



KHA's Current Report
December 13, 2024

President's Perspective – New Year Rings in a New Strategic Plan

We are excited to share the 2025-2027 KHA Strategic Plan with Kansas Hospital Association members. This plan is the culmination of many conversations and meetings during the last year with KHA members, the KHA Board of Directors and your KHA staff team to ensure the work your association is focusing on is what is most important to you, our members.

KHA staff had a strategic planning session in early 2024 and gained direction from KHA members during Spring District Meetings. This work was incorporated into a draft strategic plan the KHA Board of Directors fine-tuned during a strategic planning session at their meeting in late May. The KHA team created a 2025-2027 draft strategic plan from those meetings and conversations and shared it with members during Fall District Meetings. We received insightful feedback and recommendations from members during Fall District Meetings that were incorporated into the final strategic plan reviewed and approved by the KHA Board at their November meeting.

I want to mention a few updates to our new strategic plan compared to the 2022-2024 plan. As part of our process, we also asked members and staff to review the KHA vision, mission and values. As a result of the feedback received from our members, KHA's vision has been updated from "Optimal health for Kansans" to "Optimal health for Kansans and Kansas hospitals." Our feedback from members is that you can't have healthy communities without Kansas hospitals, so our Vision has been updated to reflect this ideal. KHA's mission, "To be the leading advocate and resource for members," was unanimously supported by members and staff, so the mission remains unchanged. There have been a few updates made to the values: 'Collaboration' has been added as a value to reinforce the work that KHA does building and fostering partnerships, and 'Innovation' has been incorporated into the 'Knowledge' value to demonstrate that KHA will continue to focus on gaining and sharing knowledge regarding technology, innovation and emerging trends to assist KHA members.

In a prior column, I shared the fantastic work our members have done related to KHA's strategic aim to "Improve Kansas' statewide health ranking with a focus on preventive health services." This work, such as improving cancer screening rates, increasing immunization rates and partnering on community health improvement is making a difference. According to America's Health Rankings, Kansas ranks 29th in health outcomes compared to 31st in 2021. As a result, the KHA Board of Directors recommended keeping the strategic aim in the 2025-2027 Strategic Plan so KHA can continue to build up and foster improved health in our state, which supports KHA's overall vision.

You may notice four strategic priorities in the 2025-2027 Strategic Plan compared to six in the 2022-2024 Strategic Plan. These four priorities include advocacy and regulations, finance and reimbursement, health care workforce, and quality and safety. While there are fewer priority categories, it is important to note that other priorities, such as emerging technologies and member engagement, have been folded into one of the four priorities for our 2025-2027 strategic plan. The KHA Board of Directors felt it was essential to streamline and simplify the KHA strategic plan to show that the members' top issues match KHA's.

Your KHA team will continue to work tirelessly to support our members and their diverse needs. We appreciate and value your feedback on creating the new strategic plan for 2025-2027. Thank you!

--Chad Austin

2025 KHA Advocacy Day – Jan. 23

Join the Kansas Hospital Association, state legislators and Kansas hospital executives at our 2025 Advocacy Day on Jan. 23 at The Beacon in Topeka.

The day will kick off at 9:00 a.m. Lunch will start at 11:30 a.m. This is your opportunity to learn about our advocacy focus and visit with your elected officials about the critical issues facing Kansas hospitals. We encourage CEOs, senior staff and hospital trustees to attend.



--Hayley Finch-Genschorck

Welcome Larry Van Der Wege to the KHA Staff Team

The Kansas Hospital Association welcomed Larry Van Der Wege as our new director of regulatory affairs and preparedness earlier this month. With an impressive background as the administrator at Lindsborg Community Hospital, Larry brings a wealth of experience to the KHA team, having previously served as chief operating officer, risk manager, safety director and physical therapist. During his years at the Lindsborg Community Hospital, Larry also served on numerous KHA committees and was on the KHA Board of Directors, serving as chair in 2021.

Larry holds a Bachelor of Arts from Bethany College and a master's in physical therapy from Wichita State University. His extensive knowledge, exceptional communication skills and talent for building strong relationships will be invaluable to the KHA membership. Larry will spend the next month working with Ron Marshall, who joined the KHA staff team in 2014 and will retire on Jan. 31, 2025. Congratulations to both Larry and Ron on these new chapters.

--Chad Austin

Kansas Virtual Health Care Career Day – Jan. 30

[Registration is live for the 2025 Kansas Virtual Health Care Career Day](#). We would love Kansas hospitals to join us for our 2025 event on Jan. 30. The Kansas Hospital Association, Kansas State Department of Education and Kansas Board of Regents have partnered again this year to organize an [excellent agenda for our 2025 event](#).

The Kansas Virtual Health Care Career Day takes students inside Kansas hospitals to learn about the many career opportunities available in health care and engages them in real-world learning. Students of all ages and grade levels are invited to participate in this event. Health care providers provide insights into career fields such as respiratory therapy, family practice medicine, facilities management, behavioral health, pharmacy, health information technology/cybersecurity, occupational therapy and critical care nursing.

This event is entirely virtual and hosted on Zoom. Zoom instructions will be sent out a week before the event. Some schools choose to participate in health science classes, while others broadcast to an open cafeteria/auditorium/resource room for all students. Hospitals also can host students for the event. KHA has created [a list of ideas to help hospitals interact with local students](#) interested in health care careers and encourage hospital participation.

With February being CTE Month, this event is a great way to kick off the month by allowing students to learn more about careers in an in-demand industry! Students of all education levels are invited to attend this free event from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Jan. 30.



--Jaron Caffrey

QHi Updates

Some significant improvements were made to the QHi site this week. The Report Scheduler, where users schedule automatic delivery of custom reports to themselves and others, is enhanced to provide a more user-friendly experience. The new Report Library provides a searchable catalog of saved reports.

An upload option is now available for financial measures through the QHi Financial Statement Import Template to reduce the reporting burden. All updates will be reviewed during the December Back to Basics training session from 1:30-2:30 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 16.



QHi is FREE to all Kansas hospitals. Please get in touch with [Stuart Moore](#) or [Sally Othmer](#) for access and/or training assistance.

--Sally Othmer

Out-of-State Medicaid Enrollment and Billing Best Practices Webinar – Dec. 17

Out-of-state Medicaid enrollment and billing are complex because of an ever-changing landscape of state-specific regulations and requirements. When managed effectively, it can be a legitimate revenue source. Join Kansas Hospital Association staff from noon to 1:00 p.m. on Dec. 17 for an educational webinar when Elevate Patient Financial Solutions will review general requirements and best practices for OOS Medicaid in Kansas and neighboring states.



--Hayley Finch-Genschorck

Dues Statements Should Have Arrived

All members should have received their 2025 Kansas Hospital Association membership renewal packet, including the dues statement. KHA appreciates your past participation and looks forward to your hospital joining us again in 2025. Remember, a 2 percent discount on KHA dues is available if your annual dues are received by Dec. 31, 2024. For annual KHA dues paid after that date but before Jan. 31, 2025, a 1 percent discount is available. Thanks again for your continued support of KHA.

If you have not received your dues statement or have questions, please get in touch with [Steve Poage](#) at (785) 233-7436.

--Steve Poage

Federal and National News

MLN Connects Provider eNews Available

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

- [FY 2024 Medicare Fee-for-Service Improper Payment Rate](#)
- [Revised Home Health Change of Care Notice Form Effective Feb. 1](#)
- [Skilled Nursing Facility Value-Based Purchasing Program: December 2024 Confidential Feedback Reports](#)
- [Institutional Provider Enrollment Application Fee: CY 2025](#)