



KHA's Current Report
August 23, 2024

President's Perspective – Get Involved in KHA Advocacy Efforts

Earlier this month, Kansans engaged in civic duties and participated in the 2024 Kansas Primary Elections. Candidates from across the state worked feverishly by participating in community parades, attending local forums and walking door-to-door in the humid Kansas summer heat. This year, each of the 165 Kansas Senate and House members was up for election. However, only 41 legislative races had a competitive primary. While the election results will not be official until they are certified by the State Board of Canvassers on Aug. 28, attention has already shifted to the Nov. 5 general elections. The highly anticipated presidential and congressional races will capture the attention of the political pundits and the public. However, we must not overlook the local races and the impact the outcomes of these races will have on Kansas health care and hospitals. The Kansas Hospital Association is making available several upcoming events for the membership to learn about and engage in our advocacy efforts.

The KHA Annual Convention kicks off with our annual Political Advocacy and Grassroots Breakfast, where Charlie Cook will discuss today's political and legislative environments, provide insights into the latest from our national leaders, review the interplay between Congressional Democrats and Republicans and provide an expert outlook for what will happen in Washington this year. Cook has been a trusted and accurate voice on all things political for more than three decades. He is the editor and publisher of *The Cook Political Report* and a political analyst for the National Journal Group.

In addition, KHA's Convention is a perfect time to give to the [KHA Political Action Committee](#). State and federal governments pay for more than half of hospital care in Kansas and regulate 100 percent of our activities. Those are the main reasons why the work of KHA and KHA-PAC is so important. Elected individuals with a passion and understanding of hospitals' unique role in their communities are critical. Your contributions to the KHA-PAC are used to support those who champion our issues. Please commit to helping us achieve the best possible political outcomes. KHA-PAC events include our long-standing silent auction and a wine/bourbon pull. It is not too late to donate to either of these [KHA-PAC fundraisers](#).

Another essential part of our advocacy efforts is encouraging members to participate and vote. We invite you to use our ready-made [2024 We CARE We VOTE Campaign](#) to mobilize your hospital's employees in this important election year. We CARE We VOTE is a statewide initiative to empower and educate health care workers about how they can get out and vote during the 2024 elections. The campaign encourages hospital employees to participate in the 2024 elections to show elected officials and candidates we care – for our patients, our communities and our local and state economies. Kansas hospital employees can make a difference with their votes and voices as advocates for better health. KHA is here to support those efforts, and we encourage you to use the 2024 We CARE We VOTE [advocacy toolkit](#) to promote the importance of electing leaders who prioritize healthy Kansas populations and healthy Kansas economies.

KHA also is collaborating with other health care organizations, including the Kansas Medical Society, LeadingAge Kansas and the Kansas Pharmacist Association, to sponsor a "Meet and Greet" for candidates in South Central Kansas from 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 10, at the Kansas Leadership Center, 325 E. Douglas Ave. Wichita. If you want to get to know candidates for the House of Representatives or State Senate in the South Central Kansas area, we invite you to send your RSVP with your name and hospital to [Lorri Dean](#) or call (785) 276-3109.

Lastly, KHA still accepts nominations for the [2024 KHA Advocacy All-Star Training](#). This program prepares hospital advocates to engage in the advocacy process. You can learn more about the program through this [KHA video](#). The dates and locations for this program are:

Session 1 – Oct. 15 and 16, 2024 – Topeka, KS

Session 2 – Jan. 23, 2025 – KHA Advocacy Day, Topeka, KS

Politics and advocacy are widely described as team sports. We hope you will consider joining the KHA Advocacy Team by participating in one of the upcoming events or utilizing the materials to spread the word about the importance of voting in the upcoming election. If you have questions or need additional assistance, please contact us at the KHA office. Thank you in advance for being part of the KHA Advocacy Team!

--*Chad Austin*

KHA Annual Convention – Welcome Reception and Registration

We look forward to seeing you at the 2024 [KHA Annual Convention](#) and [Trade Show](#). This year's theme, [Champions of Change](#), promises to educate, enlighten and entertain you with award-winning speakers, networking opportunities and nearly 175 professional exhibitors displaying state-of-the-art products and services.

Start your convention experience off with a celebration by joining friends and associates at the Registration and Welcome Reception from 8:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 4. Sponsored by our friends at KAMMCO, this pre-event gathering offers a casual evening of conversation and cocktails. While there, take a moment to stop by the registration desk to pick up your convention materials and beat the Thursday rush. Exhibitor registration is not available during the Welcome Reception.

Click to
Register

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

Ascension Via Christi Hospital Manhattan's Rising Star Tanya Brabender

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 Tanya Brabender, Ascension Via Christi Hospital Manhattan, Inc., for her service and contributions to health care.

Ascension Via Christi Hospital Manhattan Interim Nursing Leader Tanya Brabender has played a key role for the organization over the past year and is one of their "rising stars." Brabender was the peripherally inserted central catheter nurse for the first part of the fiscal year and contributed to the organization by co-chairing the Nursing Shared Governance group. In addition, she led an education initiative for central line care and maintenance with a focus on infection prevention.

Brabender implemented a process of rounding and coaching with all nursing supervisors (new for the team), facilitated activities with the nursing leaders and supported the ancillary leaders as they made numerous changes. She has built key relationships with associates as they struggle to decrease turnover and improve the associate experience. Brabender has represented the organization at community events, physician meetings and activities and is a key person working on several acquisition and physician recruitment projects.

Brabender seems to always have a smile on her face and a contagious laugh that spills down the hallways. You can see her positive, glass always half full or more approach as she interacts with some of our sickest patients at the Nursing Shared Governance meetings and how she has approached her role as interim nursing leader for the facility. She puts her heart into working with the team to find and implement solutions to process and safety issues.

Brabender accepted the interim nursing leader role knowing she is not eligible for the permanent role until she completes her graduate degree. This has not impacted her positive energy and drive to help the team be successful.

Brabender, 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

Balancing Act Registration Open for Sept. 4

Join us for a robust educational event hosted by the Kansas Association of Health Care Executives on Wednesday, Sept. 4, in Overland Park. This event is conveniently scheduled the day before the KHA Annual Convention and Trade Show, so you can enjoy both events.

The event theme is *Balancing Act: Achieving Workforce Wellness and Reducing Burnout in Health Care*. ACHE has awarded 4.5 in-person credits to the three-panel discussions, but anyone in a managerial role will receive valuable tips and guidance on wellness and burnout. Stay for the networking reception, where attendees help create Happy Kits for teens and caregivers at Children's Mercy Kansas City through a clean competition.

Registration fees:

- ACHE members – \$150
- Non-members – \$200
- Students – \$25.

Registration covers materials, lunch and reception.



--Ron Marshall

Preparing for FY 2025 Broadband Opening – Sept. 11

Join current and new Kansas Health-e Broadband Consortium members for a free webinar at noon on Wednesday, Sept. 11. Questions will be answered, and clarity will be provided for the 2024 USAC funding window to prepare for the 2025 funding year.



--Jennifer Findley

Register Now: Strategies for Building and Sustaining Effective Coalitions – Sept. 17

Join the Kansas Hospital Association and Kansas Healthcare Collaborative for an educational webinar at noon on Tuesday, Sept. 17, where we will explore the essentials of building and sustaining an effective health coalition. Addressing social determinants of health is a collective endeavor, and hospitals play a crucial role in this community effort. Our panel of experts will share valuable insights on engaging community partners, establishing common goals and maintaining momentum for long-term health improvements.

Panelists:

- Virginia Barnes, director, Blue Health Initiatives, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas
- Erica Johnson, director of marketing, Wilson Regional Medical Center
- Yazmin Wood, chief executive officer, Legacy Regional Community Foundation



--Hayley Finch-Genschorck

Health Care Transformation Is in Connection, Not Credentials – Sept. 19

Join the Kansas Hospital Association for a Noon Briefing on Thursday, Sept. 19, as Integritas Providers examines one intervention that reduces burnout and improves patient outcomes: compassion. Integritas will demonstrate how compassion improves patient care, patient satisfaction, finances and changes lives. Discover what we, as health care leaders, can do to create a culture of compassion.

Panelists:

- Anand Patel, MD, director of hospital medicine, Integritas Providers
- Dave Hilgers, RN, BSN, director of business intelligence and revenue integrity, Integritas Providers



--Hayley Finch-Genschorck

Register Now! Cyrano Video Educational Webinar: You Created a Video... Now What? – Aug. 27

Join us at noon on Aug. 27 for lunch and a learning session with Cyrano Video. Our topic, "You've Created a Video... Now What?" is designed to guide you to success after you press the record button. This presentation provides health care professionals with valuable insights into distributing and maximizing the impact of their video content.



--Hayley Finch-Genschorck

Environmental and Linen Services Workshop for Your Staff – Sept. 26-27

Participate in the state's most economical two-day workshop with the Kansas Healthcare Environmental and Linen Services Association. For the member rate of \$100, learn about laundry and linen processes, HCAHPS and EVS, Pathogens, and policies and procedures. The registration fee includes two continental breakfasts, lunch and program materials. Conference activities begin at 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, Sept. 26, and conclude at noon on Friday, Sept. 27, at the Courtyard by Marriott in Salina.



--Jennifer Findley

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 June 2024 data and now contains October 2018 – June 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 assistance with access to Advantage Optics or the HIDI Academy, please contact [Dee Lewis](#) or [Sally Othmer](#) at (785) 233-7436.

--Sally Othmer

APS Welcomes Ni2 Health, Inc. to Its Roster of Services Provided to Hospitals

APS is hosting an introductory [webinar](#) for its new vendor, Ni2 Health, Inc., at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 11.

[Ni2 Health, Inc.](#) is an Austin-based company founded in 2016 to identify and deliver game-changing operating margin improvement for hospitals and health care organizations. They provide full revenue cycle optimization, specializing in charge capture optimization services for hospital clients. Currently, Ni2 Health has nearly 50 active health care clients in 23 states, including Kansas and Missouri.

If you have questions or need additional information, contact [Dennis George](#) at (913) 327-8730.

--Dennis George

CMS Issues Revised EMTALA Signage Guidance

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services [issued](#) revised guidance on model signage for EMTALA. CMS regulations require Medicare-participating hospitals to post signage outlining patients' rights under EMTALA in the emergency department and areas where patients will be examined or treated or wait to be examined or treated. CMS published new posters in [English](#) and [Spanish](#) and a revised translated [taglines](#) document.

--Ron Marshall

Position Available

[Administrator at Prairie Senior](#)

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Colby, KS 67701-3799

Contact: [Amanda Cadle, MBA](#)

Phone: (785) 462-7511

Fax: (785) 460-4870

Email: acadle@cmciks.com

Website: www.cmciks.com

Apply Online Today!
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Prairie Senior, a 60-bed skilled nursing facility in Colby, seeks a dynamic administrator to lead its exceptional team. Recognized for outstanding senior care in Northwest Kansas, Prairie Senior is dedicated to providing top-notch care to its residents.

Applicants should possess the following qualities:

- **Dedication to Resident Care:** A passion for improving the lives of our residents.
- **Employee Satisfaction:** A leader who values and promotes a positive work environment.
- **Regulatory Compliance:** A commitment to upholding government regulations and financial responsibility.
- **Community Engagement:** Strengthen relationships within our community.

Competitive salary and excellent benefits are offered.

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

Court Overturns FTC Noncompete Rule

A federal judge permanently struck down the Federal Trade Commission's rule banning nearly all noncompete agreements in the employment sector. The rule was slated to take effect Wednesday, Sept. 4.

The court determined that the agency lacked statutory authority to issue substantive rules with the force and effect of law. It further ruled that the measure was unreasonably overbroad because of the agency's "one-size-fits-all approach" and its reliance on inconsistent and flawed empirical evidence as the rationale for its action.

CDC Issues Health Advisory for Increased Oropouche Virus Activity

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued a [health advisory](#) to notify clinicians and public health authorities of an increase in the Oropouche virus disease in the Americas region, originating from endemic areas in the Amazon basin and new areas in South America and the Caribbean. Health care providers are advised to evaluate and test patients with signs and symptoms consistent with this infection who have traveled to the impacted region.

MLN Connects Provider eNews Available

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services issued the following updates to *MLN Connects Provider eNews*:

- [Commemorating the Second Anniversary of the Lower Cost Prescription Drug Law](#)
- [MoDx Local Coverage Determination Statement](#)
- [Hospital Price Transparency: Get Resources to Help You Comply](#)
- [New Residency Programs Request for Information: Submit Comments by Oct. 15](#)
- [Open Payments: Program Year 2023 Data](#)