



***KHA's Current Report***  
**July 26, 2024**

**President's Perspective – Exemplary Trustees to Be Recognized at the KHA Convention**

It is with pleasure that the Kansas Hospital Association recognizes hospital trustees who provide outstanding contributions through their leadership and governance. Hospitals across the state nominated individuals for the Trustee of the Year Award because they routinely go above and beyond the call of duty. Seven trustees from hospitals and health systems across Kansas were nominated as Trustees of the Year:

- Terry David, Hospital District #1 of Rice County, Lyons
- Jared Estes, Via Christi Rehabilitation Hospital, Wichita
- Matt Floersch, MD, Ascension Via Christi Hospital Manhattan, Inc., Manhattan
- Debbie Palacioz, NMC Health, Newton
- Dan Palmgren, Satanta District Hospital, Clinics & LTCU, Satanta
- Kenton Weltmer, Smith County Memorial Hospital, Smith Center
- Sister Pam Young, Ascension Via Christi Health, Inc., Wichita

These trustees will be recognized during the KHA Awards Ceremony on Sept. 5, 2024, in Overland Park. One trustee will receive additional recognition and a donation in his/her honor to the foundation of their choice. To learn more about this award and see photos of the nominees, [go to our website](#). Here is a little more about these exceptional leaders:

Terry David has served on the board at Hospital District #1 of Rice County for 21 years. He has served as Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. Terry fosters collaboration between the board, administration and medical staff and has been pivotal in strengthening the relationships with other local health care partners. In addition, Terry has been recognized as an advocate for communities by serving as a county commissioner. Through his leadership on the commission, Terry has brought structure and level-headed governance that has allowed for business growth opportunities and collaboration between the county and local city governments. Terry's leadership style can be characterized as "leading by example." He doesn't give direction or guidance from the sidelines but fully immerses himself in the task or project.

Jared Estes has served on the board at Via Christi Rehabilitation Hospital for nine years. Jared brought a unique patient perspective to board governance and board discussions. As a young man, Jared was involved in a tragic car accident that killed his wife and left him with burns on more than half of his body. This terrible event turned him into an advocate for burn patients and rehab services. He now tours the country, speaking on behalf of this vulnerable patient population wherever he can raise his voice. His message has been spread through schools, hospitals and other organizations. His purpose as a motivational speaker shedding light on these patients is fueled by a goal to decrease their suicide and alcohol-related deaths.

Matt Floersch, MD, has served on the board of Ascension Via Christi Hospital Manhattan, Inc., for eight years. He has served as chairman, vice-chairman, secretary and treasurer. Dr. Floersch has led partnership discussions, assisted with evaluating acquisitions and program changes and is a consistent voice of calm and reason as the hospital navigates operational challenges. He advocates for the community and strongly encourages collaboration with entities like Konza Prairie (FQHC), Pawnee Mental Health Services and other providers. Dr. Floersch is well respected by his peers. He is seen as collaborative, fair and focused on the greater good. Additionally, he is the medical director for Meadowlark, a local senior community and has distinguished himself for his care of the elderly and willingness to focus on geriatric care.

Debbie Palacioz has served on the board at NMC Health for 12 years. She has a proven track record of leadership and service in the community. During board meetings, Debbie is fully present and engaged. Her unwavering personal values speak volumes when the board considers current and future actions. While defending the mission, vision and values of the hospital, she is inquisitive and sensitive about how the hospital's work and relationships serve hospital constituents. She asks the hard questions. She is part of a board that ensures a generous financial assistance program. She supports the hospital's relationships with community partners in a way that protects the interests of all concerned. Integrity is her watchword, and she is highly respected as a result.

Dan Palmgren has served on the Satanta District Hospital, Clinics & LTCU Board for 24 years. Dan is a small business owner and has been a pillar of the Satanta community since 1983. His leadership extends to the Satanta District Hospital Board, where he has been the board chair since January 2018. Dan's business knowledge and unwavering commitment to his community have provided exceptional leadership to the SDH Board. You will not find a stronger advocate for local health care than Dan. Health care is not always glamorous. Sometimes, you must make difficult decisions that the public may or may not understand. Dan and the SDH Board work hard to ensure every decision is not only in the best interest of the hospital but also the community in which they serve.

Kenton Weltmer has served on the Smith County Memorial Hospital Board for 12 years. Kenton demonstrates exceptional leadership in hospital governance. As chair, he is instrumental in guiding the hospital through challenges and ensuring its ongoing success. His strategic vision and commitment to rural health care were crucial in constructing Smith County Memorial Hospital's leading-edge facility that opened in 2018. His expertise and guidance were invaluable in navigating the complexities of this ambitious project, resulting in a state-of-the-art health care institution. Additionally, his dedication to the hospital's financial stability has been remarkable. In an increasingly challenging economic environment for Critical Access Hospitals, his astute decision-making and fiscal prudence have been crucial in maintaining the hospital's strong financial health.

Sister Pam Young has served on the board at Ascension Via Christi Health, Inc. Wichita, for 28 years. Sister Pam has served Via Christi for nearly three decades, most recently completing six years on the health care system's board of directors. This includes a seat on the executive committee, chairing the mission committee and sitting on the governance, quality and patient safety committees. During her years at AVCH, including the COVID-19 pandemic, Sister's stoicism remained as she confidently introduced new perspectives and insights to a challenging time. As a part of the board's quality and patient safety committee, Sister Pam contributed guidance and counsel to leadership with holistic, high-quality care in mind. That guidance was the prelude to four hospitals earning the coveted Leapfrog "A" grade for patient safety in 2024.

Please join me in congratulating all our 2024 Trustee of the Year nominees. Thank you for making a difference. We hope you will be able to join us to celebrate their commitment and leadership during the [KHA Awards Ceremony](#) on Sept. 5 in Overland Park.

--Chad Austin

### **Register Now for the Three-part Medicare Advantage Educational Webinar Series**

Register now and plan to attend the three-part webinar series, which will help members understand the different aspects of Medicare Advantage.

#### *Part 1: Managing Medicare Advantage Rules and Regulations*

Thursday, Aug. 15

12:00 p.m.

#### *Part 2: Collaborating with Partners on Medicare Advantage Education and Communication*

Thursday, Aug. 22

1:00 p.m.

#### *Part 3: Uncovering How Medicare Advantage Plans are Not Paying You and What You Can Do About It*

Tuesday, Oct. 1

12:00 p.m.



*--Hayley Finch-Genschorck*

### **Mary Miller's Nursing Career Spans 41 Years at One Location**

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 Mary Miller, Decatur Health, Oberlin, for her service and contributions to health care.

Nurse Mary Miller is committed to Decatur Health, and despite driving miles from her farm to the facility, she is a very loyal team member. As a nurse in surgery, the specialty clinic and the pharmacy, Miller's dedication to Decatur Health for 41 years can't be questioned.

Miller is smart, honest, responsible, professional, respectful, reliable and accountable. She is an amazing nurse who shows compassion to every patient in the unit or ER. She is a great educator and mentor and is frequently tasked with training new nurses on the floor. She's a leader and a team captain, always willing to share her knowledge or give guidance. Through her years at Decatur Health, she has mentored many young nurse aides to pursue education as an LPN or an RN. Being a team lead in adopting the medication dispensing system is another project Mary has committed to. As one of two pharmacy nurses, she co-led the Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee.

Staff and administration never have to question Miller's commitment to be at work, meetings or if an assignment is completed by the deadline. They know she will be prepared, and her work will be detailed and complete. Her patient care and documentation are always timely and accurate. She offers knowledge, respect, compassion and kindness to each patient.

Staff and patients are forever thankful for Miller's presence and skills. She has helped diagnose heart attacks by performing detailed patient intakes. One patient credited her with "saving his life." As a seasoned nurse, she is at the helm, helping navigate difficult shifts when multiple high-stress situations occur.

Miller, 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*

## **Registration Is Open for the Fall HOSA Conference**

Kansas HOSA is seeking interested health care organizations to have an expo table or break-out session to speak to students at the upcoming Kansas HOSA Fall Leadership Conference on Oct. 17 at the Kansas State University Student Union in Manhattan. More than 600 attendees, primarily high school students, are expected to attend. HOSA—Future Health Professionals is a career technical student organization that is 100 percent health care focused. Think FFA is agriculture; HOSA is health care.

## **Having an Expo Table**

Reserving a table is \$150, or \$45 for non-profit organizations. This includes one six-foot table, parking for one vehicle and two lunch tickets. Please [register online](#) by Sept. 20 to secure your spot. Space is limited, so we encourage early registration to confirm your table.

## **Leading a Break-Out Session**

HOSA encourages as many interactive, engaging and hands-on aspects of your sessions as possible. Topics should focus on career exploration, real-life experiences, leadership, skills training/education or competitive event preparation ([events offered here](#)). Kansas HOSA will cover your parking and meals. [Registration](#) is open through Sept. 20 or until all spaces are filled.

Contact [Tina Goosz-Garetson](#), Kansas HOSA State Advisor, at (620) 235-4040 for more information.

--*Jaron Caffrey*

## **Max Thomas Increases Skills, Develops New Procedures**

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 Max Thomas, Mitchell County Hospital Health Systems, Beloit, for his service and contributions to health care.

For many health care workers, the call of duty is a personal, internal fire that drives them to provide service before themselves to every patient. Max Thomas, a radiology technician at Mitchell County Hospital Health Systems, embodies this intentional passion and selfless drive, ensuring that each patient who comes to MCHHS receives the highest quality of care with the utmost compassion and respect.

Thomas has only been a full-time employee in the radiology department for six years. Still, in that short time, his dedication and authenticity have established a reputation for providing service excellence across the health system.

Thomas has strengthened the MCHHS Radiology Department's skills and resources, assisting the team in maintaining and growing a comprehensive array of radiology services. His commitment to developing as a young health care professional was shown through his drive to cross-train in CT, MRI, ultrasound and nuclear medicine. Thomas became board-certified in MRI and now leads the initiative at MCHHS by helping to develop new procedures the hospital can offer patients and surrounding communities.

Thomas recently volunteered to be MCHHS's clinical site coordinator for Fort Hays State University's Radiology program, which started in June 2024. His servant leadership style is highlighted by his willingness to support every health care worker pursuing a career in this rewarding yet challenging field.

Thomas, 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*

### **New Entry in Finance Series Explains How to Read Hospital Bill**

The Kansas Hospital Association created a hospital [Finance Basics](#) series to help hospitals share information on defining common financial terms. Over the past year, three documents have been created in the series. These include:

- [Cost](#)
- [Revenue](#)
- [Understanding EMTALA and Its Impact on Hospital Finances](#)

This week, we are releasing the fourth in the series – [Understanding a Hospital Bill](#). This document explains the difference between charges and payments and defines common terms using a sample bill.

KHA encourages using these tools to help members of the public and policymakers understand how the complex hospital finance system works. Each subject includes a definition of terms, tables and charts illustrating the financial breakdown of each topic. For questions, please contact [Shannan Flach](#) at (785) 233-7436.

--*Shelby Stacy*

### **Financial Impact Reports Located in Analytic Advantage**

Recently, the Kansas Hospital Association noticed more bulk emails with attachments blocked by hospital email security. In the future, Dee Lewis will place all financial impact reports in the [HIDI Analytical Advantage site](#) for hospitals to receive. If you need access to this site, please contact Dee Lewis at [dlewis@kha-net.org](mailto:dlewis@kha-net.org) or (785) 233-7436. New reports loaded to the site include the Calendar Year 2025 Outpatient Prospective Payment System Proposed Rule Impact Report, Fiscal Year 2025 Inpatient Psychiatric Facility Proposed Rule Impact Report, First Quarter 2024 Financial Indicators Report and the Critical Access and Small PPS Hospitals Utilization Analysis. We will inform hospitals when new impact reports are loaded to the site.

--Shannan Flach

### **HRSA Grants Available for Expanding Physician Residency Program**

The Health Resources and Services Administration has released a new funding opportunity to expand existing approved physician residency programs and establish new approved programs.

The [Teaching Health Center Graduate Medical Education Program](#) trains physicians and dentists, in community-based settings, focusing on rural and underserved areas. This unique training model provides most of the training in community-based outpatient settings where most people receive their health care.

One component supports residency slots starting in the academic year 2024-2025 and another component for 2025-2026. \$10 million is available for the 2024-2025 academic year, while \$80 million is available for the 2025-2026 academic year. Applications for each component are due Sept. 5 and Sept. 20.

Eligible applicants include teaching health centers, Teaching Health Center Planning and Development grant recipients who have obtained accreditation and other programs that plan to be accredited and train residents starting July 1, 2025.

Grant funds can be used to support direct and indirect expenses associated with sponsoring approved graduate medical education residency programs, including increasing the number of full-time employee residents in an existing residency program.

--Jaron Caffrey

### **Advanced Nursing Education Workforce: Grow and Stay Grant Program**

Grant funding is available for Kansas nurses attending or interested in attending graduate nursing programs at the University of Kansas School of Nursing.

The Advanced Nursing Education Workforce Grow and Stay program, funded by The Health Resources and Services Administration and administered by the University of Kansas School of Nursing, is designed to enhance and increase the nursing workforce in Kansas. ANEW provides eligible nurses with a financial award of up to \$25,000 for full-time study and \$15,000 for part-time study.

Eligible candidates must be enrolled in a clinical practicum course in one of the following BSN-DNP or post-master certificate programs:

- Family Nurse Practitioner
- Psych-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner
- Nurse-Midwife

Funding can be used to cover tuition and other related expenses. For more information, visit the [ANEW: Grow and Stay website](#).

--Jaron Caffrey

### **KDHE Announces Changes Coming to Hepatitis B Birth Dose Program**

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment notified birthing hospitals recently that the Hepatitis B Birth Dose program, supported by "317" federal funds, will sunset this fall. Moving forward, Hepatitis B vaccine and nirsevimab will be provided through the Vaccines for Children program. In their announcement, KDHE shared the reason for the transition is that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is ending the Hepatitis B Birth Dose Program due to VFC funding availability. KDHE requests all birthing hospitals complete [this survey](#) to express interest in transitioning to the VFC Program. [Regional Immunization Nurses](#) with KDHE are available to support birthing hospitals during this transition. For questions, please email [KDHE.IMMconsultant@ks.gov](mailto:KDHE.IMMconsultant@ks.gov).

--Karen Braman

### **KHA HIDI Advantage Optics Update and HIDI Academy Learning**

[Advantage Optics](#), the online reporting tool accessed from [the HIDI Advantage User Portal](#), is where your KHA hospital-level data resides. This week, the site was updated with the May 2024 data and now contains October 2018 – May 2024 inpatient, outpatient and emergency department discharges. This includes Executive Snapshot Dashboards, located under Market Optics.

As a reminder, HIDI recently launched the HIDI Academy. This new service enhances users' learning experience by providing access to HIDI-specific Market Optics training modules and resources through a user-friendly interface.

If you need help accessing Advantage Optics or the HIDI Academy, please contact [Dee Lewis](#) or [Sally Othmer](#) at (785) 233-7436.

--Sally Othmer



## **Kansas Fights Addiction Grant Program – Deadline to Apply Is Aug. 2**

A third round of funding to support substance use disorder services across the state is now available through the [Kansas Fights Addiction](#) grant program. The funding comes from money the state recovers through opioid legal settlements and will be made available through a Request for Proposal grant application process. This third RFP, similar to the first round of KFA funding in 2023, prioritizes strategies related to treatment, recovery, harm reduction and linkages to care established by the Kansas Prescription Drug and Opioid Advisory Committee in its 2023-2027 state strategic plan. Eligible organizations include state agencies, local and county governments, and nonprofit organizations providing services in Kansas to prevent, reduce, treat or otherwise abate or remediate SUDs. To be eligible, applicants also must release all legal claims arising from covered conduct against each defendant named in the opioid settlement agreements. Organizations may apply for up to \$300,000 in grant funding through this third RFP, with each grant having a 12-month budget period. For more information and to download the RFP, [click here](#).

*--Karen Braman*

## **Tips for Registering Online for the KHA Convention and Trade Show**

Many of you have already used our online registration for the Kansas Hospital Association Convention, and we thank you! Remember that your name badge is your admission ticket to all KHA sessions, the trade show and the KHA party. If you pay for any extra functions not included with your registration fee, the ticket codes will appear on the back of your name badge and admit you to those extra functions. You can only register yourself and a guest (up to two tickets each per available event) at one time. For instance, if you only register yourself and mark 10 tickets for the Political Advocacy Breakfast, our system will not process the other tickets because it can't identify whose records to apply this information to in our database. For all 10 tickets to be purchased, you must register each person individually, including applicable registration fees. Also, please register for the convention and pay for your tickets simultaneously for a smoother process.

*--Cheryl Carson*

## **Health Observances and Recognition Days for August Month-Long Observances**

- Ambulatory Surgery Center Month (National)
- Breastfeeding Month (National)
- Children's Eye Health and Safety Month
- Digestive Tract Paralysis Awareness Month
- Eye Exam Month (National)
- Gastroparesis Awareness Month
- Immunization Awareness Month (National)
- Neurosurgical Awareness Month
- Psoriasis Action Month
- Spinal Muscular Atrophy Awareness Month
- Summer Sun Safety Month

## Week-Long Observances

- Aug. 1-7 – Breastfeeding Week (World)
- Aug. 4-10 – Health Center Week (National) and Farmer's Market Week (National)
- Aug. 12-18 – OSHA's Safe and Sound Week
- Aug. 18-24 – Contact Lens Health Week
- Aug. 23-29 – Health Unit Coordinator Recognition Week

## Recognition Days | Events

- Aug. 1 – Lung Cancer Day (World) and Minority Donor Awareness Day (National)
- Aug. 14 – Financial Awareness Day (National)
- Aug. 15 – Relaxation Day (National)
- Aug. 31 – Overdose Awareness Day (International)

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 receiving 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

### GAO Report Recommends Strengthened Oversight of State's Medicaid Eligibility Review Practices

A [Government Accountability Office report](#) reviews state practices relating to Medicaid eligibility verification and documents the significant shortcomings common to several states. The GAO recommends that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services document and implement the oversight practices the agency learned during unwinding, which were needed to prevent and detect state compliance issues with redetermination requirements.

### **CDC Issues Health Advisory about Disruptions in Availability of Blood Culture Bottles**

The CDC issued a [health advisory](#) regarding the disruptions in the availability of Becton Dickinson BACTEC™ blood culture bottles. The advisory includes recommended steps for facilities impacted by this shortage and [resources](#) for prioritizing blood cultures in both pediatric and adult populations.

In addition, the Infectious Disease Society of America held a [clinician call](#), which covered insights into how facilities are addressing the bottle shortage.

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

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

- [The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Announce Resources and Flexibilities to Assist with Public Health Emergency in Texas](#)
- [Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Oral Health Cross-Cutting Initiative Fact Sheet](#)
- [Doctors and Clinicians: Utilization Data on Medicare.gov Compare Tool](#)
- [Help Improve the Program for Evaluating Payment Patterns Electronic Reports and Comparative Billing Reports](#)
- [Viral Hepatitis: Talk with Your Patients About Shots and Screenings](#)