



KHA's Current Report
August 30, 2024

President's Perspective – Looking Forward to the KHA Annual Convention

It is hard to believe the Labor Day Weekend is upon us and the 2024 [KHA Annual Convention](#) and [Trade Show](#) is next week. We look forward to seeing all of you in Overland Park. If you have yet to [register](#), that is OK. We will have registration on-site. Join us! This year's theme, [Champions of Change](#), promises to educate, enlighten and inspire attendees with award-winning speakers, networking opportunities and nearly 200 professional exhibitors displaying state-of-the-art products and services.

We will start the convention experience by bringing together friends and health care colleagues at the Registration and Welcome Reception from 8:00 to 9:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 4. This pre-event gathering, sponsored by our friends at [KAMMCO](#), offers a casual evening of conversation and cocktails. While there, I encourage you to take a moment to stop by the registration desk to pick up your convention materials and beat the Thursday rush. As a reminder, exhibitor registration will not be during the Welcome Reception.

The KHA Convention Planning Committee has planned a tremendous line-up of speakers on Thursday that we anticipate everyone will enjoy. Later that afternoon, we will open the trade show, and attendees will have the opportunity to explore the variety of exhibitors. Also, you must plan to join us for the We Are the Champions Party on Thursday night, which combines our hospitality rooms with our traditional KHA party. In addition to live streaming of the Chiefs' season opener, there will be games, friendship bracelets, food, drinks and prizes. Our generous hospitality champions, including APS, have allowed us to offer the convention party free of charge. Feel free to wear your Kansas City Chiefs attire.

On Friday, Sept. 6, we will close the convention with [Dan Meers](#), KC Wolf, Courageous Leadership – Living a Life of Influence. Dan Meers' insights on making a tangible difference in communities inspired us to launch a [Digital Toilet Paper Drive](#). With the funds raised, KHA will purchase toilet paper in bulk and ship it directly to Shelter KC. Scan the QR code below to donate.



Lastly, download the 2024 KHA Convention and Trade Show App. The app provides information about sessions, speakers, exhibitors, a customizable calendar, a list of attendees, a venue map and a trade show floor plan. The app is available for Android, iPhone and iPad and can be downloaded from the Apple Store and Google Play. Search for "Kansas Hospital Association." If you have any questions leading up to next week's event, please don't hesitate to contact us at the KHA office. Enjoy your Labor Day weekend! We look forward to seeing you next week!

--Chad Austin

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 to educate partners and elected officials at the federal, state and local levels. All-Star Training is for any KHA Member employee: clinical, non-clinical, entry-level or experienced, and hospital trustees. 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

Wendy Menold's Leadership Skills Contribute to Hospital Success

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 Wendy Menold, Sabetha Community Hospital, Sabetha, for her service and contributions to health care.

Menold is a nurse who goes above and beyond the call of duty and demonstrates outstanding leadership at Sabetha Community Hospital. She wears many hats and provides excellent care and management in each area she works. Menold excels at creating a positive work environment that fosters cooperation and collaboration. She is always eager to share her knowledge and expertise with others. Her dedication to her work and ability to lead by example make her an essential part of the hospital.

Menold is a nurse who exhibits compassion, empathy and respect for patients, visitors and staff. She creates an environment of cooperation and collaboration by consistently finding ways to include staff in solutions, making them feel heard and appreciated. Her positive attitude and willingness to lend a hand wherever needed have made her a valuable team member. Menold's bright and positive energy lifts those around her, which helps put surgical patients and staff at ease during anxious times. She is an excellent communicator, always listening carefully to others' concerns and working collaboratively to find solutions that benefit everyone. She is a great role model for her peers and is genuinely dedicated to the organization.

Menold has significantly contributed to Sabetha Community Hospital, which has benefited and improved the hospital. She is a versatile, professional, organized, smart and friendly nurse who creates a positive work environment that fosters cooperation and collaboration. As the surgery department was short-staffed because of maternity leave or staff members relocating, Menold stepped in and utilized her skills to allow the department to continue functioning smoothly. She managed a new orthopedic surgeon's clinic and surgery day. Menold's leadership in the pharmacy and the 340B Drug Pricing Program and her ability to lead her coworkers are exceptional.

Menold 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 Now Open for the KHA Fall District Meetings

The Kansas Hospital Association Fall District Meeting dates and locations have been set. These meetings are a great informational and networking opportunity for all CEOs, trustees and senior staff. Join us at 9:30 a.m. for networking. The meetings will be from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Lunch is provided.

You can attend any location, so pick the meeting that best fits your schedule! These meetings are provided at no charge.

District	Date	Location	City
South Central	Oct. 2	Hutchinson Regional Medical Center	Hutchinson
Northeast	Oct. 3	Saint Luke's South Hospital	Overland Park
Southeast	Oct. 4	Labette Health	Parsons
North Central	Oct. 8	Ellsworth County Medical Center	Ellsworth

Southwest	Oct. 10	Kearny County Hospital	Lakin
Northwest	Oct. 11	HaysMed	Hays



--Cindy Samuelson

Learn the Latest about MASA Access – Sept. 17

Join KHSC staff for a free webinar at 2:00 p.m. on Sept. 17 when [MASA Access](#) representatives share how it partners with providers and works with your health care plan to ensure your employees can access comprehensive coverage, helping them avoid unexpected expenses during emergencies. [KHSC has connected](#) more than 90 organizations with the benefits offered by MASA Access. MASA Access pays enrolled employees and their family members who experience costs because of emergency group or air ambulance services.

MASA empowers employees to:

- Never hesitate to call 911 in an emergency
- Access coverage for any ambulance (ground or air) nationwide
- Get coverage for medical transport claims

Learn how MASA Access covers the gaps in health plans related to emergency ground and air transportation. While health insurance plans may provide some coverage, 79 percent of all ground ambulance rides could result in an out-of-network bill. With MASA, no service is "out of network." It is common for air ambulance rides to cost employees thousands of dollars in out-of-pocket costs. MASA solves that issue as well.



We encourage you to attend this webinar, even if you are already a MASA client. It will be a great refresher for your employees.

--Steve Poage

Clay County Medical Center Spotlighted for Improved Care Transitions Processes

Clay County Medical Center is a 25-bed Critical Access Hospital in North-Central Kansas with five Rural Health Clinics serving Clay Center and the surrounding counties. CCMC, a Kansas Hospital Association member, is also a Compass Hospital Quality Improvement Contract participating hospital through KHA's partner, the Kansas Healthcare Collaborative. Through the HQIC, CCMC identified opportunities for improvement in their care transitions, particularly between the hospital inpatient setting and their CCMC RHC clinics. KHC recently spotlighted CCMC for its improvement in care transition processes. [Read more](#) about their improvement journey, lessons learned and future planned quality improvement projects.

--Karen Braman

Medicare Physician Fee Schedule 2025 Proposed Rule Update by ChartSpan – Sept. 20

The 2025 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule Proposed Rule brings major changes: lower reimbursements, the removal of code G0511 and a new program, Advanced Primary Care Management. Our care management partner, [ChartSpan](#), is hosting an [educational webinar](#) to dive into these changes and what they mean for your practice.

APCM is an exciting new program for all Medicare patients and could help significantly improve outcomes. However, APCM is also complex, with strict requirements for compliance and quality.

If you'd like to learn more, we invite you to join the webinar at noon on Sept. 20.

[Click to Register](#)

--Steve Poage

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 on 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

KHA HIDI Advantage Optics® Reports

This week, select hospital-specific reports pulled from [HIDIs Advantage Optics](#) were distributed to participating KHA hospitals. Containing inpatient and outpatient discharges from October 2018 through June 2024, fiscal year 2019 – Q3 FY 2024, the Executive Snapshot Dashboards provide inpatient market penetration by county and inpatient utilization and outpatient surgery utilization by county. All participating KHA hospitals have access to the HIDI Advantage User Portal. For assistance with access to the [KHA HIDI Advantage Portal](#), please contact [Dee Lewis](#).

Please contact [Sally Othmer](#) with questions or to request training for you or your staff.
--Sally Othmer

Administrative Professional Networking Roundtable Zoom Meeting – Oct. 2

We're excited to invite administrative professionals and executive assistants to our first KHA Administrative Professional Networking Roundtable Zoom Meeting from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 2. This interactive session will focus on exchanging best practices, brainstorming and sharing valuable tips. This isn't just another webinar—active participation is encouraged, so please have your cameras on and audio ready. The session will not be recorded.

CEOs, we ask that you share this information with your executive assistants and encourage them to register.



After registration, you'll receive a survey to gather your ideas and topics for discussion. We're eager to hear what you'd like to share or ask. For questions, contact [Susan Pattie](#) or [Tom Hagen](#) at (785) 233-7436. Let's make these discussions engaging and productive.

We look forward to seeing you.
--Susan Pattie and Tom Hagen

2024-25 Flu Season Recommendations

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices published its [2024-2025 Influenza Season recommendations](#). Routine annual influenza vaccination is recommended for all persons aged older than six months who do not have contraindications. Trivalent inactivated influenza vaccines, trivalent recombinant influenza vaccine and trivalent live attenuated influenza vaccine are expected to be available.

All persons should receive an age-appropriate influenza vaccine, with the exception that solid organ transplant recipients aged 18 through 64 years who are receiving immunosuppressive medication regimens may receive either high-dose inactivated influenza vaccine or adjuvanted inactivated influenza vaccine as acceptable options (without a preference over other age-appropriate IIV3s or RIV3). Except for vaccination for adults aged older than 65 years, ACIP makes no preferential recommendation for a specific vaccine when more than one licensed and recommended vaccine is available.

ACIP recommends that adults aged older than 65 years preferentially receive any one of the following higher-dose or adjuvanted influenza vaccines: trivalent high-dose inactivated influenza vaccine, trivalent recombinant influenza vaccine or trivalent adjuvanted inactivated influenza vaccine. If none of these three vaccines is available at an opportunity for vaccine administration, then any other age-appropriate influenza vaccine should be used.

All influenza vaccines available in the United States during the 2024–25 season will be trivalent vaccines containing hemagglutinin derived from 1) an influenza A/Victoria/4897/2022 (H1N1)pdm09-like virus (for egg-based vaccines) or an influenza A/Wisconsin/67/2022 (H1N1)pdm09-like virus (for cell culture-based and recombinant vaccines); 2) an influenza A/Thailand/8/2022 (H3N2)-like virus (for egg-based vaccines) or an influenza A/Massachusetts/18/2022 (H3N2)-like virus (for cell culture-based and recombinant vaccines); and 3) an influenza B/Austria/1359417/2021 (Victoria lineage)-like virus.

Read the full [CDC ACIP 2024 – 2025 Influenza Season Recommendations](#). [Medicare B vaccine pricing information](#) has been updated for the 2024 – 2025 seasonal flu vaccine.

--Karen Braman

Updated (2024 – 2025) COVID-19 Vaccines Approved

Last week, the Food and Drug Administration approved the Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna updated (2024 – 2025 formulation) COVID-19 vaccines. Here are the highlights from the FDA approval announcement.

The updated mRNA COVID-19 vaccines include Comirnaty and Spikevax, both of which are approved for individuals 12 years of age and older, and the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine and Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine, both of which are authorized for emergency use for individuals six months through 11 years of age. Manufacturers were expected to begin shipping their updated vaccines immediately upon approval.

What You Need to Know

Unvaccinated individuals six months through four years of age can receive three doses of the updated, authorized Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine or two doses of the updated, authorized Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine.

Individuals six months through four years of age who have previously been vaccinated against COVID-19 are eligible to receive one or two doses of the updated, authorized Moderna or Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccines (timing and number of doses to administer depends on the previous COVID-19 vaccine received).

Individuals five years through 11 years of age, regardless of previous vaccination, are eligible to receive a single dose of the updated, authorized Moderna or Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccines; if previously vaccinated, the dose is administered at least two months after the last dose of any COVID-19 vaccine.

Individuals 12 years of age and older are eligible to receive a single dose of the updated, approved Comirnaty or the updated, approved Spikevax; if previously vaccinated, the dose is administered at least two months after the last dose of any COVID-19 vaccine.

Additional doses are authorized for certain immunocompromised individuals ages six months through 11 years of age as described in the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine and Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine fact sheets.

For more details, please see the [full FDA announcement](#).

--Karen Braman

CEO Staffing Changes

The Kansas Hospital Association would like to inform you of the latest member hospital administrator changes since our last hospital list printout in July:

- Shannon Gray, interim chief executive officer/chief financial officer, SCK Health, Arkansas City
- Stacy Augustyn, RN, BSN, chief executive officer, Coffey County Hospital, Burlington
- Chris Graham, MHA, chief executive officer, Caldwell Regional Medical Center, Caldwell
- Tanner Wealand, CPA, CHFP, chief executive officer/chief financial officer, McPherson Hospital, Inc., McPherson (no longer interim)

Our [Kansas Hospitals and Health-Related Facilities list](#) is available on the KHA website in PDF (Adobe Acrobat Reader format) at www.kha-net.org. A username and password are required. Click on Kansas Hospitals, CEO Directories, Kansas Hospital List and Kansas Hospitals and Health-Related Facilities List. Please contact [Cheryl Carson](#) at (785) 233-7436 if you have updates and provide the start date of the new administrator/chief executive officer, picture, birthday and press release/bio.

--Cheryl Carson

Health Observances and Recognition Days for September; 2025 Calendar Now Available

Month-Long Observances

- Alzheimer's Month (World)
- Atrial Fibrillation Awareness Month (National)
- Baby Safety Month
- Blood Cancer Awareness Month
- Childhood Cancer Awareness Month
- Childhood Obesity Awareness Month (National)
- Cholesterol Education Month (National)
- Food Safety Education Month
- Gene Therapy and Specialty Pharmacy Awareness Month
- Gynecologic Cancer Awareness Month
- Healthy Aging® Month
- ITP (Platelet Disorder) Awareness Month (National)
- Newborn Screening Awareness Month
- Neonatal Intensive Care Unit Awareness Month
- Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month
- Pain Awareness Month
- Pediculosis Prevention Month/Head Lice Prevention Month (National)
- Polycystic Ovary Syndrome Month
- Preparedness Month (National)
- Prostate Cancer Awareness Month
- Prostate Health Month
- Pulmonary Fibrosis Awareness Month
- Recovery Month (National)
- Reye's Syndrome Awareness Month
- Sepsis Awareness Month
- Sexual Health Awareness Month
- Sickle Cell Month (National)
- Sports Eye Safety Awareness Month
- Suicide Prevention Awareness Month (National)
- Thyroid Cancer Awareness Month
- Yogo Awareness Month (National)

Week-Long Observances

- Sept. 1-7 – Clinical Nurse Specialist Recognition Week (National)
- Sept. 8-14 – Assisted Living Week (National), Folic Acid Awareness Week (National), Health Care Environmental Services Week (National), Suicide Prevention Week (National) and Vascular Nurses Week
- Sept. 14-20 – Neonatal Nurses Week
- Sept. 15-21 – Nursing Professional Development Week and Surgical Technologists Week (National)

- Sept. 16-20 – Fungal Disease Awareness Week and Malnutrition Awareness Week
- Sept. 16-21 – Farm Safety and Health Week (National)
- Sept. 16-22 – Rehabilitation Awareness Week (National)
- Sept. 23-27 – Falls Prevention Awareness Week and ITP Awareness Week (Global)

Recognition Days | Events

- Sept. 4 – Sexual Health Day (World)
- Sept. 8 – Physical Therapy Day (World)
- Sept. 9 – Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Awareness Day
- Sept. 10 – Suicide Prevention Day (World)
- Sept. 13 – Celiac Disease Awareness Day (National) and Sepsis Day (World)
- Sept. 17 – Get Ready for Flu Day
- Sept. 18 – HIV/AIDS and Aging Awareness Day (National)
- Sept. 21 – Alzheimer's Day (World)
- Sept. 22 – Falls Prevention Awareness Day
- Sept. 25 – Lung Day (World), Pharmacists Day (World) and Women's Health and Fitness Day (National)
- Sept. 26 – Mesothelioma Awareness Day
- Sept. 27 – Sport Purple for Platelets Day
- Sept. 28 – Rabies Day (World)
- Sept. 29 – Heart Day (World)

The Kansas Hospital Association and Society for Healthcare Strategy and Market Development are pleased to bring you the [2025 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 2025 community health events, internal and external communications, social media campaigns and more. The 2025 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.

Access the 2024 Calendar of Health Observances & Recognition Days to help you plan for the remainder of the year.

[Download the 2024 Calendar](#)

--Jan Fenwick

Current Report Will Not Be Published Next Week

KHA staff will be at the Kansas Hospital Association Annual [Convention](#) and [Trade Show](#), Sept. 5-6, 2024, at the Sheraton Overland Park/Overland Park Convention Center. Our next issue will be distributed on Sept. 13. We look forward to seeing you next week in Overland Park.

--Jan Fenwick

Federal and National News***MLN Connects Provider eNews Available***

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

- [CMS Roundup \(Aug. 23, 2024\)](#)
- [Physicians, Teaching Hospitals, & Non-Physician Practitioners: Review Your Open Payment Data by Dec. 31](#)