



KHA's Current Report
October 11, 2024

President's Perspective – The Kansas Health Service Corporation Celebrating 40 Years

The Kansas Hospital Association was founded in 1910 to serve Kansas hospitals. It accomplishes this through its efforts and subsidiary organizations under the larger KHA entity, including the Kansas Health Service Corporation. This year marks the 40th anniversary of KHSC being a valuable resource to Kansas hospitals.

KHSC was formed on Nov. 8, 1984, as a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Kansas Hospital Association. Its purposes then and today are twofold: to be a valuable resource for Kansas hospitals and to support the association's efforts. Initially, KHSC was primarily focused on providing insurance options for hospitals. As such, it was a licensed insurance agency focusing on medical malpractice, property, and directors and officers insurance. It accomplished much of this work through a relationship with the Double Eagle Insurance agency.

Larry Shaffer served as the first CEO of KHSC and was instrumental in launching it. Through Larry's vision, KHSC formed the KHA Workers' Compensation Fund in 1991 to help meet the need for workers' compensation coverage for hospitals in Kansas. Following Larry's retirement in 2002 and an interim leadership period by Tom Bell, Steve Poage took over as CEO in 2004.

The following 20 years of KHSC included many changes. An opportunity arose for KHSC and KHA to more closely align with KAMMCO and the Kansas Medical Society. As such, the insurance agency business was sold to Double Eagle in 2009, and KHSC focused on finding unique insurance partnerships that would enhance the value to KHA members. This included KAMMCO for medical malpractice, Chubb (property), and Cincinnati (D&O), with the latter two being offered through a relationship with the Conrade Insurance Group.

Meanwhile, KHSC expanded its service lines in other areas. It added endorsed vendors in areas such as language translation services, credit card processing, equipment service contracts and employee benefits. In each of these areas, the KHSC staff and board carefully reviewed new vendor opportunities to ensure that the value of the services provided assisted Kansas hospitals and enhanced KHA's ability to meet member needs.

Regarding supporting KHA, it is estimated that KHSC has provided more than \$10,000,000 to KHA in direct and indirect support since its inception. These resources have allowed KHA to bring in high-quality conference speakers, support advocacy efforts and reduce the association's administrative overhead. This has kept KHA member dues lower than they would otherwise have been to support the association's work.

Thank you to all our members who support KHSC, and happy 40th anniversary to our subsidiary KHSC.

--Chad Austin

IV Fluids Disruption from Hurricanes Helene and Milton

Hurricane Helene and the resulting damage to the Baxter IV solutions plant and infrastructure in the surrounding area of North Cove, North Carolina, is significantly disrupting the supply chain for IV solutions, peritoneal dialysate and IV bags. Hospitals and End Stage Renal Dialysis facilities have been placed on 40 percent allocation of these products, with the hope that it may move to 60 percent allocation this week. However, given the scope of the impact on the area and the potential impact Hurricane Milton may have on the B. Braun plant in Florida, it is unlikely future allocations will be back to normal shortly.

The Kansas Hospital Association has been involved in numerous discussions with our partners at the American Hospital Association, Region VII Disaster Health Response Ecosystem, the Food and Drug Administration, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response. KHA shared situational awareness updates with our members on Oct. 3 and 7. As the situation evolves quickly and new conservation strategies are developed to ensure IV products are available to those most in need, the RDHRE, in collaboration with state hospital associations, Health Care Coalition leaders, pharmacists and clinicians, created a [website](#) for information. Hospitals can find the latest information from Baxter, our federal partners, and IV solution tracking and conservation tools at this site in the resources and recommendation sections.

--Ron Marshall

Registration Now Open: Rural Health Symposium – Nov. 21

Register now and plan to attend the Rural Health Symposium on Nov. 21 at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Wichita Airport in Wichita. Rural health care providers constantly face new challenges and fewer resources. The purpose of this symposium is to provide attendees with the skills, ideas, and information necessary to survive in the rapidly changing world of rural health care.

Target Audience: This symposium is designed for senior-level administrators, hospital trustees and others interested in rural health issues.

Session topics include the following:

- Predicting Financial Distress
- Understanding the Policy Landscape
- When Generations Connect
- Improving Behavioral Health Access in Kansas



--Hayley Finch-Genschorck

Addressing Nursing Workforce Challenges with Registered Nurse Apprenticeships – Oct. 24

Join Kansas Hospital Association staff for an educational webinar from noon to 1:30 p.m. on Oct.24, when Hamilton-Ryker delves into innovative solutions to one of the most pressing challenges in health care today: workforce shortages. As the demand for quality patient care continues to rise, the need for skilled nursing professionals has never been more critical. This session focuses on developing and implementing Registered Nurse Apprenticeship programs, which are emerging as a vital initiative for addressing these workforce challenges.



--Hayley Finch-Genschorck

Management and Leadership Training Three-Part Webinar Series

The Kansas Hospital Association is hosting a three-part management development webinar series. This webinar series will provide new and more experienced managers with the "nuts and bolts" of management.

- *HR Law: What You Need to Know* – Oct. 29
- *Peak Potential: Maximize Your Strengths, Cultivate Stronger Teams* – Nov. 20
- *Succession Planning Essentials: Navigating Transitions with Confidence* – Dec. 4

This webinar series is designed for all health care managers and supervisors, including those in the nursing and allied health professions who want to fine-tune their management skills.



--Hayley Finch-Genschorck

Grant Writing Basics: Budgeting Essentials Webinar – Nov. 1

Grants can be a great way to start and/or maintain non-reimbursable programs, but the application process can sometimes feel overwhelming. The project budget is an important part of a grant proposal.

Join us for a webinar at noon on Nov. 1 to discuss the essentials of a good budget. Topics include:

- The importance of budgeting
- Key components of a grant budget
- Compelling budget narratives
- Tools and resources for effective budgeting

Hospital CEOs, CFOs and other hospital leaders interested in grant funding are encouraged to participate in this webinar.



--Jennifer Findley

Register for MBQIP Training – Nov. 8

Hospitals needing a refresher on the Medicare Beneficiary Quality Improvement Project requirements and/or data abstraction basics are encouraged to attend the MBQIP Basics Virtual Training from 10:00 a.m. to noon on Friday, Nov. 8. Topics covered will include:

- MBQIP quality data collection
- The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Abstraction and Reporting Tool data collection
- Resources available in QualityNet to make reporting more efficient
- Developing and implementing an action plan for data reporting
- Emergency department transfer communication data collection
- Reporting EDTC Data to QHi.

MBQIP is a quality improvement activity under the Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility program of the Health Resources and Services Administration's Federal Office of Rural Health Policy. Its goal is to improve the quality of care provided in Critical Access Hospitals. Complete data submission is a requirement to receive the total Small Hospital Improvement Program grant funds.



--Jennifer Findley

Kansas Rural Health Association Annual Meeting – Nov. 20

Registration is now open for the Kansas Rural Health Association 2024 Annual Meeting on Nov. 20 in McPherson. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. and runs from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. KsRHA serves Kansas through interdisciplinary collaboration, providing innovative ways to promote healthy rural communities' survival and thriving into the future through education and advocacy.

A few highlights of this meeting include:

- Morning sessions with state and federal experts on rural health workforce resources
- Keynote by Julia Fabris McBride, chief learning and development officer for the Kansas Leadership Center
- Interactive afternoon session on integrated behavioral health
- Choose one of three afternoon breakout sessions, two panels and one trip to tour a nearby rural emergency hospital

From 4:00 to 6:30 p.m., a post-meeting social at The HUB in Moundridge, with KsRHA providing appetizers, will also be offered.

If your organization is interested in sponsoring, please reply to this email and/or contact Brooklyne Horton, the KsRHA Board member handling sponsorships, at bhorton@beam.healthcare.

Click to
Register

We hope to see you all there!
--Tara Mays

Congratulations, KHA Leadership Institute Class of 2024

The Kansas Hospital Association Leadership Institute graduated its 22nd class of 32 students on Sept. 5 at the KHA Annual Convention and Trade Show in Overland Park. Hospital CEOs nominated students to be part of this select group. They represent the future leaders of Kansas hospitals. Helping to build future health care leaders is important to the Kansas Hospital Association. "We are committed to strengthening and promoting the leadership capacity of hospital employees in Kansas," said Chad Austin, president and CEO of the Kansas Hospital Association. The KHA Leadership Institute was established to help hospitals provide professional development opportunities that accentuate the personal skills and abilities needed to facilitate positive change and innovation in Kansas hospitals. Each of these students made a personal and professional commitment to expand their skills by attending all six courses of the Leadership Institute. Congratulations to this year's class.



KHA Leadership Institute Class of 2024

- Wade Babcock, The University of Kansas Health System Great Bend Campus, Great Bend
- Brooke Bacon, LMH Health, Lawrence
- Cindy Bass, Labette Health, Parsons
- Tori Bowers, Memorial Health System, Abilene
- Tanya Brabender, Ascension Via Christi Hospital Manhattan, Inc., Manhattan
- Niki Buesing, Nemaha Valley Community Hospital, Seneca
- Teresa Ellis, Hospital District #1 of Rice County, Lyons
- Carol Fickes, McPherson Hospital, Inc., McPherson
- Brian Forinash, HaysMed, Hays
- Gerald Fulton, Coffey County Hospital, Burlington
- Cassandra Gilbert, NMC Health, Newton
- Stacey Hardy, Osborne County Memorial Hospital, Osborne
- Veronica Heredia, Satanta District Hospital, Clinics & LTCU, Satanta
- Danelle Holzwarth, Wilson Medical Center, Neodesha
- Jason Johnson, Cheyenne County Hospital, Saint Francis
- Michelle Johnson, Kiowa County Memorial Hospital, Greensburg
- Kirstin Keller, Logan County Health Services, Oakley
- Roy Kirk, Wichita County Health Center, Leoti
- Ashley Lambert, Citizens Health, Colby
- Marla McElderry, Salina Regional Health Center, Salina
- Jodie Miller, Lindsborg Community Hospital, Lindsborg
- Mellissa Mixon, Medicine Lodge Memorial Hospital, Medicine Lodge
- Sarah Mohr, Norton County Hospital, Norton
- Lindsey Osterhaus, Decatur Health, Oberlin
- Tonya Powell, Pratt Regional Medical Center, Pratt
- Cody Ray, Greenwood County Hospital, Eureka
- Julie Robben, Pawnee Valley Community Hospital, Larned
- Kim Smith, Fredonia Regional Hospital, Fredonia
- Michael Thomas, Clara Barton Medical Center, Hoisington
- Yadira Torres, Minneola Healthcare, Minneola

- Jordan Trujillo, Greeley County Health Services, Tribune
- Lee Wolf, Salina Regional Health Center, Salina

--Jennifer Findley

New Faces at KDHE's Office of Rural Health

The State Office of Primary Care and Rural Health has new staff members. Desiree Brown is the new program coordinator. She brings 25 years of experience in education, having previously taught music in Junction City. While new to primary care and rural health, Brown looks forward to supporting the office's mission of improving access to health care for rural and underserved communities across Kansas. In addition, Sara Armfield has transitioned into the Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility Program and Small Rural Hospital Improvement Program coordinator role for the State. She will oversee support of Critical Access and SHIP hospitals through the Flex and SHIP programs, focusing on enhancing health care quality and access in rural Kansas.

KHA welcomes both Desiree and Sara to these roles. We look forward to working with them.

--Jennifer Findley

CKF Addiction Treatment Announces Event

Kara Fiske, chief executive officer and president of CKF Addiction Treatment, Salina, would like to [extend an invitation](#) to Kansas Hospital Association members to *Restoring Roots and Rebuilding Futures*, an event at the Salina Country Club from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. on Oct. 23. This is an opportunity for her to introduce herself as the new CEO and share plans for CKF's adolescent treatment facility. The RSVP code is on the invitation.

--Cheryl Carson

2024 Kansas HIMSS Cyber Month Educational Sessions

To celebrate Cybersecurity Awareness Month, the Kansas Health Information Management System Services is hosting lunch-and-learn webinars focused on health care cybersecurity.

Local cybersecurity professionals in Kansas bring insights and real-world strategies to strengthen organizations' defenses and sharpen personal expertise. These free sessions are offered every Wednesday in October from noon to 1:00 p.m. Please [click here to register](#) or go to the Kansas HIMSS website at <http://kansas.himss.org>.

--Sally Othmer

Federal and National News

MLN Connects Provider eNews Available

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

- [Resources and Flexibilities to Assist with the Public Health Emergency in Florida](#)
- [CMS Roundup \(Oct. 4, 2024\)](#)
- [Clinical Laboratory Fee Schedule: Reporting Delayed Until 2026](#)
- [Respiratory Viruses: Vaccinate against Flu, COVID-19, & RSV](#)