



KHA's Current Report
August 2, 2024

President's Perspective – Dennis Franks to Receive the Charles S. Billings Award

It is a pleasure to announce that Dennis Franks, CEO of Neosho Memorial Regional Medical Center, has been named the recipient of the Kansas Hospital Association's [2024 Charles S. Billings Award](#).

The Charles S. Billings Award was created in 1971 to recognize distinguished service and outstanding contributions to the field of health care in Kansas. We reserve this award for those who have shown their commitment, leadership and dedication to that noble pursuit. Franks, the 44th recipient of this award, has certainly demonstrated these qualities during his devoted 43-year health care career.

For 18 years, Dennis has served as the CEO at Neosho Memorial Regional Medical Center in Chanute. Under his leadership, the hospital has been recognized with more than 150 awards for exceptional quality and service. *Modern Healthcare* magazine has also named it one of the best places to work in health care for 15 consecutive years. In addition to its 25 inpatient beds, during Dennis' tenure, NMRMC has added two rural health clinics, an orthopedic clinic and an on-site corporate clinic, and has expanded women's health services. The hospital follows the motto, "Never Underestimate the Difference You Make."

Dennis has been a dedicated advocate for Kansas hospitals and their communities. One example of this commitment is his tireless advocacy for Medicaid expansion. In Neosho County, many rural residents are considered working poor, earning too much to qualify for Medicaid and too little to afford health insurance. For that reason, Dennis has worked on several initiatives, including KHA's "Kansas Solution" to a "Bridge to a Healthy Kansas" to more recent advocacy efforts. Dennis has dedicated many hours to promoting the benefits of Medicaid expansion to the state of Kansas, Kansas hospitals, and most importantly, the Kansans who would have access to care if the program was expanded.

His leadership in health care has been felt on a local, state and national level. One regional effort includes the SEK Impact Center for Wellness, Education and Business. This facility houses a 300-person conference center, children's therapy services and a new orthopedic clinic. More than \$7 million was raised to fund the project through grants from the U.S. Economic Development Administration, the State of Kansas Department of Commerce, dozens of businesses, local donors and other sources. Dennis envisioned creating a space to meet the region's professional and wellness needs, forming the Neosho County Health Task Force, a group of local service agencies.

This group identified a need for a large meeting space to host educational opportunities, corporate training and conferences. At the time, the closest facility to host a group of 300 was 60 miles away. It was with pride that the SEK Impact Center for Wellness, Education and Business opened in January 2024.

Dennis served as a member of the KHA Board of Directors from 2011-2020 and served as chair in 2019. He also served on the Healthworks (then KHERF) Board of Directors from 2010-2016 and was chair in 2014. He chaired the SE District from 2008-2009 and has served on numerous KHA committees, including the KHA Leadership and Governance Committee, the KHA Executive Committee, the KHA Political Action Committee, the Rural Health Visioning Technical Advisory Group and the Medicaid Provider Assessment Committee. Dennis served on AHA's Grassroots Advocacy Committee for Rural Hospitals, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas' Provider Advisory Committee and the KUMC Rural Health Advisory Board. He also is a Baldrige Fellow.

Congratulations to Dennis! We look forward to officially bestowing this prestigious honor to him during the [KHA Annual Convention](#) and [Trade Show](#) in Overland Park. I invite you all to attend the KHA Awards Luncheon at noon on Sept. 5, when Dennis will receive the Billings Award and additional health care leaders will be recognized.

--Chad Austin

A Special Thank You to 2024 Convention Sponsors

While you are at the [2024 KHA Annual Convention](#), *Champions of Change*, please take a minute to thank the [sponsors](#) for their generous support. Their contributions allow us to offer the quality sessions you look forward to attending each year.

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Questions regarding the KHA Annual Convention and Trade Show can be directed to [Melissa Willey](#), [Hayley Finch-Genschorck](#) or [Jennifer Findley](#) at (785) 233-7436.

--Hayley Finch-Genschorck

Nathan Jameson Models Exceptional Care for Behavioral Health Care Patients

KHA'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 Nathan Jameson, Girard Medical Center, Girard, for his service and contributions to health care.

Jameson has been a registered nurse in the Senior Behavioral Health Unit at Girard Medical Center since graduating from Pittsburg State University in 2017. Jameson's nursing skills have been developed through his work with elderly patients. Caring for people is not just a job for him. He truly cares about the physical and mental well-being of the patients within his care.

When Jameson identifies a need, if it's within his ability, he'll find a solution. When patients arrived without clothing except paper scrubs or hospital gowns, he used his funds to purchase sweatpants and tops. He made sure to accommodate all patient sizes. Jameson's concern was for the dignity of the patient. Another example occurred last summer when some senior behavioral health patients wanted to spend time outdoors on the patio. Psychiatric medications often have a side effect of photosensitivity, which makes exposed skin and eyes more sensitive to light.

Jameson, again using his funds, ordered ball caps and sunglasses for those who wanted to be outside.

Jameson is soft-spoken and uses his quiet presence to de-escalate many situations. During the COVID-19 pandemic, when psychiatric nurses were reassigned to assist medical patients, he worked for the first time in a medical unit. He quickly became a favorite because he was easy to work with and assisted his coworkers without being asked.

In addition to his work in the Senior Behavioral Health unit, Jameson is an active member of the Employee Engagement Committee. On his days off, he frequently delivers home-baked goods around the hospital as a thank-you.

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

--Shelby Stacy

Register Now for the 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

Noon

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

Noon



--Hayley Finch-Genschorck

Congratulations to Ron Marshall

I want to take this opportunity to share with you the news that Ron Marshall, KHA's director of preparedness and regulatory affairs, will be retiring from the Kansas Hospital Association on Jan. 31, 2025. Since joining KHA in 2014, Ron has been an invaluable team member, bringing dedication and expertise to every challenge we faced ... especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Ron has been considering his retirement for some time now. So, while this is not surprising, it is still bittersweet for all of us at KHA. We are deeply grateful for Ron's contributions and wish him a fulfilling retirement.

Please join me in thanking Ron for his outstanding service to KHA!

--Chad Austin

2024 Health Equity Innovation Award Call for Nominations Due Aug. 2

KFMC Health Improvement Partners has announced the second annual Health Equity Innovation Award. The award recognizes organizations, affiliated groups, partnerships or individuals that have developed and implemented novel approaches, strategies and interventions aimed at reducing health disparities and promoting 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, 2024, in Wichita.



--Karen Braman

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.

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.

Health Care Preceptor Academy Locations and Dates:

- [CommonSpirit, St. Catherine Hospital, Garden City – Sept. 24](#)
- [Stormont Vail Health, Topeka – Nov. 12](#)



--Hayley Finch-Genschorck

340B Program Recertification Period for Hospitals Is Aug. 12-Sept. 9

The 2024 Health Resources and Services Administration, Office of Pharmacy Affairs 340B Program Recertification period for Hospitals is Aug. 12-Sept. 9, 2024. OPA is hosting a recertification webinar from noon to 1:00 p.m. on Aug. 7.



Dial-in Toll-Free #: (833) 568 8864

Participant Code: 14901613

Computer audio is recommended (make sure computer speakers are on). Attendees should click the above and select 'Join with Computer Audio.'

To recertify, authorizing officials and primary contacts must set up a user account in the 340B Office of Pharmacy Affairs Information System. Failure to set up user accounts will result in an inability to view accounts or conduct recertification, resulting in termination from the 340B Program. AOs and PCs must create individual user accounts, or they will not be able to share access. All active 340B IDs associated with an AO's user account must be updated for recertification to be completed by the established deadline.

--Karen Braman

Loss Prevention 2024

The annual KAMMCO Loss Prevention Program is an opportunity for members—and the professionals who support them—to gather and participate in education that promotes quality patient care and minimizes the risk of litigation for health care professionals.



--Hayley Finch-Genschorck

Survey on Perceptions of Rural Kansas Hospitals in ACOs – Deadline Aug. 11

Carlos Schwindt and Dr. Nicole Freund from the KU School of Medicine in Wichita are conducting a study about the perceptions of rural Kansas hospital leadership in accountable care organizations. They are seeking rural Kansas hospital leadership participation in this important research. So far, nine surveys have been completed. The goal is 20-30 completed surveys. Your help is incredibly important.

As stakeholders in the rural health care community, your insights are valuable in shaping the future of health care delivery in rural Kansas. To participate, complete this brief survey (5-10 minutes) designed to explore your perspectives on accountable care organizations. All responses will be aggregated to paint a complete picture of the group's perspectives. Participation in this study is entirely voluntary, and responses will be confidential. If you are willing to participate, [please complete the survey](#) by Aug. 11.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this invitation. Your participation is crucial to advancing understanding of accountable care organization participation and improving future health care outcomes in rural Kansas. Should you have any questions, please contact [Dr. Nicole Freund](#) or [Carlos Schwindt](#).

--Karen Braman

AHA Releases Quality Collective Report

As part of the American Hospital Association's work on performance improvement, the Quality Collective was launched to provide a collaborative platform for leaders in quality improvement to engage deeply with their peers, collectively strategizing on the most pressing health care quality-related issues. For three months, the QC assembled health care quality leadership nationwide. Their collaborative efforts were focused on co-designing strategies that address the current needs of the field and shape its trajectory into the future. The [Quality Collective Report](#) includes highlights from the insightful deliberations of QC members.

--Karen Braman

CDC Updates Pneumococcal Vaccine Recommendations

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention pneumococcal vaccine recommendations have been updated on June 27 to recommend PCV21 for adults. PCV21 (CAPVAXIVE, Merck) is now an option for adults aged 18 years and older who are recommended to receive a pneumococcal conjugate vaccination. Eligible individuals include those 65 years and older who have never received a PCV vaccination and individuals aged 18-64 years with underlying chronic conditions. PCV21 is an alternative to PCV20 or the PCV15+PPSV23 series. PCV21 serotypes cover ~80 percent of diagnosed invasive pneumococcal disease in adults, compared to ~60 percent covered by PCV20 (Pneumo-20, Pfizer). The CDC offers [PneumoRecs VaxAdvisor](#) as a free app to quickly and easily provide patient-specific pneumococcal vaccine guidance. There is also a web-based version that doesn't require a download.

--Karen Braman

Federal and National News

CMS Releases Final FFY 2025 Medicare Hospice Payment and Policy Updates

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services [released](#) the Medicare [Hospice](#) final payment and policy updates for federal fiscal year 2025. The rule includes updates to the budget statistical area delineations that affect the hospice wage index, clarifies current policy related to the election statement, includes technical regulation text changes to the CoPs and finalizes changes to the Hospice Quality Reporting Program. CMS estimates a 2025 rate increase of 2.9 percent or \$790 million.

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 Roundup \(July 26, 2024\)](#)
- [Opioid Treatment Program: Learn How to Bill Medicare](#)
- [Skilled Nursing Facility FY 2025 Final Rule](#)
- [Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility FY 2025 Final Rule](#)
- [Inpatient Psychiatric Facility FY 2025 Final Rule](#)
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