness and Recognition Month (National)
- Cystic Fibrosis Awareness Month
- Ehlers-Danlos Syndromes and Hypermobility Spectrum Disorders Awareness Month
- Employee Health and Fitness Month (Global)
- Fitness and Sports Month (National)
- Healthy Vision Month
- Hepatitis Awareness Month
- High Blood Pressure Education Month (National)
- Huntington's Disease Awareness Month
- Lupus Awareness Month
- Melanoma/Skin Cancer Detection and Prevention Month
- Mental Health Awareness Month
- Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month
- NF Awareness Month
- Nurses Month (National)
- Older American's Month
- Oncology Nursing Month
- Osteoporosis Awareness and Prevention Month (National)
- Preeclampsia Awareness Month
- Psoriasis-Arthritis Action Month
- Run A Mile Month
- Skin Cancer Prevention and Awareness Month
- Stroke Awareness Month (National)
- Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month (National)
- Trauma Awareness Month (National)
- Women's Health Month (National)

May Week-Long Observances

May 1-7 – Physical Education and Sports Week (National)

May 5-11 – Children's Mental Health Awareness Week

May 6-10 – Air Quality Awareness Week

May 12 -18:

- **Hospital Week (National)**
- Nurses Week (National)
- Maternal Sepsis Week

- Food Allergy Awareness Week
- Women's Health Week (National)
- Stuttering Awareness Week (National)

May 19- 25 –Healthcare Documentation Integrity Week

May Days | Events

May 1 – Maternal Mental Health Day (World)

May 2 – Trauma Registry Professionals Day

May 5 – Hand Hygiene Day (World)

May 6 – No Diet Day (International)

May 7 – Asthma Day (World) and Children's Mental Health Awareness Day

May 8 – Red Cross and Red Crescent Day (World), Student Nurses Day (National) and School Nurse Day (National)

May 9 – Injury Prevention Professionals Day

May 11 – Cornelia de Lange Syndrome Awareness Day (International)

May 12 – Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Day and Nurses Day (International)

May 13 – Women's Checkup Day (National)

May 16 – Trauma Survivors Day (National)

May 18 – AIDS Vaccine Day (World) and HIV Vaccine Awareness Day (World)

May 19 – Asian and Pacific Islander HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (National)

May 20 – Autoimmune/Auto-Inflammatory Arthritis Day (World)

May 24 – Don't Fry Day

May 29 – Senior Health and Fitness Day (National)

May 31 – No Tobacco Day (World)

The Kansas Hospital Association and Society for Healthcare Strategy and Market Development are pleased to bring you the [2024 Calendar of Health Observances & Recognition Days](#). Yet another example of our commitment to providing health care strategists with practical, timely resources. This calendar is designed to help you plan your 2024 community health events, internal and external communications, social media campaigns and more. The 2024 calendar is easy to navigate, interactive and features more than 230 health observances and recognition days. Don't miss out on the chance to receive calendar updates from SHSMD sponsor Baldwin Publishing. Not only do they provide you with a Health Observance Guide with ALL the content you need to post every day for the following month, they also give access to healthy recipes, cooking videos, branded cookbooks, recipe calendars, wellness content and solutions.

[Download the 2024 Calendar](#)

--Jan Fenwick

Federal and National News

CMS Announces Medicaid Access and Quality Rules Release

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services is set to publish its final rules on Medicaid access and quality for [fee-for-service](#) and [managed care](#) programs Friday, May 10. Although the rules include many provisions that will enable coverage and ensure participants have fair access to the benefits to which they are entitled, the managed care rule will require Medicaid enrolled providers to periodically attest whether they are participating in Medicaid provider tax "hold harmless arrangements." Many other provider groups opposed the imposition of this provision, arguing CMS lacks the statutory authority to do so. The final rule defers the implementation of the attestation requirement until January 2028, which will allow time for the legality of the requirement to be reviewed.

CMS Releases Final Long-Term Care Minimum Staffing Regulation

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services [released](#) a final rule containing minimum staffing requirements at long-term care facilities. The rule mandates long-term care facilities to provide a minimum of 3.48 hours per resident day in nursing staff time, including a minimum 0.55 HPRD of R.N. care and 2.45 HPRD of direct nurse aide care. The rule requires an RN on-site 24-7 for skilled nursing care. The rule will be implemented in three phases.

FTC Finalizes Sweeping Rule Barring Noncompete Agreements

The Federal Trade Commission finalized a [rule](#) that would ban noncompete agreements for nearly all occupations in the U.S. Once the rule is effective, employers will be required to notify employees currently subject to a noncompete agreement that the contract is no longer enforceable. The only contracts permitted to stay in effect are those with senior executives, defined as individuals in a policy-making position making more than \$151,164 annually. Employers are prohibited from imposing new noncompete contracts with senior executives after the effective date of the rule.

The FTC's jurisdiction extends to for-profit entities, and numerous commenters to the proposed rule asserted it could not regulate nonprofit or governmental entities. However, the FTC claims in the final rule that such organizations are not "categorically outside the Commission's authority." Because of the rule's far-reaching implications, litigation to stop its implementation is likely. The rule has not yet been published in the *Federal Register* but will take effect 120 days from the publication date.

Study Looks at Barriers to Opioid Use Disorder Treatment Among Rural Residents

In 2020, nearly three million people living in rural areas required treatment for a substance use disorder. Of these individuals, only 10 percent received treatment from a specialty facility and less than 1 percent received medication for opioid use disorder. A [study](#) published in *Social Science & Medicine* focuses on the unique barriers and challenges faced by patients living in nonmetropolitan areas. Themes include fear of withdrawal, close-knit communities that perpetuate drug use, stigma, limited availability of treatment in rural areas, lack of transportation and treatment facilities with strict, punitive policies, among others. By understanding the roadblocks faced by these community members, we can begin dismantling the policies and procedures creating inequitable access to treatment.

MLN Connects Provider eNews Available

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

- [Minimum Staffing Standards for Long-Term Care Facilities and Medicaid Institutional Payment Transparency Reporting Final Rule](#)
- [CMS Roundup \(Apr 19, 2024\)](#)
- [Hospice: Certifying Physicians Must Enroll in or Opt-Out of Medicare by May 1](#)
- [Comprehensive Error Rate Testing Program: Reduced Sample Size Starting with Reporting Year 2025](#)
- [Skilled Nursing Facility Value-Based Purchasing Program: FY 2026 Early Look Performance Score Report](#)

Before You Go ...

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services is hosting [a series of five webinars](#) this summer focused on improving maternal health outcomes with an emphasis on substance abuse and hypertension treatment. Advance registration is required for each webinar. Following the webinar series, CMS will convene state-hosted affinity workgroups about maternal substance use and hypertension to complement the work of state-level maternal health improvement programs.