



KHA's Current Report
July 3, 2024

President's Perspective – Celebrate Safely this Independence Day

Let me be one of the first to wish you a happy Independence Day. I hope all of you take some time to enjoy patriotic festivities with family and friends. We know Kansas hospitals have emphasized safety leading up to this holiday, reminding their communities to stay safe and avoid the most common reasons people travel to the hospital during holiday celebrations.

The Kansas Hospital Association would like to join members of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, the Office of the State Fire Marshal and Safe Kids Kansas in reminding Kansans of the importance of safety on Independence Day. Make sure your festivities follow safety recommendations for fireworks and outdoor grills.

Thanks to data collected through voluntary reporting of Kansas hospitals and administered by the Office of the State Fire Marshal, we know the person igniting the firework is the most likely to be injured, and hands are the most common body part to be injured. The highest incidences of injuries are caused by mortars or artillery fireworks and other fireworks like parachutes, fountains and spinning items. Always use fireworks outdoors and keep a bucket of water or a hose nearby in case of accidents. For more firework safety tips, go the [Office of the State Fire Marshal](#).

Grilling is another favorite part of many Fourth of July gatherings. Ensure that grills are used outdoors only, away from the home, deck railings and under eaves and overhanging branches. Keep children and pets away from the grill area, and never leave your grill unattended. Clean your grill regularly to prevent grease fires.

The Kansas Hospital Association staff wishes you a safe and happy Independence Day!
--*Chad Austin*

State of Data 2024 Virtual Lunch and Learn – July 17

The Kansas Healthcare Information Management Systems Society presents the Kansas State of Data 2024, a virtual lunch and learn from noon to 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, July 17. Local Leaders from the Kansas Health Information Network and Konza will lead discussions on how Health Information Exchange data is utilized in emergency and disaster situations. [Please register](#) for this free webinar.

--*Sally Othmer*

Register 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

Fundraiser, Advocate, Caregiver – Isaac Boone Embodies All

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.

Isaac Boone is a valuable member of Greenwood County Hospital and the greater Eureka community. As an advocate, Boone uses his expertise to relate how pending legislation affects patients and hospitals. As a pharmacist, he helps patients navigate Medicare supplement plans, provides community education about Medicare Advantage plans and has helped the hospital save more than \$1,000,000 through his work with the 340B Drug Discount Program.

Boone is highly invested in the growth of his community and puts his considerable fundraising skills to work. He was instrumental in setting up a memorial golf tournament for the hospital's foundation. His work on the tournament brings in thousands of dollars to the foundation, which is spent on necessary equipment and supplies for the hospital.

This year, a clinic across the street from the hospital closed. To help the hospital purchase the building, Boone sought donations from various community members and wrote grants. He secured a total of \$205,000, which included a match-day funding event that raised \$82,000.

There isn't anything that Boone wouldn't do for the Greenwood County Hospital, and it shows with each act of service he performs. Team members and other staff members look to Boone for guidance and advice and often jump in to help with projects he starts.

Boone 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

Social Media Use by Health Care Professionals – July 19 Webinar

The Kansas State Board of Healing Arts is hosting a webinar on the evolving role social media plays in health care, common pitfalls and tips for providers when using social media. The webinar will be held at noon on Friday, July 19. There is no registration for this event. Join using the Zoom link below.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87869171531?pwd=tew7qcUb0N0fIB5rYKFawY64hzHCfV.1>

Meeting ID: 878 6917 1531

Passcode: 825429

--Karen Braman

Register Now – Kansas' Largest Career Fair

When: Oct. 29-30

Where: The Kansas State Fairgrounds in Hutchinson

Cost: \$250

Registration for the 2024 Career Expo is now open. This annual event, hosted by Essdack, is the state's largest high school career event, with more than 5,000 students attending in 2023. The expo is designed for employers to showcase their organization and connect with their future workforce.

This event differs from a traditional "job fair." It is intentionally created for employers to provide hands-on, interactive experiences for students to connect to professions and become more aware of career opportunities in industries like health care. These could include a mannequin drawing blood, medical equipment, or even having staff members attend who are in existing positions of interest (e.g., having a respiratory therapist attend so they can explain to students what exactly a respiratory therapist does and how they became an RT).

Many students are earning industry certifications and credentials and are seeking their next steps following graduation. You can expect to connect with thousands of high school students from 70+ school districts. For more information and to register, visit exporegister.essdack.org or contact the [Career Expo team](#) to answer questions and brainstorm ideas for your organization.

--Jaron Caffrey

Jake Govert Levels Up Career and Makes Impact

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.

Jake Govert, who has a military and construction background, started with Greeley County Health Services in Tribune as an information technology specialist more than two years ago. Since then, he has learned about EMR and health care-specific IT infrastructure. Govert researches and learns workflows, system details and processes to teach employees at multiple levels of the organization's disciplines.

Govert owns the IT department's operations to ensure every other department can operate efficiently. He is extremely responsive and takes calls outside regular hours without a directive to ensure everyone is cared for. His responsiveness has helped the organization operate more efficiently and solve problems impacting the level of care provided to patients.

Govert serves all employees with respect and compassion through his attention to detail when an employee is experiencing a technical difficulty or a bottleneck. He works to identify solutions and then teaches the employees how to overcome the problem. He has helped the culture and role of IT and is now the in-house expert for EMR capabilities and functioning.

Govert's positive attitude toward challenges, eagerness to learn and strong work ethic have propelled him into a position that requires him to take on greater responsibilities within the IT discipline. Govert has been promoted from IT specialist to network administrator and has now taken on security officer responsibilities.

Govert 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*

Physician Preceptor Opportunities Available

Are your medical staff members interested in educating the next generation of physicians? The Kansas College of Osteopathic Medicine in Wichita seeks physician preceptors for their Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine program students. Specifically, preceptor physicians will provide clinical learning focused on core rotations for third-year medical students and an immersive experience for medical students while they live and experience your community.

This is a great opportunity to invest in the next generation of physicians while providing professional development to hospitals' medical staff. Preceptors are eligible for various benefits, including access to continuing education programs and an online medical library. Interested preceptors are not obligated to prepare any curriculum for students' rotations.

For more information or to apply as a preceptor, visit [KansasCOM's website](#) or contact KansasCOM Director of Rotations Heather Pierce at hpierce@kansashsc.org.

--Jaron Caffrey

Third Round of Funding Now Available through Kansas Fights Addiction

After awarding more than \$10 million in fall 2023 to 59 projects aimed at substance use disorder services across the state, the Kansas Fights Addiction Grant Review Board has made a new round of funding available.

This third request for proposal will focus on treatment, recovery, harm reduction and linkages to care. Organizations interested in applying for RFP three must submit a confirmation of intent to apply by 5 p.m. July 12. The deadline to apply is 5 p.m. Aug. 2.

[Click here](#) for more information about deadlines and submissions, the grant application and review process, eligible organizations and allowable strategies.

--Karen Braman

Perinatal Behavioral Health One-Day Training

Kansas Connecting Communities is hosting three FREE, one-day training events focusing on maternal mental health, substance use screening and Medicaid reimbursement. The training is intended for OB/GYNs, midwives, family medicine physicians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners and all other physicians and clinicians who work with perinatal patients. KCC is a program within the Kansas Department of Health and Environment that is a cooperative agreement with other local and state partners and is funded through the Health Resources and Services Administration.

The training includes sessions on the following topics:

- *Kansas Medicaid Billing and Reimbursement for Maternal Depression Screens*, Beth Oller, MD
- *First-line Pharmacologic Management*, Erin Bider, MD and Tara Chettiar, MD, PMH-C, FACOG
- *Perinatal Mental Health Disorders: An Overview of Assessment and Diagnosis*, Melissa Hoffman, DNP, APRN, PMNHP-BC

Choose the training nearest you from these three options:

- July 12 in Overland Park
- July 19 in Wichita
- Aug. 16 in Hays

Free continuing education credits are available through KU Medical Center.



--Karen Braman

K-TRACS Reporting Exemptions Must Be Renewed by Aug. 31

K-TRACS requires pharmacies that dispense controlled substances and drugs of concern to report dispensations by the end of the next business day from when they are sold or otherwise handed over to the patient. However, many Kansas hospital pharmacies are exempt from these requirements based on K.S.A. 65-1682 statutory definitions. Exemptions must be renewed annually by Aug. 31. The pharmacist-in-charge must complete the exemption renewal. Please use the following guidance when submitting your exemption renewal:

[Use the online form](#) if the pharmacy meets either of the following criteria:

- K.S.A. 65-1682 (d)(1): A licensed hospital pharmacy that distributes controlled substances and drugs of concern for the purpose of inpatient hospital care only. Select Exemption Option #1. No attachments or documentation are required.
- K.S.A. 65-1682 (d)(2): A medical care facility as defined in K.S.A. 65-425, practitioner or other authorized person who administers controlled substances and drugs of concern. Select Exemption Option #2. No attachments or documentation are required.

K.A.R. 68-21-2 exempts submission of interim supplies of 48 hours or less of controlled substances and drugs of concern. Hospital pharmacies engaged in these practices may select from either option above if they provide interim supplies and no other outpatient dispensing.

When would a hospital pharmacy be required to report to K-TRACS and be ineligible for an exemption?

- If a pharmacy dispenses outpatient prescriptions to employees, those must be reported. The pharmacy is not eligible for an exemption.
- If the hospital dispenses up to three days' supply of buprenorphine to initiate OUD treatment in the emergency department according to [21 CFR Part 1306.07](#), those dispensations must be reported. The pharmacy is not eligible for an exemption.

Exemption requests will be reviewed by K-TRACS staff. Dispensers will receive notice by email confirming approval or denial. The email will serve as confirmation and proof of exemption. No exemption certificates are issued.

Contact K-TRACS with any questions at pmpadmin@ks.gov or (785) 296-6547.

--Karen Braman

Region VII Common Survey Citations Compiled for CAHs, PPS Hospitals, RHC and Nursing Homes

Information is now available on the Kansas Hospital Association [regulatory page](#) of the KHA website, compiling the 2024 survey citations for critical access and prospective payment system hospitals, rural health clinics and nursing homes using the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services database for Region VII. Using Region VII provides a much broader picture of what deficiencies surveyors are citing during accreditation, complaint and validation surveys for the states of Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska and Iowa. These documents will be updated quarterly or semi-annually depending on the frequency of CMS updates to the survey database.

--Ron Marshall

USDA Launches New Program to Increase Access to Healthy Foods in Rural Communities.

Nutrition has a significant impact on health care outcomes. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack recently [announced](#) the Department of Agriculture and the Reinvestment Fund are launching a new program under the [Healthy Food Financing Initiative](#) to increase access to healthy foods in communities underserved by grocery stores. Through the HFFI Food Access and Retail Expansion Fund, USDA and the Reinvestment Fund are making available \$60 million in loans, grants and technical assistance for food retail and food retail supply chain projects that increase access to healthy food in communities underserved by grocery stores, including rural areas. Funding will be available for the next five years. Learn more in the Healthy Food Financing Initiative [Fact Sheet](#).

--Karen Braman

Health Care Careers Exploration Patch Program

If you work with youth aged 5-17, don't forget about the Health Careers Exploration Patch Program. This is a great activity for scout groups, summer camp programs, youth events and more. When youth complete the activities to earn a three-inch patch, they will increase their knowledge of various health care career opportunities available. The program focuses on exploring the need for health care professionals, the many roles they play, education requirements, resources available for those pursuing careers in health care and general health and wellness information.

This program has [one curriculum for youth aged 5 to 8](#) and another for [youth aged 9 to 17](#). To earn the Health Careers Exploration Patch, youth select and complete designated activities related to career exploration, educational lessons, skill builders, service projects or technology. More information is available on the [Kansas Hospital Association website](#).

Thank you in advance for investing your time in the youth of our communities and expanding their career horizons. Once KHA receives the [order form](#), patches will be mailed within one to two weeks. Patches are only available for Kansas youth.

--Cindy Samuelson

Federal and National News

CMS Issues Revised Guidance for LTCF

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services [issued](#) revised guidance for state survey teams based on the recently finalized [minimum staffing rule](#). The revised guidance focuses on the facility assessment, which should be used to drive staffing decisions.

HHS Announces Cost Savings for 64 Prescription Drugs

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services [announced](#) certain Medicare enrollees will pay less for 64 drugs available through Medicare Part B beginning Monday, July 1. According to HHS, because of the Inflation Reduction Act, "some people with Medicare who use these drugs during this time period may save between \$1 and \$4,593 per day."

CMS Releases CY 2025 Proposed ESRD PPS Payment and Policy Update

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services [released](#) the proposed calendar year 2025 Medicare End-Stage Renal Disease Prospective Payment System payment and policy [updates](#). CMS estimates Medicare will pay approximately \$7.2 billion during CY 2025, including a rate increase of 0.8 percent. The rule includes proposals for the ESRD quality incentive payment program, ESRD conditions of coverage and changes to the payment for renal dialysis services furnished to individuals with acute kidney injury. Comments about the proposed rule will be accepted through Monday, Aug. 26.

CMS Releases CY 2025 Proposed Home Health Payment and Policy Update

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services [released](#) the Medicare Home Health proposed payment and policy [updates](#) for the calendar year 2025. CMS estimates the proposed rule would increase home health payments by 2.5 percent, or \$415 million. However, CMS' rate adjustments consist of a \$595 million decrease due to "behavior adjustments" and a \$100 million decrease that reflects the proposed fixed dollar loss. Once factoring in the payment offsets, CMS estimates a net decrease of 1.7 percent, or \$280 million. Comments about the proposed rule will be accepted through Monday, Aug. 26.

Texas Court Invalidates OCR Guidance on Website Tracking Technologies

Last week, the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas [ruled](#) the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Civil Rights guidance regarding hospitals' use of third-party vendors to track website activity was invalid. The plaintiffs included the American Hospital Association and the Texas Hospital Association, who challenged OCR guidance asserting that allowing technology vendors access to public-facing websites would violate HIPAA where the vendor had access to a user's IP address and search history, which may involve information about health conditions.

During the litigation, OCR revised its guidance to narrow the scope of possible HIPAA violations, but the court held that the new bulletin unlawfully exceeded the agency's authority.

Supreme Court Eliminates Deference to Agency Action

The U.S. Supreme Court [invalidated](#) a decades-old standard for evaluating executive branch agency action. The Chevron doctrine required courts reviewing agency rulemaking and administrative proceedings to defer to the agency's subject matter expertise in interpreting and applying ambiguous federal statutes. Under the ruling, courts must exercise their independent judgment in deriving the meaning of statutory provisions. The ruling is expected to profoundly impact federal agencies' power and scope of authority over-regulated industries.

Before You Go ...

The Health Resources and Services Administration [announced](#) \$4 million in available funding for the Rural Hospital Stabilization Pilot Program. Grant funds will be used to provide in-depth technical assistance to rural hospitals to enhance and/or expand service lines to ensure local access to care and improve hospital finances. Grant applications are due Friday, July 26.