



KHA's Current Report
November 15, 2024

President's Perspective – Gov. Laura Kelly Signs a Proclamation for National Rural Health Day

Kansas hospitals provide care 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, to ensure Kansans receive the proper care at the right place and time. Governor Laura Kelly has signed a proclamation to mark Nov. 21 as National Rural Health Day in the Sunflower State to recognize and raise awareness of Kansas' innovative rural health infrastructure.

Kansas' rural communities are a fixture in living and working in this state. Rural hospitals not only care for the health of their communities but also contribute to the economic fiber of those communities. Rural health care providers constantly face new challenges and fewer resources.

Nov. 21 will be a day to recognize some of the many challenges facing rural hospitals and celebrate the Power of Rural. Rural Kansas is an excellent place for mission-minded health professionals to provide individualized care. We hope many across the state will honor all those who go the extra mile to care for rural Kansans! To help hospitals discuss the Power of Rural, the National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health has developed a resource website: <https://powerofrural.org/>. It includes a promotional toolkit with key messages and data points to educate stakeholders on the realities of rural areas through stories and data.

One of the most essential ways KHA supports Kansas hospitals, including rural hospitals, is through our advocacy efforts. This week, I had the opportunity to join several Kansas hospital leaders in Washington, DC, to emphasize the policy issues that are most important to KHA members. Several important issues remain unresolved as Congress transitions to the 119th Congress in January. Chief among Congress' responsibilities will be to approve a budget through a short-term or longer-term budget resolution. KHA highlighted the need to extend several expiring health care policy provisions while avoiding any site-neutral payment schemes that would impact Kansas hospitals. We also dedicated time to discuss the concerns associated with the Medicare Advantage program and the need to protect the benefits of the 340B Drug Pricing Program. Beyond these policy issues, each congressional office heard the importance of the Critical Access Hospital program and rural emergency hospital designations.

I would like to thank the following Kansas hospital leaders for participating in our advocacy event this week: KHA Board Chair Bobby Olm-Shipman, president and CEO of Saint Luke's South Hospital, Overland Park; KHA Chair-elect George Stover, CEO of Rice Community Health, Lyons; and KHA Past Chair Carrie Lutz, CEO of Holton Community Hospital, Holton.

Lastly, I hope to see many of you next week to celebrate National Rural Health Day at our [Rural Health Symposium](#) in Wichita. This symposium aims to provide attendees with the skills, ideas and information necessary to thrive in the rapidly changing world of rural health care. Session topics include predicting financial distress, understanding the policy landscape, connecting generations, improving behavioral health access and networking with other attendees on critical issues. [Register now](#) if you have not yet registered. I hope to see you there!

--Chad Austin

Twelve Critical Controls to Win the War on Ransomware – Nov. 19

Join us from noon to 1 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 19, when ISG Technology's health care division members will discuss the 12 critical security controls you should focus on to protect your organization. They will also discuss maximizing every security dollar you have to spend. This session is for organizations with limited security budgets.

Topics include:

- The latest threats to Kansas health care organizations
- The 12 critical security controls
- Low-cost, no-cost security strategies
- How to assess your security posture
- How business and IT leaders can partner together

Who should attend?

Health care business and IT leaders are responsible for security, data protection and business continuity.

Panelists:

- Chris Swartz, solution architect, ISG Technology
- Walter Hirsekorn, cybersecurity consultant, ISG Technology



--Hayley Finch-Genschorck

Financial Webinar: Price Transparency: Regulations, Legislation and Compliance – Dec. 10

Join us at noon on Dec. 10 for a financial webinar. Kathy Reep, PYA, will examine the new requirements for hospital price transparency and some of the providers' key concerns regarding the current regulations. She will also discuss the status of federal legislation related to price transparency and recent provider compliance reports from third parties and government agencies.



--Jennifer Findley

Healthworks Grants at Glance November Newsletter Now Available

The [November 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 the newsletter, webinars to enhance grant writing skills and individual consulting options.

Please contact Healthworks (785) 233-7436 or jfindley@kha-net.org if you have any questions.

--Jennifer Findley

Maximizing the Impact of Community Health Needs Assessments Webinar – Dec. 3

Register now for the Maximizing the Impact of Community Health Needs Assessments Webinar: *Strategies for Effective Implementation and Collaboration* from noon to 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 3. Sponsored by Conduent, learn how multisector collaboration is a powerful approach to implementing community health needs assessments. It can address complex community health challenges, improve access to services and promote health equity. Engage with hospitals, public health departments, nonprofits and community groups to develop effective, data-driven strategies for sustainable community health improvements.



--Karen Braman

Finding Your Way Through USDA Rural Health's New Resources Webinar – Nov. 19

The U.S. Department of Agriculture-Rural Development has developed new tools and resources for rural communities. Learn more about these resources during a webinar at 2:00 p.m. on Nov. 19. when Kellie Kubena, USDA rural health liaison, will highlight the USDA rural health website, where to find resources and introduce the USDA Rural Health Program Index tool. In addition, Kasey Martin, branch chief of research and program evaluation, will share how to take advantage of the Rural Data Gateway to find relevant USDA-RD data for your rural community and opportunities for how to use it.



--Jennifer Findley

Dispenser Guide to Achieving Drug Supply Chain Security Act Compliance

The Kansas Board of Pharmacy newsletter announced that the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy has released a new Dispenser Guide to Achieving Drug Supply Chain Security Act Compliance. To request a copy, [sign up](#) for the Pulse by NABP mailing list. Since the fall of 2021, NABP has collaborated with state regulators and trading partners to build an interoperable system to support stakeholders in meeting the Drug Supply Chain Security Act requirements. Drawing on the information and insights from several pilot projects, NABP developed the new platform, [Pulse by NABP™](#), an inclusive, accessible, and secure digital platform to simplify the process of achieving DSCSA compliance.

--Karen Braman

2024 Kansas Opioid and Stimulant Conference – Mark your Calendar for Dec. 12

The [2024 Kansas Opioid and Stimulant Conference](#) is scheduled from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Dec. 12 at the Hyatt Regency in Wichita. Conference tracks include:

- Emerging Trends
- Prevention
- Health Systems and Prescribers
- Public Safety
- Treatment and Recovery

--Karen Braman

Federal and National News

CMS Releases CY 2025 Medicare Beneficiary Deductibles, Coinsurance and Premium Costs

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services released the calendar year 2025 out-of-pocket costs for Medicare beneficiaries who enroll in original Medicare. CMS issued three regulations: [inpatient hospital deductible and extended care services coinsurance](#) cost-sharing expectations, [Medicare Part A premium for uninsured enrollees](#) and [Medicare Part B premiums](#) for CY 2025.

HRSA Announces Funding Opportunity for Graduate Psychology Education Program

HRSA released a new notice of funding opportunity to increase access to behavioral health services in high-need and high-demand areas. Through this funding opportunity, HRSA will award approximately \$22.8 million to as many as 50 grantees over a period of three years.

The [Graduate Psychology Education Program](#) provides training to doctoral health service psychology students, interns and postdoctoral residents in integrated, interdisciplinary behavioral health. The program will prepare trainees to provide behavioral health services in community-based primary care settings. The program also supports faculty development in health service psychology.

View the funding opportunity on [Grants.gov](#) for complete eligibility information. Applications are due by Tuesday, Jan. 21, 2025.

MLN Connects Provider eNews Available

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

- [2025 Medicare Parts A & B Premiums and Deductibles](#)
- [Medicare Participation for CY 2025](#)
- [Ambulance Fee Schedule: CY 2025 Final Policies](#)
- [Prior Authorization Review Timeframe Change](#)
- [Skilled Nursing Facilities: Revalidation Due Date Extension](#)
- [Home Health and Hospice Resources](#)
- [Help Your American Indian and Alaska Native Patients Achieve Optimal Health](#)