



***KHA's Current Report***  
**July 12, 2024**

**President's Perspective – Register Now for the KHA Convention and Trade Show**

I hope you will be able to join us for the [KHA Annual Convention](#) and [Trade Show](#) on Sept. 5-6 at the Sheraton Overland Park and Overland Park Convention Center.

[Online registration](#) is now available, and [convention brochures](#) were mailed earlier this week. We encourage individuals to register early, as supply chain challenges require our team to turn in meal counts sooner than normal. Registering early will ensure that you can get meal tickets.

With the help of the KHA Convention Planning Committee, we have created an agenda that provides attendees with excellent education and several networking opportunities. The KHA political advocacy and grassroots breakfast will kick off the convention. [KHA-PAC contributors](#) can hear from [Charlie Cook](#), *The Current Political and Legislative Environment*.

I look forward to our convention keynote speaker, [Justin Wren](#), a three-time malaria survivor. Justin has fought opponents, both large and small, throughout his life. Along the way, he has evolved into an astonishing force for good in the world. You also won't want to miss [David Agus, MD](#), *Future Health – A Vision for Personal and Corporate Health in the Next Decade*. We will round out Thursday with [Erin Stafford](#) who will explore how to help organizations escape burnout and maintain peak performance sustainably.

On Friday, [Marcus Engel](#), *The Other End of the Stethoscope*, will remind health care professionals of their vital role in patients' healing process. [Dan Meers](#), "KC Wolf" will close our convention with his incredible story and the important lessons he learned about leadership and life during his long recovery journey.

This is just a preview of what our convention has to offer. More information on speakers and activities for the KHA Annual Convention and Trade Show is [online](#). If you have questions, please don't hesitate to contact me or any KHA team member. We look forward to your participation at the KHA Convention and Trade Show in September.

--Chad Austin

**Abbvie and AstraZeneca Challenge Kansas 340B Protections**

Pharmaceutical companies Abbvie and AstraZeneca filed separate lawsuits on July 1 against Kansas Attorney General Kris Kobach over the 340B protections passed during the 2024 legislative session.

During the legislative session, the Kansas Legislature approved a budget proviso requiring drug manufacturers to honor 340B pricing at contract pharmacies under the Consumer Protection Act of Kansas. The lawsuits seek to prohibit Attorney General Kobach from enforcing violations of the Kansas Consumer Protection Act by drug manufacturers enrolled in the 340B federal drug discount program.

The 340B program requires drug manufacturers to sell outpatient drugs at a discount to safety-net providers, including certain designated hospitals serving high numbers of low-income Medicare, Medicaid and Supplemental Security Insurance patients. Congress created the program in 1992 to extend to safety-net providers the same kind of relief from high drug costs that Congress provided to the Medicaid program with the Medicaid rebate law, allowing these providers to "stretch scarce federal resources as far as possible, reaching more eligible patients and providing more comprehensive services."

The Kansas Hospital Association is in close communication with the AG's office and works closely with the American Hospital Association, legal counsel and partners such as the Community Care Network of Kansas, Kansas Council of Health System Pharmacists and Kansas Pharmacists Association to defend 340B protections in Kansas.

Many members responded to a recent survey on the impact of pharmaceutical manufacturers' 340B contract pharmacy limitations—thank you for your quick response! KHA may continue to seek information from member hospitals as necessary to demonstrate the importance of the 340B program. Thank you for your ongoing support as we fight to protect 340B in Kansas.

*--Karen Braman*

### **Show off Your Wildcat Purple Pride and Support the KHA-PAC – July 25**

The [Kansas Hospital Association Political Advocacy Committee invites YOU](#) to join us for a behind-the-scenes tour of the K-State University athletic facilities, including the football, volleyball and baseball areas. Afterward, join us for wine and food at Liquid Art Winery. The event will be from 1:00 - 7:00 p.m. on July 25 in Manhattan. You can purchase your tickets here: [\\$100 per person](#) and [\\$175 per pair](#). All proceeds go to the KHA-PAC. Thank you, Event Chair Nichole Chamley, Amberwell Hiawatha. For questions, contact [Tara Mays](#).

*--Tara Mays*

### **Kathi McKinney Role Model, Recruiter and a Super Great RN**

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.

From the beginning of her nursing career, Kathi McKinney has always been about her patients. Called a "super great RN," McKinney took a personal approach to all her patients making her a highly valued team member within Labette Health.

As the vice president and chief nursing officer, McKinney is a great motivator and inspires co-workers to give their best to the hospital. She encourages the development of drills and skills that serve patients by keeping staff prepared for things that rarely happen, like Malignant Hyperthermia drills, shoulder dystocia, post-partum hemorrhage and evening and night shift Code Blues.

McKinney sets a wonderful example every day. She never shares unkind words toward or about others and always tries to redirect conversations with a positive connotation. When she enters a unit or a room, you feel her positive presence. People want to know what she says or thinks; her opinion is highly regarded. McKinney has earned the respect of everyone in the entire organization.

McKinney goes above and beyond the call of duty – even recruiting community members to work at the hospital. She sees a need and starts working to address it, even if it's making phone calls to colleagues, contacts, friends and family to find quality people who might want to work in health care.

McKinney 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*

### **Monthly HR Touch Base with KHA and Kansas Hospitals – Launching Next Week**

The Kansas Hospital Association is launching a monthly call with Kansas human resource leaders to touch base on HR and workforce-related issues, initiatives and opportunities. The first call will be at 3:30 p.m. on July 16 and recur the third Tuesday of each month at the same time. Each monthly call will be capped at 30 minutes to be efficient and cognizant of busy schedules. Topics will float based on relevant and current trends in Kansas and nationwide. The first 15 minutes of the call will be topic focused while the remainder will be member discussion.

KHA hosts similar calls with chief financial officers and government relations personnel. KHA has received feedback from members that the calls would be beneficial. Jaron Caffrey has sent a calendar invite to HR leaders. Please accept this invitation to add these calls to your calendar, even if you cannot attend each month's meeting. If you or an appropriate team member have not received the invitation and would like to attend, please contact [Jaron Caffrey](#) at (785) 233-7436. Reminders will be shared the day before each month's call with the topics we plan to cover.

*--Jaron Caffrey*

### **Kim Hermesch Shares Love Through Delicious Food**

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.

Kim Hermesch knows how to create great food. As Nemaha Valley Community Hospital's dietary supervisor, Hermesch recognizes food's role in healing. She knows her patients, colleagues and community and is responsive to their needs.

Hermesch loves her job and has boundless energy. She takes great pride in her work and has shown patience in teaching new staff members how to prepare items in the dietary department. She has great respect for everyone she encounters, and it shows in all her interactions. Besides being an outstanding cook, she is very crafty and has great ideas to promote a positive atmosphere, including going all out for the recent Cinco de Mayo celebration.

Hermesch has trained many new hires and encourages all to work as a team and stay on task. She works many weekends and looks out for the nursing staff. She will make special breakfasts and other homemade meals for them upon request. When a patient or their family member is having a bad day, she has often gone out of her way to make them a special treat, such as a malt, sweet treat or sometimes even their favorite food. When her supervisor was on leave, she stepped up to the plate and ensured everyone was fed on time and supplies promptly ordered. During Dietary Week, she didn't miss a beat. She led the kitchen staff to go above and beyond to create a great week to celebrate great food.

Hermesch 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*

### **Noon Briefing: Addressing Transportation Challenges that Impact Health – July 31**

Transportation is a significant social driver of health. The lack of consistent, reliable transportation and the physical environment that enables or is a barrier to active transportation have health implications for individuals and communities.

Transportation is key in accessing a range of opportunities, services and products, such as employment, education, healthy foods and health care services, among others. Transportation in rural communities presents unique challenges because of the geographic distances rural community members must travel to meet many health care, social and occupational needs. Additionally, transportation challenges may increase health disparities and health inequities. These disparities may be disproportionately felt by populations with special health needs, low socioeconomic resources, older adults, people of color and immigrant populations living in rural areas.

Join us for a free webinar at noon on July 31, highlighting strategies used by communities across Kansas to tackle transportation challenges that impact health. In addition, learn about Kansas Mobility Management, a public transportation strategy sponsored by the Kansas Department of Transportation, that develops and facilitates coordination strategies benefitting both passengers and the transit providers that serve them.



--Karen Braman

### **Business Case for Health Equity Webinar – July 16**

The American Hospital Association Institute for Diversity and Health Equity is hosting a webinar, [Strategies for Success: Making the Business Case for Equity](#), from noon to 1:00 p.m. on July 16. The webinar will explore the importance of making the business case for equity in a resource-constrained health care environment. Leaders in the field will share how they prioritize equity to ensure every person has access to high-quality, patient-centered care, regardless of demographic factors such as housing status or racial background. The webinar features the following speakers: Joy A. Lewis, AHA's senior vice president, health equity strategies and executive director, IFDHE; Joe Wilkins, senior transformation advisor and Black Directors Health Equity Agenda board director; and Jacqueline Ortiz, vice president of health equity and cultural competence, ChristianaCare.



--Karen Braman

### **Healthworks Grants at Glance July Newsletter Now Available**

The July edition of [Grants at a Glance](#), a monthly newsletter highlighting potential grant opportunities, is now available. Through a partnership with Affiliated Enterprise Solutions, Healthworks offers newsletters and webinars to enhance grant writing skills and individual consulting options.

Contact [Susan Pattie](#), Healthworks, at (785) 233-7436, if you have any questions.

--Jennifer Findley

### **National Campaign to Attract and Retain Talent to Kansas**

Last week, the State of Kansas [launched a campaign](#) to attract past residents to choose Kansas as their future home. The campaign, called Love, Kansas, focuses on highlighting Kansas as an exceptional place to live, work and raise a family.

The campaign prioritizes the state's abundant job opportunities and other benefits. Fifty communities will be selected as partners with Love, Kansas, and will be eligible for a \$5,000 grant to assist in efforts to attract new residents to their communities. Nineteen communities have been announced thus far. A primary goal is for communities across the state to reach out to past residents with whom they have a personal connection, inviting them to return home.

The initial partner communities [can be found here](#), as well as more information on how to involve your organization in collaborating with your broader community to recruit talent back into the state. Contact Rosa Cavazos if you have questions (785) 670-0139 or [Rosa.Cavazos@ks.gov](mailto:Rosa.Cavazos@ks.gov).

*--Jaron Caffrey*

### **HIDI Academy Learning Management System Is Live**

This week, the Hospital Industry Data Institute (the Kansas Hospital Association's data partner), launched a new look for the Advantage Optics Portal. The login process does not change. With the new look and feel, HIDI launched a new training and education suite, the HIDI Academy. This new service is designed to enhance the learning experience for users by providing access to HIDI-specific Market Optics training modules and resources through a user-friendly interface. Market Optics is where all KHA discharge data resides.

Authorized users should receive an automated email from Sally Othmer via the Learning Management System Trakstar that includes a link to the HIDI Academy. For assistance with access to Advantage Optics or the HIDI Academy, please contact [Dee Lewis](#) or [Sally Othmer](#) at (785) 233-7436.

*--Sally Othmer*

### **Health Equity Innovation Award – Submit Nominations by Aug. 2**

The Kansas Foundation for Medical Care Health Improvement Partners has announced the second annual [Health Equity Innovation Award](#). The award recognizes organizations, affiliated groups, partnerships or individuals who have developed and implemented novel approaches, strategies and interventions to reduce health disparities and promote health equity in their community. Award winners think outside the box, challenge existing systems and implement creative solutions to ensure everyone has a fair and equitable opportunity to achieve optimal health. Organizations or individuals may submit a nomination for themselves or a third party by Friday, Aug. 2, 2024. Nominations will be judged by independent evaluators from multiple sectors impacted by health disparities and inequities. The award will be presented at the Kansas Health Equity Summit on Oct. 30 in Wichita.

*--Karen Braman*

### **Upcoming SANE Trainings**

The Pittsburg State University ANE-SANE Grant assists Kansas nurses with registration expenses who want to enroll in the following SANE courses at KU Medical Center. For additional information regarding assistance from the grant, please email Brighid Dawson at [bdawson@pittstate.edu](mailto:bdawson@pittstate.edu).

- July 22-24, 2024: 40-Hour Adult/Adolescent SANE Didactic Course, KU Medical Center, Kansas City, KS
- July 25-26, 2024: SANE Clinical Course, KU Medical Center, Kansas City, KS

[Additional information/registration](#) for the didactic and clinical courses can be found online. The Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence compiles and publishes a list of Kansas SANE in April and October. To view the April 2024 Map of Kansas SANE Programs, visit [Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners | Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence](#).

--Karen Braman

### **2024 Fall Safe Sleep Instructor Training – Sept. 26-27**

The Kansas Infant Death and SIDS Network invites you to apply for the [14th Biannual Safe Sleep Instructor Certification training](#), Thursday and Friday, Sept. 26-27, in Wichita.

The KIDS Network SSI Certification aims to prepare instructors to consistently educate parents/caregivers, childcare providers, health care providers and other community members about safe infant sleep practices through standardized training and community outreach. The KIDS Network SSI Certification training has certified more than 300 Safe Sleep instructors and trained more than 6,000 professionals and more than 4,000 families. These trainings have resulted in significant increases in knowledge of the AAP Safe Sleep recommendations and intentions of parents/caregivers to follow the AAP recommendations. In addition, eight hospitals have engaged in the Cribs for KIDS National Safe Sleep Hospital Certification, and 13 clinics have engaged in the KIDS Network Safe Sleep Star Outpatient Clinic Certification.

Participating in this train-the-trainer program will allow you, or someone from your organization, to serve as a champion in your community, providing evidence-based interventions to reduce infant mortality. Please complete the [registration form](#) to apply for the Safe Sleep Instructor Certification training. Applications are due by July 26, 2024. Letters of acceptance will be emailed no later than Aug. 2, 2024. For questions about the KIDS Network SSI Certification Training or registration form, please contact [Maria Torres](#), the KIDS Network at (316) 682-1301.

--Karen Braman

## **Federal Court Blocks FTC Ban on Noncompete Contracts**

On July 3, the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas in *Ryan LLC V. Federal Trade Commission* issued a preliminary injunction to stop the Federal Trade Commission from enforcing its non-compete rule which, absent the order, would go into effect on Sept. 4, 2024. The rule prohibits nearly all employee non-compete agreements with limited exceptions. The court's order prohibits the FTC from enforcing the rule against the plaintiffs until it makes its final decision on or before Aug. 30, 2024. With another federal court case pending in Pennsylvania challenging the rule and additional legal challenges expected to make their way through the U.S. Court of Appeals and potentially the U.S. Supreme Court, it may be some time before the ability of the FTC to enforce the non-compete rule is decided.

--Audrey Dunkel

## **Federal and National News**

### **CMS Issues LTCF Data Guidance**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services issued [guidance](#) for long-term care facilities on data collection and publication, specifically related to new staffing requirements and methodology. CMS lists additional resources for facilities, clarifies calculating turnover rates and provides information on how data will be displayed, among other information contained in the guidance.

### **New Rural Substance Use Disorder Information Center**

The Federal Office of Rural Health Policy has announced a new [Rural Substance Use Disorder Info Center](#). This new clearinghouse highlights the work of three different [Rural Centers of Excellence on Substance Use Disorders](#), all funded by FORHP's Rural Communities Opioid Response Program. Visitors to the website will find current information and technical assistance opportunities on SUD through a rural lens.

### **CDC Updates Vaccine Guidance for 2024-2025 Respiratory Virus Season**

As of June 26, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [recommends](#) that everyone over age 75 and individuals at increased risk for severe RSV receive the RSV vaccine. This recommendation is for people who did not receive an RSV vaccine last year; at this time, the RSV vaccine is not an annual vaccine. The best time for vaccination is in late summer or early fall before RSV starts to spread. Recommendations for pregnant people, infants and young children were not changed. The CDC's updated guidance for [RSV vaccinations](#) provides additional clinical details.

On June 27, the CDC [updated recommendations](#) for COVID-19 and influenza vaccines to recommend everyone age six months and older receive updated 2024-2025 COVID-19 and influenza vaccines. COVID-19 vaccine recommendations will take effect later this year when updated Moderna, Pfizer and Novavax COVID-19 vaccines are available. Most people are recommended to get the flu vaccine in September or October. Guidance for [COVID-19 vaccines](#) and [flu vaccines](#) will be updated soon and will provide additional clinical details.



### **CMS Releases Proposed Medicare CY 2025 OPPS and ASC Payment and Policy Updates**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services [released](#) the proposed Medicare Outpatient Prospective Payment System and Ambulatory Surgical Center payment and policy [updates](#) for calendar year 2025. Medicare OPPS and ASC payment rates are estimated to increase by 2.6 percent. The proposed rule includes new [policies](#) "that aim to reduce maternal mortality and morbidity, which disproportionately affect underserved communities." CMS will accept comments on the proposed rule through Monday, Sept. 9.

### **CMS Releases Home Health PPS Proposed Rule**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services [released](#) a proposed rule to mitigate the impact of significant, anomalous and highly suspect billing activity on Medicare Shared Savings Program financial calculations for calendar year 2023. CMS determined that two specific HCPCS codes displayed as significant, anomalous and highly suspect billing activity, consisting of A4352 – intermittent urinary catheter and A4353 – intermittent urinary catheter, with insertion supplies. CMS noted that absent mitigation measures, the SAHS billing activity would inflate Medicare Parts A and B spending. CMS will accept comments on the proposed rule through Monday, July 29.

### **MLN Connects Provider eNews Available**

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

- [Guiding an Improved Dementia Experience by Clearing the Path for Comprehensive, High-Quality Dementia Care](#)
- [New Alzheimer's Drugs: Updates to CMS National Patient Registry](#)
- [Epileptologists: New Physician Specialty Code](#)
- [Medicare Diabetes Prevention Program Supplier Enrollment: Updated CDC Organization Codes](#)
- [CMS Health Information Handler Helps You Submit Medical Review Documentation Electronically](#)
- [Help People Living with Disabilities Get the Care They Need](#)

### **Before You Go ...**

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will host a [Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity call](#), providing an update on the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza, or H5N1, virus at 1 p.m. Tuesday, July 16. During this call, attendees will receive an update on the outbreak in the U.S. and current CDC surveillance and monitoring efforts. Clinicians who attend will learn about testing, using antivirals and infection prevention and control recommendations.