



KHA's Current Report
August 16, 2024

President's Perspective – KHA Recognizes Sen. Carolyn McGinn

(Aug. 16, 2024) – The Kansas Hospital Association [Distinguished Health Care Advocate Award](#) honors those individuals, organizations or groups who provide an exemplary contribution to the health and well-being of the people of Kansas through their leadership in public, political or policy areas. This award provides KHA members the opportunity to recognize those who work on our behalf from outside our ranks. At any level of the public spectrum, these award recipients are unique, and their outstanding commitment to the health of Kansas is extraordinary, including this year's honoree Senator Carolyn McGinn.

Carolyn McGinn served in the Kansas Senate from 2004-2024 and championed work across various health care issues. Sen. McGinn's work in behavioral health and her passion for justice for persons with behavioral health needs cannot be overestimated. Her unwavering advocacy for access to high-quality care for persons marginalized by behavioral health issues shone. She was instrumental in establishing a behavioral health hospital in South Central Kansas to supplement the work of Larned and Osawatomie State Hospitals. The new hospital, under construction in southwest Wichita, will provide 100 psychiatric beds for Kansans who are in desperate need of access to humane, dignified care and caring closer to home.

During her 20-year Senate tenure, she consistently supported Kansas hospitals. She is steadfast in her support of Medicaid expansion. In March 2024, she chaired a Senate committee informational hearing on the matter. She also supported limiting administrative burdens under the KanCare program, leveraging technology through telehealth and supporting a bill to protect health care workers against on-the-job violence. Kansas health care workers appreciated her support of this legislation, which was signed into law in 2023, helping to provide harsher penalties for those who assault health care staff.

Sen. McGinn also was key to getting more transparency in the billing practices of nurse staffing agencies. Her work in the Social Determinants of Healthcare space has made a difference, as well as her passion for meeting the needs of people in or close to the community where they live. She has fought hard to procure funding for hospitals and other organizations that provide medical and behavioral health care to persons who are too sick to work, too sick to become economically independent and who need to be transported to state facilities. She helped provide a path toward a sensibly funded safety net, especially for behavioral health disorders that have been a long time coming in Kansas.

On behalf of the KHA membership, I congratulate Senator Carolyn McGinn as the 2024 KHA Distinguished Health Care Advocate! We hope you can join us in recognizing her at the [KHA Awards Luncheon](#) on Sept. 5, during the [KHA Convention](#) and [Trade Show](#) in Overland Park.

--Chad Austin

KHA Annual Convention and Trade Show

We encourage you to visit the [trade show](#), which features nearly 175 professional exhibitors displaying state-of-the-art products and services. Be sure to thank the exhibitors for joining us. Their support helps keep our registration fees reasonable.

The [2024 KHA Annual Convention, Champions of Change](#), will be Sept. 5-6, at the in Overland Park at the Sheraton Overland Park/Overland Park Convention Center. Registration materials may be downloaded from the [KHA website](#) and [online registration](#) is available.

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

Patricia Fuller Reinvents Billing Process, Saves Money

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 Patricia Fuller, Kiowa County Memorial Hospital, Greensburg, for her service and contributions to health care.

Fuller joined Kiowa County Memorial Hospital in a time of great transition. As the business office manager, Fuller reinvented and improved the office's processes by immersing herself in all aspects of hospital billing.

Before Fuller, billing had been outsourced for many years, so there were no guidebooks and no one to troubleshoot problems. Fuller worked to learn different portions of hospital billing, and with each process she mastered, she saved the hospital significant money. She did this while building a business office team, taking on the task of understanding Price Transparency regulations and good Faith Estimates and correcting the mistakes of the prior billing company. She sends out statements, so patients have a local person to talk to. She had stamps made to help patients understand what each portion of their bill means, whether it is co-pay or deductible.

She implemented many projects in her department that have streamlined processes for other departments, such as ABNs and authorizations, and reduced registration errors. She works directly with patients, helping to set them up with financial assistance if they qualify and spearheaded the implementation of PayZen, a company that offers patients flexible payment options with no interest to the patient. Most importantly, she did all of this through self-direction.

Fuller brought billing in-house in just three years. To do this, she had to learn and build a department from the ground up. Billing used to cost 5.6 percent of the collected amount. In the first month of doing billing in-house, Fuller saved the hospital \$23,000. These savings continue to build and will help the facility grow services and support the local economy.

Fuller, 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 Locations and Dates:

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

While the academy is offered two times for convenience, each session covers the same material. Participation will be limited to 25 individuals per class. Enrollment will be 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.



--*Hayley Finch-Genschorck*

Larry Van Der Wege Joins the KHA Team

The Kansas Hospital Association is pleased to announce the hiring of Larry Van Der Wege as our new director of regulatory affairs and preparedness. With an impressive background as the administrator at Lindsborg Community Hospital, Larry brings a wealth of experience to our team, having previously served as chief operating officer, risk manager and safety director. Larry holds a Bachelor of Arts from Bethany College and a master's in physical therapy from Wichita State University. His extensive knowledge, exceptional communication skills and talent for building strong relationships will be invaluable to our KHA membership.

We are excited for Larry to officially join the KHA team on Dec. 2. Please help us warmly welcome him!

--*Chad Austin*

Kansas Hospitals Selected for CMS Mandatory Model Participation

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services announced the selection of five Kansas hospitals, and hundreds of hospitals nationally, for mandatory participation in a new episode-based payment model, the Transforming Episode Accountability Model.

As part of the fiscal year 2025 Inpatient Prospective Payment System Final Rule, the TEAM model aims to improve beneficiary care and reduce costs through financial accountability for episode categories that begin with one of the following procedures: coronary artery bypass graft surgery, lower extremity joint replacement, major bowel procedure, surgical hip/femur fracture treatment or spinal fusion.

Each episode will begin with an anchor hospitalization or procedure and end 30 days after discharge. TEAM will test whether financial accountability for these episode categories reduces Medicare expenditures while preserving or enhancing the quality of care for Medicare beneficiaries. If the model is successful, CMS intends to establish a framework for managing episodes as standard practice in Traditional Medicare. TEAM begins on Jan. 1, 2026, and will be conducted for five years.

The five Kansas hospitals selected for participation are:

- HaysMed, Hays
- Hutchinson Regional Medical Center, Hutchinson
- LMH Health, Lawrence
- The University of Kansas Health System, Great Bend
- Summit Surgical, Hutchinson

KHA is following this model closely and has connected with the participating hospitals. Non-participant members will soon receive additional information. If you have questions, please contact [Jaron Caffrey](#) at (785) 233-7436.

--*Jaron Caffrey*

Two Additional 340B Lawsuits Filed in Kansas

Pharmaceutical manufacturers Novartis and the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America each filed lawsuits in the last two weeks against Kansas Attorney General Kris Kobach challenging the 340B protections passed during the 2024 legislative session. This brings 340B lawsuits to four, with Abbvie and AstraZeneca filings from early July.

The 340B protections were passed through a budget proviso during the 2024 legislative session. They require 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 continues to work 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, and stay in close communication with the AG's office. The AG's office filed a four-week extension to Sept. 6 to respond to the Abbvie and AstraZeneca filings, which was granted. In their unopposed motion for extension, the AG indicated their intention to consolidate the Abbvie, AstraZeneca and Novartis cases.

KHA will launch a 340B communications toolkit in the coming weeks and update KHA members regarding the litigation as we continue to advocate for and protect 340B in Kansas.

--Karen Braman

KAHPAM 2024 Fall Workshop – Sept. 20

The Kansas Association of Healthcare Patient Access and Account Managers is pleased to announce the 2024 KAHPAM Fall Workshop, Sept. 20 in Salina. This workshop will include presentations from Audrey Dunkel, Irene Hoheusle, Richelle Marting and Justin Dempsey. Topics of discussion are as follows:

- Audrey Dunkel, Kansas Hospital Association.
 - KHA updates
- Irene Hoheusle, ARM Compliance Business Solutions Inc.
 - Financial Assistance/Up-Front Collections
- Richelle Marting, Marting Law
 - HIPAA – minors (ages 12-17)
- Justin Dempsey, Nex-Tech
 - Lessons Learned – Insights on lessons learned from handling 90+ Cyber events
 - Ransomware Surviving the First Week – Walkthrough of the first week after a ransomware attack in a hospital environment



See you Sept. 20!

--Audrey Dunkel

Register Now: 2024 KOSCP Fall Conference – Oct. 8-9

This conference is intended for nurses, discharge planners, swing bed coordinators, social workers, physical therapists, occupational therapists, speech therapists and other health care professionals serving seniors. It will help attendees discover proven strategies for implementing and maintaining a swing bed program. Additional sessions will focus on case management, mental and emotional health and Medicare Advantage. All participants will receive reference materials.

Location and Hotel Accommodations

This workshop will be at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Wichita Airport, 2098 S Airport Rd, Wichita, KS 67209. A block of rooms has been reserved for the night of Oct. 8 at the rate of \$119, plus tax. The room block will be available until Sept. 15. After that, reservations will be taken on a space-available basis. Call (316) 945-5272 and request the KHA/KOSCP room block to receive the special rate.



--Hayley Finch-Genschorck

2024 Kansas Health Equity Summit on Oct. 30 – Registration Open

Mark your calendars for Oct. 30 to attend the third annual Kansas Health Equity Summit, Creating Oases in Deserts, in Wichita. The summit is dedicated to addressing and mitigating challenges posed by resource deserts. It will unite health care professionals, payers, state collaborators and community organizations to explore strategies and solutions for improving health equity in underserved communities.



--Karen Braman

FDA Approves First Nasal Spray for Treatment of Anaphylaxis

On Aug. 9, the Food and Drug Administration [announced](#) the approval of Neffy (epinephrine nasal spray) for the emergency treatment of allergic reactions (Type I), including those that are life-threatening (anaphylaxis), in adult and pediatric patients who weigh at least 30 kilograms. This is the first approval for epinephrine for the treatment anaphylaxis that is not administered by injection. It is anticipated that the epinephrine nasal spray may reduce barriers to the rapid treatment of anaphylaxis. The FDA granted Neffy [Fast Track](#) designation for this application. The FDA granted the approval of Neffy to ARS Pharmaceuticals.

--Karen Braman

Federal and National News

WHO Declares Mpox a Public Health Emergency

On Wednesday, Aug. 14, the World Health Organization [declared](#) the Monkeypox outbreak in the Congo and surrounding African nations a public health emergency. This declaration comes after the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention announced the need for international help to stop the virus's spread, which has caused more than 500 deaths. Overall, cases in the region are up 160 percent, and deaths are up 19 percent compared to the same period last year.

CDC Issues Health Alert Update on Increasing Mpox Cases in Africa

Recently, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued a [health alert update](#) to provide additional information on the outbreak of Monkeypox in the Democratic Republic of the Congo that has spread to neighboring countries. Health care providers should maintain awareness and consider travel history for patients exhibiting signs and symptoms of the mpox virus.

Online Medicare Training and Certification Now Is Available through *careLearning*

careLearning partnered with the Medicare Rights Center, the largest and most reliable independent source of Medicare information and assistance in the U.S., to create resources for professionals to help beneficiaries navigate the program.

For a complete description of the comprehensive four-level curriculum, go to [careLearning's website](#) and click "Access Our Course Catalog." Select your state and click "Medicare Education and Certification" and scroll to the desired series.

MLN Connects Provider eNews Available

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

- [Negotiating for Lower Drug Prices Works, Saves Billions](#)
- [Resources & Flexibilities to Assist with the Public Health Emergency in Florida, Georgia and South Carolina](#)
- [Hospitals: New EMTALA Poster for Use in Emergency Departments](#)
- [PrEP for HIV Transition of Coverage: Get Ready Now](#)
- [CMS Roundup \(Aug. 9, 2024\)](#)
- [ESRD: Oral-Only Renal Dialysis Service Drugs & Biological Products – Revised Guidance](#)

Before You Go ...

- WPS is offering a [provider audit update](#) at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 27, and 10:00 a.m. Wednesday, Aug. 28.