



***KHA's Current Report***  
**September 20, 2024**

**President's Perspective – Quality Summit Inspires Systems Improvement and Highlights Leadership**

Each year, our partner, the Kansas Healthcare Collaborative, brings together clinical, quality, risk management and administrative leaders to educate and inspire improvements in quality and safety. This year's Summit on Quality was an exceptional example of leaders coming together to focus on systems issues and how we can all work together to improve safety and quality.

This year's keynote speaker, RaDonda Vaught, spoke of a devastating medical error resulting in a patient's death and changing the lives of the involved families and individuals irrevocably. Ms. Vaught detailed the environment and systems issues that resulted in a situation where this fatal medication error occurred, allowing attendees to reflect on how this could happen at any facility and inspiring attendees to evaluate their systems, processes and culture to improve patient safety and quality of care.

Following the keynote, the summit featured speakers who described how leaders can create a Just Culture; and develop restorative culture and peer support programs in their facilities.

A highlight of each annual summit is the Leadership in Quality Award program, sponsored by the KAMMCO Foundation. This year's [Leadership in Quality Award winners](#) are NMC Health in Newton and Logan County Health Services in Oakley.

NMC Health was recognized for its interdisciplinary approach to reducing health care-acquired C. Diff infections. This multi-year process improvement project to reduce *Clostridioides difficile* Infections resulted in a significant reduction in C. Diff infections after the addition of two-step testing, daily surveillance and re-education of clinical teams. The current outcome of this initiative at NMC Health is consistently zero HAI CDI for nine months.

Logan County Health Services was recognized for its achievement in reducing and preventing infections through antimicrobial stewardship. The Antimicrobial Stewardship team at Logan County Health Services initiated and expanded a comprehensive AS program to reduce and prevent infections throughout the facility. At the project's initiation, only 45 percent of the expected cultures were obtained before initiating antimicrobial therapy. Following nursing and provider education and buy-in, expected cultures have exceeded the goal of 90 percent.

We congratulate NMC Health and Logan County Health Services on their achievements and their teams' hard work in improving care and safety in their facilities. [Learn more](#) about these award-winning quality initiatives on the KHC website.

We applaud KHC for providing a high-quality and inspiring conference to improve care and safety in Kansas. This conference is one example of the types of quality education the Kansas Hospital Association and Kansas Medical Society envisioned when we partnered to found KHC 15 years ago. We appreciate our ongoing collaboration and the opportunity to support members jointly.

Thank you to the Summit on Quality sponsors, the KHC team, and most of all, our Kansas hospital attendees for the work that you do every day to improve care quality and safety in your facilities.

*--Chad Austin*

### **KHA Workers' Compensation Fund and Safety Seminar – Oct. 24-25**

The [KHA Workers' Compensation Fund](#) has provided workers' compensation insurance to members of the Kansas Hospital Association since 1991. This seminar provides an overview to help members better understand the basics of workers' compensation and safety in health care.

This seminar is designed for personnel responsible for reporting employee injuries, safety orientation, risk management, implementing policies and managing workers' compensation in their organization.

The seminar will be at the [DoubleTree by Hilton Wichita Airport](#). The special room rate is \$122 per night. To reserve a room at this special rate call (316) 945-5272 by Oct. 1 and ask for the KHA Workers' Comp Seminar room block.

Fund members who attend the seminar will receive a one-time \$500 credit on their 2025 premiums. Seminar registrations are due by Oct. 14.



*--Ronni Anderson*

### **Join Us for an Evening at the Museum in Overland Park**

The Kansas Hospital Association Political Action Committee invites YOU to a come-and-go reception at the Johnson County Museum on Sept. 24. The event runs from 4:30 to 7:00 p.m. It lets you enjoy cocktails and hors d'oeuvres and tour the museum leisurely. Tickets are \$50 on-site or in advance. You can purchase tickets at [Pre-purchase tickets](#).

All proceeds benefit the KHA-PAC. We look forward to seeing you there!

*--Tara Mays*

## **Administrative Professional Networking Roundtable Zoom Meeting – Oct. 2**

There's still time for administrative professionals and executive assistants to register for our free KHA Administrative Professional Networking Roundtable Zoom Meeting from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 2. This interactive, no-cost 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. Note that the session will not be recorded. CEOs, please share this information with your executive assistants and encourage them to register for this free event.

[Click 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 there.

*--Tom Hagen*

## **Upcoming SANE Trainings**

The Pittsburg State University Irene Ransom Bradley School of Nursing has received another Advanced Nursing Education, Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners Grant through the Health Resources and Services Administration to support statewide training. The PSU ANE-SANE Grant is sponsoring the following SANE courses for Kansas nurses.

- Oct. 21-23, 2024: [Forty-Hour Adult/Adolescent SANE Didactic Course, KU Medical Center, Kansas City, KS](#)
- Oct. 24-25, 2024: [SANE Clinical Course, KU Medical Center, Kansas City, KS](#)
- Jan. 15-16, 2025: SANE Clinical Course, Fort Hays State University, Hays – more information coming soon

For additional information regarding assistance from the grant, please email [Brigid Dawson](#).

*--Karen Braman*

## **Kansas Launches New Newborn Screening and Surveillance Website**

Kansas Screening and Surveillance has a new [website](#) with easy-to-find information about Blood Spot Screening, Hearing Screening, Critical Congenital Heart Disease Screening and Birth Defects.

In 2022, the Kansas Newborn Screening program hired a medical director to support program planning, operations and evaluation. Serving as Kansas' first state NBS medical director, Dr. Kourtney Bettinger plays a critical role in advancing the work of Kansas newborn screening. Dr. Bettinger is a member of the Advisory Council and a primary care pediatrician at The University of Kansas Health System. She serves as a liaison for health care professionals across the state, strives to enhance providers' experiences with the newborn screening program and newborn screening results and assists in managing abnormal newborn screening results when needed.

For inquiries, Dr. Kourtney Bettinger can be reached at [Kourtney.bettinger@ks.gov](mailto:Kourtney.bettinger@ks.gov). --Karen Braman

### **KHA Membership Directory Advertising**

The Kansas Hospital Association is partnering with [E&M Consulting, Inc.](#), to produce the KHA Membership Directory. The publication will be available in both print and digital formats. E&M will manage the project, including advertising sales and layout/graphic design. E&M will be contacting members about available advertising opportunities. They are extremely professional and produce a high-quality publication, and we ask you to give them a moment of your time. The publication will be mailed to every member – a great opportunity to promote and give your organization additional exposure. If you have any questions or want to advertise, please contact an E&M sales associate at (800) 572-0011, ext. 0104, or [advertising@eandmsales.com](mailto:advertising@eandmsales.com). As always, your support is greatly appreciated!

--Jan Fenwick

### **Federal and National News**

#### **U.S. House Passes Accelerating Kids Access to Care Act**

The U.S. House of Representatives unanimously passed [H.R. 4758](#), the [Accelerating Kids Access to Care Act](#), by a voice vote Tuesday evening. This bill streamlines and reduces the burden of Medicaid provider enrollment for children's hospitals and pediatric specialists who treat patients covered by other states' Medicaid programs. The companion [Senate bill, S. 2372](#), also enjoys broad bipartisan support but has yet to pass the Senate.

#### **CMS Issues Guidance for Rural Emergency Hospitals and Organ Procurement Organizations**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services issued guidance for Rural Emergency Hospitals and Organ Procurement Organizations. The REH guidance is a revision detailing [enrollment and conversion processes](#). The new guidance for OPOs clarifies requirements around [pancreata research](#).

#### **CMS Requests Public Input on Medicaid Mental Health Parity Compliance Reporting**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services is [seeking](#) public comment on its draft templates and instructional guides for states to report mental health parity performance and how these tools can be improved to ensure compliance with mental health parity law and regulation. Comments must be submitted by [email](#) no later than Tuesday, Oct. 29.

**MLN Connects Provider eNews Available**

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

- [Resources & Flexibilities to Assist with the Public Health Emergency in Louisiana](#)
- [Skilled Nursing Facilities: Report Your Expanded Ownership, Management and Related Party Data](#)
- [Home Intravenous Immune Globulin Items & Services: CY 2025 Rate Update](#)
- [Hospice Outcomes and Patient Evaluation Assessment Tool: Version 1.00 Resources](#)
- [Hospital Price Transparency: Get Tools to Comply](#)
- [Risk Less. Do More. Get This Season's Vaccines](#)
- [Help Reduce Health Disparities for Hispanic or Latino Patients](#)