



KHA's Current Report
June 14, 2024

President's Perspective – We CARE We VOTE

Advocacy is at the heart of every service KHA provides for members. Whether we are educating, advocating or relationship-building, we look for ways to assist policymakers at the federal, state and local levels in understanding the issues essential to hospitals. Part of our advocacy efforts is to encourage our members to be involved in the process and vote. We invite you to use our ready-made [2024 We CARE We VOTE Campaign](#) to mobilize your hospital's employees in this important election year.

We CARE We VOTE is a statewide initiative to empower and educate health care workers about how they can get out and vote during the 2024 elections. The campaign encourages hospital employees to participate in the 2024 elections to show elected officials and candidates we care – for our patients, our communities and our local and state economies.

As you know, the 2024 elections will be critical because the leaders we elect will make important decisions concerning the future of health care – and, ultimately, the future of Kansas hospitals. Leading up to the Kansas Primary Election on Aug. 6, and the General Election on Nov. 5, we encourage you to call on hospital employees, physicians, trustees, vendors and volunteers to join together to make the voice of the industry heard through the We CARE We VOTE campaign.

Together, Kansas hospital employees are more than 100,000 people strong. Your team is in a powerful position to make a difference with their votes and their voices as advocates for better health. The Kansas Hospital Association is here to support those efforts, and we encourage you to use the 2024 We CARE We VOTE advocacy toolkit to promote the importance of electing leaders who prioritize healthy Kansas populations and healthy Kansas economies.

A customizable multimedia toolkit is available for download in a [new box folder](#). PDFs are at kha-net.org, click on [Advocacy](#), [We CARE We VOTE](#), or use the QR Code. The toolkit includes:

Getting Started

- A commitment and order form to ensure your hospital has the resources you need
- A communication plan and checklist to roll out the campaign at your hospital
- A campaign timeline for the 2024 Primary and General Elections

- Guidelines for having nonpartisan conversations with patients and the general public (including guidance on what a 501(c)3 can and cannot do)

Public Relations

- Sample social media posts and graphics to easily use and share
- Sample media release and trustee information on the We CARE We VOTE campaign
- Posters/flyers to display in elevators, staff breakrooms or around the hospital
- Video from the Secretary of State on registering to vote

Resources for Staff Engagement

- Template CEO communication to send to employees to inspire involvement
- We CARE We VOTE pins and cards to pass out to employees
- Article for your hospital's internal newsletter on voting options
- A short, inspirational video to share with employees (and the public via your social media pages)
- A PowerPoint presentation on the We CARE We VOTE campaign
- Questions for employees to ask candidates on matters related to health care in Kansas
- Handout for employees to give candidates about Kansas hospitals and our current advocacy issues

We hope you will use these materials to spread the word about building healthier Kansas communities. As always, if you have questions or need additional assistance, please contact KHA at (785) 233-7436.

--Chad Austin

KHA Board Nominations Requested

The Kansas Hospital Association Board of Directors is looking for qualified nominees, including hospital CEO/administrators, hospital trustees and physicians, to fill vacancies on the 2025 KHA Board of Directors. Three KHA Board positions need to be filled.

If you know of someone who would be a good addition to the KHA Board, or if you would like to be considered for nomination, please contact Bobby Olm-Shipman, KHA board chair, at rolmshipman@saint-lukes.org or me at caustin@kha-net.org by Friday, June 28.

Voting to fill the vacant Board positions will take place during the KHA Annual Business Meeting on Sept. 5, at the KHA Convention. Notification will be sent prior to the meeting.

If you have questions, feel free to contact me at (785) 233-7436. I look forward to hearing from you!

--Chad Austin

Becky Levin Reaches Out and Rebuilds

The Kansas Hospital Association's Heart of Health Care Worker Award highlights hospital employees who have made a significant contribution to the betterment of their hospital. These individuals are nominated for this award because they routinely go above and beyond the call of duty.

Becky Levin, laboratory director at Phillips County Health Systems, exemplifies exceptional leadership and dedication. With an astounding 48 years of service, she faced a significant challenge two years ago when her team dwindled because of retirements and industry competition. As a result, she was left the "lone ranger." Levin managed contract agency staff for a year, shouldering extensive training, ER call duties and department budget stress. Despite these obstacles, she successfully rebuilt her team with quality recruits. Levin's commitment to excellence is evident in her continuous CLIA survey success, achieving zero deficiencies year after year. Her ability to lead with resilience and maintain high-performance standards sets her apart as a remarkable role model for all staff.

Levin fosters a culture of compassion, empathy and respect within Phillips County Health Systems. She integrates foreign workers into the team, providing housing assistance, navigating VISA applications and meeting legal and proficiency standards. This inclusivity and support enhance team unity and collaboration, and she performs it in a local environment that tends to lack diversity because of the location.

Levin's genuine care for her staff and patients creates a respectful work environment. Her efforts to maintain a cohesive and cooperative team, even during challenging times, highlight her unwavering commitment to fostering a collaborative and supportive health care setting and putting excellent patient care first.

Levin and other Heart of Health Care Worker Award nominees will be recognized during the KHA Awards Luncheon at the [2024 KHA Annual Convention](#) on Sept. 5, 2024, at Sheraton Overland Park/Overland Park Convention Center, Overland Park.

--*Shelby Stacy*

Attention CEOs – Advocacy All-Star Training Now Open for 2024

The Kansas Hospital Association is committed to strengthening and promoting the engagement of hospital advocates throughout Kansas. The KHA Advocacy All-Star Training has been established to help hospitals develop internal leaders who can effectively and comfortably advocate on behalf of your hospital.

This program is designed to accommodate anyone who is passionate about hospitals and health care and wants to get trained on how to educate partners and elected officials at the federal, state and local levels. All-Star Training is for everyone - clinical, non-clinical, entry-level or veteran, trustees or employees. The training is expected to fill quickly, so you are encouraged to return enrollment materials soon.

Participation is limited to 30 students to allow for networking and group interaction. Enrollment will be taken on a first-come, first-served basis. Initially, one student per hospital will be admitted. If space allows, additional students will be admitted. Nomination by the hospital CEO is a prerequisite (the nomination questionnaire is included in the brochure). Payment must be received to secure the applicant's enrollment.



--Hayley Finch-Genschorck

Bridget Brion Recognized for Compassion and Exemplary Care

The Kansas Hospital Association's Heart of Health Care Worker Award highlights hospital employees who have made a significant contribution to the betterment of their hospital. These individuals are nominated for this award because they routinely go above and beyond the call of duty.

As a Patient Care Supervisor at AdventHealth South Overland Park, Bridget Brion is responsible for administrative supervision of the entire hospital. She demonstrates exemplary leadership and professionalism as she collaborates with patients, families, physicians and associates to meet patient needs and expectations in a patient-focused/healing environment. Brion recognizes the call to nursing and leadership is not a solitary endeavor. It's a collaborative effort requiring effective communication, teamwork and mutual respect. She role models interdisciplinary collaboration, recognizing it is through collective expertise that nurses can deliver the best possible care.

Brion is a certified registered neuronurse with more than 20 years of critical care experience. She is a great role model to others as she continues to advance in her profession. Throughout her career, the awards she has received are a testament to her dedication to nursing. These awards include the Johns Hopkins University MISTIE Research Coordinator of the Year, March of Dimes Critical Care Nurse of the Year and the 2024 Daisy Award.

Aside from Brion's professional accomplishments, her outstanding dedication to her patients serves as a role model to others. She sees beyond each patient's illness or injury and listens to their unique story, their fears, hopes and dreams. She is an advocate for her patients, ensuring their voices are heard, their rights respected and their needs met.

Brion and other Heart of Health Care Worker Award nominees will be recognized during the KHA Awards Luncheon at the [2024 KHA Annual Convention](#) on Sept. 5, 2024, at Sheraton Overland Park/Overland Park Convention Center, Overland Park.

--Shelby Stacy

Register Now for the De-escalation Techniques Educational Webinar – July 9

Join the Kansas Hospital Association for an educational webinar at noon on Tuesday, July 9, when Tanner Funk, DNP, RN, The University of Kansas Health System will share his experience in addressing workplace violence. This webinar will focus on how staff can best implement de-escalation techniques, review core CPI principles and techniques and review patient care scenarios. Funk will review the fundamental components of assessing for signs of escalation, the critical importance of providing proactive interventions and how we can best utilize verbal de-escalation techniques.



--Hayley Finch-Genschorck

KHA Benefits Survey Results Now Available

The 2024 Benefits Survey Report is now available to hospitals that participated in the 2024 survey.

The Kansas Hospital Association, Missouri Hospital Association and Gallagher Surveys have again partnered to conduct the 2024 Healthcare Benefits Survey. The results of the compensation survey were released in April. The benefits report has an Excel file showing detailed benefits data for health care organizations in the Kansas/Missouri region. Participants can review the benefits strategies of peer hospitals on topics including HR initiatives, employee wellbeing planning, medical benefits and more.

If your organization participated this year but has not received the final report via email, please contact [Jaron Caffrey](#) for assistance at (785) 233-7436. Contact Jaron if you did not participate in the survey but want to purchase the benefits report.

Thank you to all who participated and made this year's report the definitive source of health care data for the region.

--Jaron Caffrey

KMAP Increases Community Health Worker Reimbursement Rates

The Kansas Medical Assistance Program has issued [bulletin 24105](#) regarding the rate increase for Community Health Worker services. Effective with dates of service on and after July 1, 2024, Community Health Worker service rates will be increased for the codes below. The current KMAP coverage criteria, limitations and billing instructions will remain the same.

| Procedure Code | Rate* |
|----------------|---------|
| 98960 U7 | \$22.20 |
| 98961 U7 | \$10.78 |
| 98962 U7 | \$7.77 |

*The rates noted in the KMAP bulletin are subject to future changes. Providers should check the [Kansas Medical Assistance Program website](#) for the most up-to-date rates.

Note: The policy's effective date is July 1, 2024. The implementation of State policy by the KanCare managed care organizations may vary from the date noted in the KMAP bulletins.

--Karen Braman

Navigating the Shifting Landscape: Regulatory Updates and Enforcement Trends in Price Transparency

Hospital revenue cycle leaders already know price transparency is here to stay. But keeping pace with ever-evolving regulations and enforcement landscape can be a challenge. KHSC and APS partner, CorroHealth, is providing a webinar at 11:00 a.m. on June 18 to take a deep dive into the latest regulatory updates and enforcement trends in price transparency, equipping you with the knowledge and strategies to ensure your organization thrives.

Click to
Register

--Steve Poage

Rural Clinician's Role in Influenza A(H5N1) Surveillance – June 18

At 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 18, experts from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will discuss the clinical features of influenza A(H5N1), recommendations and considerations for influenza testing and treatment, and strategies for culturally competent patient evaluations for possible exposure to influenza A(H5N1). This webinar is free. High-speed internet is required to participate. A recording will be available on the RHihub website after the live event. Connection details will be emailed to you immediately upon [registration](#). If you have questions or problems with the registration process, please contact RHihub webinars at webinars@ruralhealthinfo.org.

--Karen Braman

Research Study on ACOs in Rural Kansas – Your Participation is Needed

Carlos Schwindt and Dr. Nicole Freund from the KU School of Medicine in Wichita are conducting a study about the perceptions of rural Kansas hospital leadership about accountable care organizations. They are reaching out for you to participate in this important research.

As stakeholders in the rural health care community, your insights are truly valuable in shaping the future of health care delivery in rural Kansas. Participation involves the completion of a brief survey (about 5-10 minutes) designed to explore your perspectives on accountable care organizations. All responses will be aggregated to paint a complete picture of the group's perspectives. Participation in this study is entirely voluntary, and responses will be confidential. If you are willing to participate, [please complete the survey by June 30](#).

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this invitation. Your participation is crucial to advancing our understanding of accountable care organization participation and improving future health care outcomes in rural Kansas. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact [Dr. Nicole Freund](#) or [Carlos Schwindt](#).

--Karen Braman

Advancing Health Equity for Patients with Sepsis Webinar – June 27

Convergence Health is hosting a webinar on Advancing Health Equity for Patients with Sepsis at noon on Thursday, June 27. There is no cost to attend. Featured Speakers include Moojan Rezvan, supervisor, interpretive services and health equity fellow, Providence Mission Hospital; and Emily Cusick, sepsis clinical coordinator, Providence Mission Hospital.



--Karen Braman

KDHE Requests Input on Maternal Child Health Services Block Grant 2025 Application

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment released a draft Kansas Maternal Child Health Services Block Grant 2025 Application and 2023 Annual Report. The MCH Block Grant is administered by KDHE. Draft narratives are available for public review on the [Kansas MCH website](#). KDHE is requesting health care providers take time to review the narrative portions of this year's block grant application and provide feedback to strengthen the application and ensure plans and reports represent our collective statewide efforts statewide. KDHE developed an [online survey](#) to collect this input and appreciates your response by June 21, 2024.

--Karen Braman

Updated COVID-19 Vaccines for Use Beginning in Fall 2024

The Food and Drug Administration [advised manufacturers](#) of the licensed and authorized COVID-19 vaccines that the COVID-19 vaccines for use in the United States, beginning in fall 2024, should be monovalent JN.1 vaccines to more closely match currently circulating SARS-CoV-2 viruses. The FDA's recommendation to manufacturers comes after the FDA Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee met on June 5 to discuss and make recommendations on the selection of the 2024-2025 Formula for COVID-19 vaccines for use in the United States beginning this fall. The committee unanimously voted to recommend a monovalent JN.1-lineage vaccine composition. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices is scheduled to discuss the issue on [June 27](#).


--Karen Braman

Support for Tobacco Recovery Training

The University of Kansas is pleased to announce [Support for Tobacco Recovery Training](#). The course is packed with ideas and tips on how to support people in their tobacco recovery journey. Scholarships are available. The scholarship application deadline is June 30.

The University of Kansas is pleased to announce

Support for Tobacco Recovery Training (STaRT)



About the course

This course is packed with ideas and tips on how to support people in their tobacco recovery journey. There are eight, 15-20 - minute modules with both audio and visuals. The course addresses the stigma surrounding tobacco use and why tobacco recovery is so important. You will learn how to meet people where they are, avoid confrontation, listen actively, provide up-to-date information, and connect people with free and effective resources.

Cost \$100 /Person*

*Some scholarships are available for the training with a priority given to those who serve in rural areas or in behavioral health settings across the state of Kansas.

For more information visit our website at kumc.edu/tte

WHO SHOULD APPLY:

- Peer Support Specialists/Mentors
- Community Health Workers
- Lay Health Advisors
- Substance Use Disorder Counselors
- Mental Health Counselors/Specialists
- Psychologists (bachelor's, master's, or PhD level)
- Social Workers (bachelor's master's or PhD level)
- Health Educators or Certified Health Education Specialists
- Respiratory Therapists
- Nurses (LPN, RN, or Advance Practice level)
- Dental Health Professionals (Hygienist or Assistant)
- Public Health Providers (bachelor's, master's, or PhD level)

To apply for this virtual, self-paced training go to: <https://bit.ly/STaRT>
 _Application or scan the QR Code below:




--Karen Braman

Federal and National News

Applications Available for Community Facilities Direct Loan and Grant Program

[The Community Facilities Direct Loan and Grant Program](#) provides affordable funding to develop essential community facilities in rural areas. Public bodies, nonprofits and federally recognized tribes may apply to the program. The application period is open year-round.

MACPAC Issues Annual Report to Congress

The Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission's [2024 Report to Congress](#) on Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program includes commentary on the panel's investigation and recommendations for states to report their nonfederal share of Medicaid funding, improve coordination of care for dually eligible individuals, improve Medicare savings plan programs and participation and improve the quality of Medicaid demographic data collected and reported by the states.

MLN Connects Provider eNews Available

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

- [Medicare Shared Savings Program: Apply for Jan. 1 Start Date by June 17](#)
- [Men's Health: Encourage Your Patients to Prioritize Their Health](#)