



***KHA's Current Report***  
**October 4, 2024**

**President's Perspective – American Hospital Association Convenes Regional Meetings**

Last week, the American Hospital Association convened the final Regional Policy Board meeting for 2024. The event occurred in St. Louis and brought together hospital leaders from Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota. As always, the AHA staff sets a full agenda to discuss current and future hospital and health care issues. To kick off the meeting, the AHA team provides a thorough and up-to-date briefing on the latest federal legislative and regulatory environment. While most attention is focused on the Nov. 5 general elections, AHA has already started strategizing on the advocacy priorities that will top the agenda for the upcoming "lame duck" session. The advocacy agenda will include several key initiatives, such as protecting against site-neutral payments, extending the MDH/LVH programs, avoiding Medicaid DSH cuts and holding commercial insurance plans accountable. As expected, the upcoming elections will also influence Congress's priorities. The KHA team will collaborate with our AHA colleagues to ensure we are aligned in speaking with a unified voice.

Most of the Regional Policy Board meetings focused on the health care workforce, including physician impact and projections. Recent reports from the Association of American Medical Colleges indicate that the U.S. may have a shortage of up to 86,000 physicians by 2036. This shortage could be even larger, up to 202,800, if historically underserved communities had fewer health care access barriers. Another factor that is impacting the physician workforce is reimbursement. From 2001 to 2024, the Medicare physician payment has decreased by 29 percent. Several physician workforce solutions were explored by the RPB attendees that ranged from the expansion of digital health and AI to ensuring other health care professionals are permitted to practice at the top of their license.

Additional topics discussed during the RPB meeting included Enhancing Public Trust and Confidence, Impact of the SCOTUS Rulings: Beyond Chevron, Coalition to Strengthen America's Healthcare and Member Accountability. Regarding the last topic, AHA is developing an "internal self-assessment tool for public trust and accountability" to help hospitals better understand their "blind spots" and areas of strength. Once finalized, this comprehensive tool will be placed on the AHA website for member hospitals to access. Stay tuned!

I want to thank our Kansas hospital representatives who participated, including Melissa Atkins, Graham County Hospital, Hill City; Larry Van Der Wege, Lindsborg Community Hospital, Lindsborg; and Sherri Vaughn, MD, The University of Kansas Health System, Kansas City. Thank you again to the AHA team for developing a tremendous agenda. I appreciate their dedication to advocating for the hospital industry and the excellent guidance offered by our Kansas representatives!

--Chad Austin

### **Nominations Open for KHA Committees through Oct. 25**

The Kansas Hospital Association needs your insight and expertise to guide the association's work, including shaping our strategic priorities, advocacy positions and essential resources for members. Please consider volunteering yourself and/or staff to serve on one of KHA's committees in 2025. If you cannot nominate anyone now, please complete the first two questions on the survey and indicate that.

Find the online nomination form at [www.surveymonkey.com/r/2025KHACommitteeNominations](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2025KHACommitteeNominations). The deadline for nominating is Friday, Oct. 25, 2024. The CEO or administrator must approve nominations.

This year, we need nominations for the following committees:

- Behavioral Health
- Communications
- Convention
- Data
- Health Care Finance and Reimbursement
- Health Information Technology
- Hospital Leadership and Governance
- Hospital Physician Leadership
- KHA-PAC
- Optimal Health
- Policy and Advocacy
- Quality and Patient Safety
- Rural Emergency Hospital
- Workforce

Member involvement is the most significant indicator of success, and your organization's participation will make a difference. If you have any questions, please contact [Cindy Samuelson](#) or [Susan Pattie](#) at (785) 233-7436.

--Cindy Samuelson

## KHA-PAC MVPs

This year, the [Kansas Hospital Association Political Action Committee](#) completed several fundraising events and wants to highlight MVPs' accomplishments, helping us to reach our goal of raising \$168,000. With just under \$10,000 left, there is still time to donate and join these MVPs.



### Overall MVP



George Stover, CEO  
Hospital District #1 of Rice County, Lyons  
Attended all of the PAC events throughout  
2024.

### July 25: Behind the Scenes at K-State MVP



Alex Haines, CEO  
St. Luke Hospital and Living Center, Marion  
Brought a board member to enjoy a  
Behind-the-Scenes Tour of K-State.

### Aug. 23: KHA PAC Golf Tournament MVP



David Garnas, CEO  
North Central Kansas Medical Center  
Winning Golf Team, 2024 Golf Tournament.

### Sept.10: Night at the Museum MVP



Molly Haase, Director of Advocacy  
AdventHealth Kansas,  
Event Chair and Issued a Challenge  
to AdventHealth Hospitals.

Thanks to all the hospitals that have reached their 2024 goal. Please feel free to help your hospital join the list. All hospitals will be recognized at KHA's Advocacy Day and other events throughout 2025.

**Hospitals at Goal in 2024:**

- AdventHealth Shawnee Mission, Shawnee Mission
- AdventHealth Overland Park, Overland Park
- Allen County Regional Hospital, Iola
- Amberwell Health, Atchison
- Amberwell Hiawatha, Hiawatha
- Anderson County Hospital, Garnett
- Bob Wilson Memorial Hospital, Ulysses
- Caldwell Regional Medical Center, Caldwell
- Cheyenne County Hospital, Saint Francis
- Children's Mercy Hospital Kansas, Overland Park
- Citizen's Health, Colby
- Clay County Medical Center, Clay Center
- Comanche County Hospital, Coldwater
- Ellsworth County Medical Center, Ellsworth
- F.W. Huston Medical Center, Winchester
- Girard Medical Center, Girard
- Graham County Hospital, Hill City
- Greeley County Health Services, Tribune
- Greenwood County Hospital, Eureka
- Hanover Hospital, Hanover
- HaysMed, Hays
- Holton Community Hospital, Holton
- Hospital District #1 of Rice County, Lyons
- Jewell County Hospital, Mankato
- Kearny County Hospital, Lakin
- Kingman Healthcare Center, Kingman
- Kiowa County Memorial Hospital, Greensburg
- Labette Health, Parsons
- Lane County Hospital, Dighton
- Lindsborg Community Hospital, Lindsborg
- Logan County Health Services, Oakley
- Medicine Lodge Memorial Hospital, Medicine Lodge
- Memorial Health System, Abilene
- Minneola Healthcare, Minneola
- Morris County Hospital, Council Grove
- Nemaha Valley Community Hospital, Seneca
- Neosho Memorial Regional Medical Center, Chanute
- Ness County Hospital District #2, Ness City

- NMC Health, Newton
- North Central Kansas Medical Center, Concordia
- Norton County Hospital, Norton
- Pratt Regional Medical Center, Pratt
- Providence Medical Center, Kansas City
- Rooks County Health Center, Plainville
- Sabetha Community Hospital, Sabetha
- Saint Luke's South Hospital, Overland Park
- Satanta District Hospital, Clinics & LTCU, Satanta
- SCK Health, Arkansas City
- Smith County Memorial Hospital, Smith Center
- Southwest Medical Center, Liberal
- St. Catherine Hospital–Dodge City, Dodge City
- St. Catherine Hospital–Garden City, Garden City
- St. Luke Hospital and Living Center, Marion
- Stanton County Hospital, Johnson
- The University of Kansas Health System, Kansas City
- The University of Kansas Health System Great Bend Campus, Great Bend
- The University of Kansas Health System Paola Campus, Paola
- Wichita County Health Center, Leoti
- Wilson Medical Center, Neodesha

Thank you for supporting the KHA-PAC. We couldn't do it without you.

[Click here](#) for additional information, including suggested contribution levels. If you have questions about the PAC or how to get involved, don't hesitate to contact [Tara Mays](#) at (785) 969-9270.

--Tara Mays

**Healthcare Transformation Is in Connection, Not Credentials – Oct. 22**

Join the Kansas Hospital Association staff for a Noon Briefing on Tuesday, Oct. 22, as Integritas Providers examines how compassion improves patient care, patient satisfaction, finances and changes lives. Discover what health care leaders can do to create a culture of compassion.



--Hayley Finch-Genschorck

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

The [KHA Workers' Compensation Fund](#) has provided workers' compensation insurance to Kansas Hospital Association members 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.

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*

### **Registration Now Open: Physician Forum – Nov. 7**

The Physician Forum, cosponsored by the Kansas Medical Society and the Kansas Hospital Association, convenes Kansas physicians to foster discussion regarding critical issues impacting health and health care in Kansas. The webinar on Nov. 7 will focus on how Artificial Intelligence systems in health care transform how we communicate, collaborate and generate revenue. To capitalize on this revolution, hospitals and physicians must rethink their data systems and readiness, clinician training, engagement and ethical frameworks. Gurpreet Dhaliwal, MD, will address these and ask what happens when AI makes us stronger and faster.



*--Jennifer Findley*

### **KHA HIDI Discharge Data Submission Review Webinar – Oct. 21**

Please join us from 11:00 a.m. to noon on Monday, Oct. 21, to review the Kansas hospital inpatient and outpatient [data submission process](#). Steve Warchol, senior director of client outreach and Austin Wilbers, senior programmer/analyst, Hospital Industry Data Institute, will review the data submission process from submission to reviewing Edit and Verification reports. A question-and-answer session will follow. This is an excellent opportunity for those responsible for submitting the data and for those who use the data (through Advantage Optics) to support strategic planning and market share analysis. Understanding the data submission and editing process facilitates improvement in the data quality, thus improving the quality of the KHA hospital reports.

Click to  
Register

--Dee Lewis

### **Healthworks Grants at Glance October Newsletter Now Available**

The October edition of [Grants at a Glance](#), a monthly newsletter highlighting potential grant opportunities, is now available. Through a partnership with Affiliated Enterprise Solutions, Healthworks provides a monthly newsletter and webinars to enhance grant writing skills and individual consulting options.

Please contact [Susan Pattie](#) at Healthworks, at (785) 233-7436 if you have any questions.

--Jennifer Findley

### **KanCare 3.0 Public Meetings**

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment is hosting educational meetings throughout the state in October, so Medicaid providers can learn more about the changes coming to KanCare's managed care organizations. Staff members will be available to answer questions and accept feedback from attendees. Information about the locations and times can be found [here](#). While you can attend any meeting, the afternoon sessions are specifically targeted to providers. A virtual session is also made available.

--Shannan Flach

### **CMS Releases Medicare Advantage Complaint Form and Instructions**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services has released the long-awaited Medicare Advantage Complaint Form and Instructions. CMS established a new process for provider organizations to submit complaints to CMS related to Medicare Advantage plans. Complaints will be tracked in CMS' complaint tracking module and will impact star rating measures for a Medicare Advantage plan. You can locate the [instructions](#), [PDF version of Complaint Form](#) and [Word version of the Complaint Form](#) on the [KHA website](#).

--Shannan Flach

### **Kansas Society for Healthcare Central Professionals Seminar– Oct. 19**

The Kansas Society for Healthcare Central Service Professionals is hosting its fall workshop at 8:00 a.m. on Oct. 19, 2024. Participation in the workshop will include receiving CEUs. Please RSVP by Oct. 16 by e-mail to Joanna Berg at [jberg@vet.k-state.edu](mailto:jberg@vet.k-state.edu).



--Dennis George

### **CDC's National Healthcare Safety Network AUR Module Updates Webinar**

The National Healthcare Safety Network Antimicrobial Use and Resistance team is hosting two webinars to review upcoming changes to reporting in the AUR module for 2025. These changes include, but are not limited to, updated drugs for AU Option reporting, updated organisms, specimen sources and susceptibility test panels for AR Option reporting. Additionally, the team will review changes to the Medicare Promoting Interoperability Program, including updated exclusions related to the AUR Surveillance measure. Webinar registration information is provided below.

[Click here](#) to register for the webinar at 1:00 p.m. on Oct. 22. [Click here](#) to register for the replay at 2:00 p.m. on Nov. 6. Both webinars cover the same information. After registering, you will receive a confirmation e-mail containing information about joining the webinar.

--Sally Othmer

### **Kansas Opioid and Stimulant Conference – Early Bird Registration Until Oct. 31**

DCCCA is hosting the Kansas Opioid and Stimulant Conference Thursday, Dec. 12 at the Hyatt Regency in Wichita. Early bird registration is only \$65 through Oct. 31.

[Click to View Agenda](#)

[Click to Register](#)

--Karen Braman

### **APS Welcomes Vigilor from TRIMEDX to Its Roster of Services Provided to Hospitals**

A new APS vendor, [Vigilor from TRIMEDX](#), a division of Indianapolis-based clinical asset management company TRIMEDX, delivers clinical engineering services, clinical asset informatics and medical device cybersecurity. They offer a range of services that help to identify and mitigate cybersecurity and patient safety risks associated with connected medical devices.

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

--Dennis George

### **Federal and National News**

#### **CMS Issues Five PPS Payment and Policy Correction Notices for FY 2025**

the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Systems released five Medicare payment and policy correction notices for the fiscal year 2025. The notices apply to Medicare [Inpatient and Long-Term Care Hospitals](#), [Inpatient Rehabilitation Facilities](#), [Skilled Nursing Facilities](#), [Inpatient Psychiatric Facilities](#) and [Hospice Programs](#).



### **U.S. Households Eligible to Order Free at-Home COVID-19 Tests**

U.S. households once again can receive [four free](#) at-home COVID-19 tests. Tests may show expired dates on the box, but the FDA has [extended](#) those dates. Orders may be placed [online](#) or by calling (800) 232-0233. Orders will ship for free beginning the week of Monday, Sept. 30. The tests available for order are rapid antigen at-home tests, not PCR, and give results within 30 minutes. In addition, these tests can be used even if you do not have COVID-19 symptoms.

### **Congress Enacts Short-term Continuing Resolution**

Congress enacted and the president signed the [Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025](#) that will fund the government through Friday, Dec. 20. The legislation will prevent a partial government shutdown Tuesday, Oct. 1.

The continuing resolution will allow Congress to develop a full appropriations package following the election in November. This bill does not include extensions to the Medicare Disproportionate Share Hospital funding reductions, the enhanced Medicare low-volume payment adjustments or the Medicare Dependent Hospital programs that will expire Tuesday, Dec. 31. The package also does not include an increase in Federal Emergency Management Agency funding.

### **CMS Issues Guidance to States to Encourage EPSDT Utilization, Compliance**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services [issued](#) a [comprehensive guide](#) for state Medicaid programs to comply with and fully utilize the provisions of the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment program. EPSDT is a cornerstone of children's health care under Medicaid. The program requires states to provide Medicaid-eligible children with regular screenings and to provide the medically necessary treatments needed to cure, correct or improve children's physical and mental health conditions.

The guidance provides direction to states for increasing awareness of the EPSDT program, expanding the use of EPSDT screenings and care by health care workers and using EPSDT to enhance care for children with special health care needs.

### **CMS Issues Notice of Adjustment to CY 2025 Amount in Controversy Thresholds**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services [released](#) a notice regarding the annual adjustment in the amount in controversy threshold amounts for administrative law judge hearings and judicial review under the Medicare appeals process. The AIC threshold for ALJ hearings will rise from \$180 for the calendar year 2024 to \$190 for CY 2025, and the threshold for judicial review will increase from \$1,840 for CY 2024 to \$1,900 for CY 2025.

### **MLN Connects Provider eNews Available**

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

- [HHS Releases Final Guidance for Second Cycle of Historic Medicare Drug Price Negotiation Program](#)
- [Resources and Flexibilities to Assist with the Public Health Emergency in Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, Tennessee and South Carolina](#)
- [CMS to Provide Hurricane Helene Public Health Emergency Accelerated Payments to Medicare Fee-for-Service Providers and Suppliers](#)
- [Changes to the Fiscal Year 2025 Hospital Inpatient Prospective Payment System \(IPPS\) Rates Due to Court Decision \(CMS-1808-IFC\)](#)
- [CMS Covers PrEP to Prevent HIV](#)
- [Clinical Laboratory Fee Schedule: Submit Comments & Reconsideration Requests by Oct. 25](#)
- [DMEPOS: Adding New Product Categories to CMS-855S Enrollment Form on Oct. 26](#)
- [Improve Your Search Results for CMS Content](#)
- [Help Detect Breast Cancer Early](#)