



KHA's Current Report
July 19, 2024

President's Perspective – Federal Advocacy Update

Congress is amid a short break for the Republican National Convention. While presidential politics dominate the airwaves, now is a good time to take stock of where things stand, mid-year, on the Hill.

House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA) intends to pass all 12 annual appropriations bills to fund the federal government for the fiscal year 2025. Typically, these 12 bills get bundled together for final passage into "minibus" legislative packages or a gigantic, full-budget "omnibus" bill. By taking each bill individually, however, Speaker Johnson is allowing members of the House to take on issues with each and possibly vote them down. So far, all 12 bills have been marked up by the House Appropriations Committee, but only three have passed the full House. So far, two of these bills have failed on final passage votes.

Last week, the House Appropriations Committee reported its fiscal year 2025 Labor- Health and Human Services-Education Appropriations bill to the full House on a party-line 31-25 vote. Generally speaking, it contains mixed results for the hospital community. It represents an overall spending cut of 11 percent year over year from FY 2024, and most of these cuts are directed at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Health Resources and Services Administration. Conversely, rural health initiatives received a \$36 million increase (to \$401 million), and the bill prohibits any funds from being used to implement the Biden Administration's final rule regarding long-term care minimum staffing requirements. While it is possible the House may take up this bill in August, it is unlikely to become law before the end of the federal fiscal year on Sept. 30, 2024. More information on the contents of the so-called "[Labor-H" bill is online](#).

The current political dynamic in Congress is such that Republicans feel comfortable passing partisan appropriations bills they believe will set the table for accomplishing their priorities in 2025. Democrats are less likely to bring their appropriations bills to the floor in the Senate. Because of this dynamic, Congress is likely hurtling toward an FY 2025 continuing resolution to fund federal agencies through the beginning of 2025 at FY 2024 levels.

Additionally, with the Republican National Convention this week and the presidential election kicking into high gear soon, Congress has little time left in 2024 to pass substantive legislation. However, some things must happen by the end of FY 2024, including Congress waiving the additional 4 percent PAYGO cut to sequestration levels in Medicare reimbursements that would otherwise start in FY 2025. Other priorities that hospitals oppose—such as site-neutral payment schemes—are likely to fall by the wayside.

With the primary elections right around the corner, we hope you will share the importance of voting with your employees and communities. The [We CARE We VOTE](#) toolkit has several customizable resources to do just that.

And, if you like podcasts and want to learn even more about what is happening in Washington, listen to our recent federal podcast produced by Audrey Dunkel and Landon Fuller. Learn more about our [federal advocacy initiatives](#), and keep us posted if you have questions or need assistance.

--Chad Austin

KHA Annual Convention and Trade Show – Additional Education Opportunities

Make the most of your time at the convention by attending one of the excellent sessions planned by our allied organizations. Many are open to all attendees. View the [convention handbook](#) for more information.

Wednesday, Sept. 4

KAHCE Kansas Association of Health Care Executives
Fall Education and Annual Meeting
*Separate Registration Required

Friday, Sept. 6

HFMA *Lessons Learned from the Change Healthcare Cyber Attack and
How to Protect Our Revenue Cycle in the Future*

KAHA *Tips for Employment Workplace Investigations in the Health Care Setting*

KAHCC *The Workplace Clash: Why Leadership, Trust and Systems
Are Challenged by a New Generation*

KHHRA *Current Trends in Health Care Compensation*

KSHIMSS *Cybersecurity – From the Nursing Floor to the Board Room*

KONL *Introduction to Sex Trafficking in the Midwest and the Value of Nursing*

The [2024 KHA Annual Convention, Champions of Change](#), will be Sept. 5-6 at the Sheraton Overland Park/Overland Park Convention Center. [Registration materials](#) may be downloaded from the KHA website. [Online registration](#) is available. All registrations received by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 16, will qualify for the advance registration discount.

If you have questions regarding the KHA Annual Convention and Trade Show, please contact [Melissa Willey](#), [Hayley Finch-Genschorck](#) or [Jennifer Findley](#) at (785) 233-7436.
--Hayley Finch-Genschorck

Laura Gaffney, MD, Helps Patients with Special Needs Thrive

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. This week, KHA honors Laura Gaffney, MD, AdventHealth Shawnee Mission, for her service and contributions to health care.

AdventHealth Shawnee Mission has an amazing advocate within its ranks. Laura Gaffney, MD, is a role model and embodies a "can-do" attitude. Dr. Gaffney is the founder and medical director of the Special Pediatric to Adult Need Program, a primary care program for adults with special needs, including Down syndrome, autism, cerebral palsy and genetic disorders.

Dr. Gaffney has focused much of her practice on adults with special needs since 1996. The SPAN Program is Kansas City's only primary care program that provides comprehensive, patient-focused care for adults with a chronic condition that persists from childhood to adulthood; it's also one of only a handful of programs in the nation whose scope includes care for all enduring health disorders and that also provides care for family members of these special patients, creating a true medical home for the family.

Dr. Gaffney is exceptionally gifted at viewing complex situations from various perspectives and is a lifelong learner of new possibilities and innovations. The SPAN Program gives these special patients a consistent, reliable medical home. In the past five years, the SPAN Program has served more than 3,000 patients with special needs. Dr. Gaffney is known for her ability to help these patients, and their families, feel comfortable in a medical setting, an added challenge for people with sensory sensitivities and developmental disabilities.

Outside of the clinic, Dr. Gaffney is an active advocate in her field, working closely with the statewide Kansas Council on Developmental Disabilities and the B.E. Smith Family Center, which includes the Britain Development Center that provides preschool and therapy services to children with physical and developmental disabilities.

Dr. Gaffney, 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

Two Opportunities to Register for the Health Care Preceptor Academy

Register now and plan to attend one of the Health Care Preceptor Academies this fall. The Health Care Preceptor Academy is designed to engage and grow current and future preceptors with key education tools and strategies to foster a strong preceptor/orientee relationship. This interactive program provides information and practical tools to improve preceptor abilities.

Health Care Preceptor Academy dates and locations:

- [Sept. 24, CommonSpirit St. Catherine Hospital, 401 E. Spruce St., Garden City](#)
- [Nov. 12, Stormont Vail Health, 1500 SW 10th Ave., Topeka](#)

This academy is offered twice for convenience. Each session covers the same material. Participation is limited to 25 individuals per class. Enrollment is taken on a first-come, first-served basis. Payment must be received for your registration to be processed. You will receive an email from KHA confirming your registration.

[Click to Register](#)

If you have questions, please contact the [KHA Education Department](#) at (785) 233-7436.

--Hayley Finch-Genschorck

Lori Tackett Leads by Example

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. This week, KHA honors Lori Tackett, Ascension Via Christi St. Teresa, Wichita, for her service and contributions to health care.

Lori Tackett, a chief nursing officer at Ascension Via Christi St. Teresa, is an established leader with more than 15 years of experience in bedside care, nursing leadership and administration. She is passionate about managing nursing teams to provide quality care that meets and exceeds regulatory guidelines and requirements.

Tackett is known for her eager readiness. She jumps into all situations, never asking others to do anything she wouldn't do. She provides hands-on support for her teams in any situation. As a leader, she is the first to volunteer for pilot programs when she sees the benefit to her patients or staff. She seeks opportunities to improve care delivery and is receptive to new ideas.

Tackett models quality patient care. She listens carefully to understand and then works to find the best solutions for all parties involved. In high-stress situations, Tackett is the calm in the storm. Tackett is clinically skilled and has extensive knowledge about the operations of hospitals and skilled nursing facilities. This vast experience on the health care continuum helps facilitate efficient, safe and quality patient care.

Tackett is an invaluable resource that helps support recruitment efforts. She connects with new nurses and recent graduates during school visits and job fairs, encouraging them to consider her hospital. Her positive attitude is infectious and shows a passion for her work. She is an excellent spokesperson for Ascension Via Christi.

Tackett, 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*

Limited Spots Still Available for Advocacy All-Star Training

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

This program is designed for anyone passionate about hospitals and health care who 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 accepted. 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*

KHA Data Analytics Intern Dain Struble

The Kansas Hospital Association is pleased to welcome Dain Struble to our team. He joined KHA in July as our new data analytics intern. He is currently pursuing his master's in health services administration at the University of Kansas. Dain received a bachelor's degree in health information management in May. He has experience as a patient coordinator at Stormont Vail Health, Topeka, and as a health information management intern at University Health in Kansas City. His passion lies in data analytics, revenue cycle and data management. We are excited to have Dain at KHA! Please help us in welcoming him to the KHA team.

--*Cindy Samuelson*

Apply Now – Healthy Kansas Hospitals Mini-Grant Program

The Kansas Hospital Association is pleased to announce the launch of the Healthy Kansas Hospitals mini-grant program, supported by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas and designed to enhance the efforts of KHA member hospitals to promote community health.

The grant funding is available to approximately 20-25 KHA member hospitals within the [BCBSKS service area](#), which excludes Wyandotte and Johnson counties. Each eligible applicant hospital may receive a grant of up to \$2,500 on a first-come, first-served basis. Recipients must match funds with a financial contribution, in-kind support or a combination. The grant period is from Aug. 1, 2024, through Jan. 31, 2025, with a brief final report due to KHA no later than March 31, 2025.

Funding must support hospital activities for staff, patients and the communities served in one or more of the following areas:

- Active Living
- Healthy Eating
- Tobacco Prevention

Apply Online Today!
CLICK HERE

Ideas that have already come in include:

- Using the funds to build a greenhouse
- Adding a convection steamer to the café
- Updating wellness equipment
- Updating outdoor space at the facility

Supplies that are consumables, one-time use or giveaways would not meet the sustainability requirements of the HKH mini-grant program. If you have any questions regarding eligibility, please contact [Summer Fangman](#) at (785) 233-7436.

--Hayley Finch-Genschorck

2024 Summit on Quality Aug. 8 – Register Today

Join us at the Kansas Healthcare Collaborative's Summit on Quality for a day full of learning, networking and innovation. The Summit is scheduled from 8:30 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 8, at the Rhatigan Student Center on the Wichita State University Campus. The target audience includes physicians (particularly residents), nurses, clinic managers, hospital CEOs and other senior management, quality improvement professionals, risk managers, infection preventionists, long-term care providers and other interested health care professionals — practicing in urban and rural settings throughout our state. The registration fee is \$150 and includes lunch and continuing nursing education credits.



Click to Register

Click for More Information

--Karen Braman

Apply Now for the 2025 AHA Quest for Quality Prize

The American Hospital Association encourages hospitals and health systems that are making significant progress toward providing exceptional care based on the National Academy of Medicine's six health aims: safe, timely, effective, efficient, equitable and patient-centered care to apply for the 2025 AHA Quest for Quality Prize. Up to five organizations will be recognized at the 2025 AHA Leadership Summit in Nashville, TN. [Learn more.](#)

--Karen Braman

Drug Endangered Children Academy 101

The Kansas Children's Service League has announced free training through the National Alliance for Drug Endangered Children. The Drug Endangered Children Academy 101 training is open to anyone who works with or impacts children or who wants to learn more. Children are impacted daily by their parent's or caregivers' substance misuse. Often, these children are the first impacted and the last to be identified and receive services. The DEC Academy 101 will provide foundational knowledge about how drug-endangered children are affected every day and everyone's role in identifying and helping them. DEC Academy 101 sessions are from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. on the following dates:

- Aug. 15 – Orientation
- Aug. 20 – DEC Awareness
- Aug. 22 – DEC Approach
- Aug. 27 – Intersection of DEC and Human Trafficking
- Aug. 29 – Marijuana: The Danger Remains
- Sept. 3 – Drugs: What's impacting our children today?

Click to Register

CONTACT US

--Karen Braman

Safety Speaks Podcast – Unifying Hospital Boards on Quality and Safety

Hospitals and health systems never stop working to advance patient safety while collaborating and innovating for the best quality outcomes. The American Hospital Association has launched an Advancing Health series where hospital and health system leaders share successes from their organizations' patient safety efforts. In this new "Safety Speaks" conversation, Harry S. Smith, board chair of Valley Health System and member of the AHA Committee on Governance, discusses how their organization rearranged its governance system to ensure quality and patient safety standards were met.

To learn more and sign up for the Patient Safety Initiative, please visit <https://www.aha.org/aha-patient-safety-initiative>.



--Karen Braman

Kansas Opioid and Stimulant Conference – Presentation Proposals Due July 31

DCCCA is a nonprofit organization providing social and community services to improve the safety, health and well-being of those it serves. While DCCCA Inc. is its legal name, DCCCA developed a slogan, "Developing Caring Communities Committed to Action," that better describes its work.

DCCCA invites participants to [submit presentation proposals](#) for its Eighth Annual Kansas Opioid and Stimulant Conference. Presentations must:

- Be evidence-based or supported by research
- Promote audience discussion and engagement
- Reflect cutting-edge content to address the prescription drug and illicit opioid/stimulant epidemic
- Share innovations that can be replicated in communities
- Use a variety of presentation techniques to enhance learning
- Fit into one of five session tracks: Emerging Trends, Prevention, Health Systems and Prescribers, Public Safety and Treatment.
- Be submitted online by July 31, 2024

The [2024 Opioid and Stimulant Conference](#) is on Dec. 12 at the Hyatt Regency Wichita.

--Karen Braman

Position Available

[Director of Nursing](#)

[Wilson Medical Center](#)

2600 Ottawa Rd., P.O. Box 360

Neodesha, KS 66757

Contact: [Becky Lewis](#), Director, Human Resources

Phone: (620) 325-8357

Fax: (620) 325-8459

Email: blewis@wmcrc.org

Website: www.wilsonmedical.org

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The Director of Nursing Operations will lead and direct areas of responsibility both operationally and strategically. This person is responsible for ensuring nursing policies, procedures and standards describe and guide the provision of nursing care required by all patients and patient populations served by the hospital, as well as the design, development and implementation of systems and processes that directly improve the value of services provided and improve the overall organizational performance.

Requirements

A Bachelor of Science degree in nursing. Experience in management, strong analytical and conflict resolution. Knowledge and experience in information privacy laws, access, release of information and release control technologies. Knowledge of and the ability to apply the principles of project management and change management. A minimum of five years of clinical experience and five years of previous nursing leadership experience. Effective public speaking skills and the ability to communicate in verbal and written form with a broad cross-section of governance management and medical staff. The ability to articulate complex regulatory information in layman's terms. The ability to accomplish results through people in a team leader or facilitator role. Good organizational planning skills and the ability to multi-task. Licensure/certification: current Kansas RN licensure.

If you have a management position available in your organization and would like it posted in *Current Report*, email the information to [Jan Fenwick](#). Also, don't forget to check out www.kshealthjobs.net for other health care openings in Kansas.

--Jan Fenwick

Federal and National News

CMS Issues Guidance on Medicaid Provider Directory Standards

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services issued [guidance](#) to implement enhanced provider directory standards for state Medicaid programs and the managed care plans with which they contract. State Health Official Letter #24-003 [outlines](#) the new standards for content and timeliness that states and managed care plans must meet by July 1, 2025, as required by the [Consolidated Appropriations Act](#), 2023 and the Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program Managed Care Access, Finance and Quality rule [issued](#) earlier this year.

CMS Releases Proposed CY 2025 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule Payment and Policy Updates

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services [released](#) the proposed Medicare Physician Fee Schedule payment and policy [updates](#) for the calendar year 2025. CMS proposes a conversion factor [decrease](#) from the current CY 2024 of \$33.29 to \$32.36, or 2.8 percent. CMS also estimates the "average payment rates under the PFS are proposed to be reduced by 2.93 percent in CY 2025 compared to the average amount these services are paid for most of CY 2024."

The rule proposes changes to the Medicare Shared Savings Program, strengthens primary care by driving quality improvement, establishes new coding and payment for caregiver training for direct care, requests information about newly implemented Community Health Integration services and proposes broadening the applicability of the transfer of care modifiers for global surgical packages.

CMS will accept comments through Monday, Sept. 9.

MLN Connects Provider eNews Available

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

- [Final Part Two Guidance to Help People with Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage Manage Prescription Drug Costs](#)
- [Medicare Ground Ambulance Data Collection System: Submit Comments by Sept. 9](#)
- [Medicare Providers: Deadlines for Joining an Accountable Care Organization](#)
- [Skilled Nursing Facility Value-Based Purchasing Program: May 2 Webinar Materials Available](#)
- [CMS Roundup \(July 12, 2024\)](#)