



KHA's Current Report
January 3, 2025

President's Perspective – Gearing Up for the 2025 Kansas Legislative Session

Happy New Year! It's hard to believe that we have wrapped up 2024 and have entered the new year. I hope 2025 has started positively and is filled with many opportunities ahead. For KHA, our attention continues to be focused on the beginning of the 2025 Kansas legislative session. The 2025 legislative session will begin Jan. 13, when incoming Kansas House and Senate members will be sworn into office. If you haven't yet welcomed your legislator and congratulated them on their election, this is a great time to do so. You can find your policymakers by visiting the [Kansas Legislature website](#), which will be updated with all incoming legislators on Jan. 6.

KHA staff looks forward to spending the legislative session working with our elected officials on your behalf. We will focus on three main areas identified by the KHA membership as important: finance, workforce and patient access to care. We hope that as we embark on the new year and new session, you will take this opportunity to join us in exploring our annual [legislative priorities brochure](#) that highlights the issues we will be focusing on with our state lawmakers during the 2025 legislative session. This document includes essential statistics and information about key issues facing hospitals that we want our policymakers to hear about from you. Please feel free to use it in your conversations or share it directly with our state policymakers as they head into the legislative session.

One easy way for KHA members to stay informed on legislative happenings during the legislative session is through our frequent *Capitol Comments* newsletter. We encourage the KHA members to share their perspectives as issues are discussed. KHA also will be utilizing our grassroots tool, VoterVoice. This platform allows members to sign up for alerts, find legislation and connect with their elected officials via the web or cell phone. If you have not yet registered to receive these updates, you can go [here](#) to sign up.

Lastly, we hope you will join us in getting a jump start on advocacy by attending KHA's Advocacy Day on Jan. 23 in Topeka. [Register today](#). This event will include comments from several elected officials and the opportunity to recognize our recent KHA Advocacy All-Star graduates. We hope to see you on Jan. 23! Thank you in advance for your support and engagement in our advocacy efforts.

--Chad Austin

Save the Date – Critical Issues Summit for Hospital Boards 2025

Mark your calendars for the Kansas Hospital Association Critical Issues Summit for Hospital Boards, March 6-7, in Wichita. This summit brings together hospital leadership and trustees statewide and promotes the importance of good governance practices.

This event provides top-notch speakers, educational sessions and discussions on the most critical topics facing hospitals today. More information will be available in January 2025.

The summit will be at the Hyatt Regency Wichita, 400 W. Waterman Street, Wichita. A block of rooms has been reserved for March 5 and 6 nights at \$137, plus tax. The room block is available until Wednesday, Feb. 12. After that, reservations will be taken on a space-available basis. To make your reservation and receive the special rate, call (316) 293-1234 and ask for the Kansas Hospital Association room block.

--Hayley Finch-Genschorck

Save the Date for the 2025 Infection Prevention Conference

The Infection Prevention Conference is a two-day event that helps prepare health care professionals to be facilitators and resources for the surveillance, prevention and control of infections. Attendees will discover proven strategies for implementing infection prevention programs. During the conference, attendees will be allotted time to network and discuss issues with other infection prevention professionals. All participants will receive infection prevention reference materials. The conference brochure will be available in January 2025.

Date: Thursday, March 13 and Friday, March 14

Registration Fee: \$150 per attendee

Who Should Attend

This course is designed for infection prevention professionals in acute care, ambulatory care, long-term care, home health, mental health, correctional facilities and other fields of interest.

Location and Hotel Accommodations

This conference will be at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Wichita Airport at 2098 Airport Road, Wichita. A block of rooms has been reserved for March 12 and 13 nights at \$123 per night, plus tax. Please note the room block is available until Feb. 23. After this date, reservations will be accepted based on availability. To secure your room, call (316) 945-5272 and mention the group name "Kansas Hospital Association."

Continuing Nursing Education

This course is pending approval for 13 contact hours applicable for RN and LPN relicensure.

Presented by:

The Kansas Hospital Association and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment Healthcare-Associated Infections and Antimicrobial Resistance Section. In cooperation with members of the Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology Wichita, Kansas City and Heart of America Chapters.

[Click to Register](#)[Click here to make your hotel reservation](#)[CONTACT US](#)

--Hayley Finch-Genschorck

Quarterly Credit Balance Reports No Longer Required

Starting Dec. 1, 2024, providers are no longer required to submit [Credit Balance Reports \(PDF\)](#) (CMS-838) every quarter. You're still required to report self-identified overpayments, but you should only use a Credit Balance Report when they occur. Find the [official message here](#).

--Shannan Flach

CMS Updates eCQI Resource Center

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services updated the [Electronic Clinical Quality Improvement Resource Center](#). Updates include new webpages dedicated to the [Quality Improvement Core](#) standard for expressing clinical quality information. QI-Core is a Health Level Seven International implementation guide that defines a set of profiles to support the successful creation of interoperable and quality-focused applications, including Electronic Clinical Quality Measures.

The QI-Core content includes information about:

- QI-Core alignment with US Core
- Harmonization with Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources profiles
- Tools and Resources
- Educational videos and webinars
- Ways to connect and engage with other interested parties

--Sally Othmer

Whooping Cough Cases Surge in Kansas

Kansas marked the end of 2024 with the largest spike of whooping cough (pertussis) cases in nearly a decade. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention lists [241 cases in Kansas](#) in 2024, compared to 66 cases in 2023. The CDC recommends [vaccination](#) as the best way to prevent pertussis. However, as typical infection patterns return to the United States, the CDC expects pertussis cases to increase in unvaccinated and vaccinated populations. Pertussis occurs in vaccinated people since [protection from vaccination fades over time](#).

--Karen Braman

Seeking Adjuncts for New MBA in Health Care Leadership Program

Tabor College is launching a new MBA in Health Care Leadership program this spring. The college is looking for adjuncts to teach the following courses:

Health Care Finance – Health care leaders must possess the skills to navigate complex financial systems, make strategic financial decisions and ensure the fiscal sustainability of health care organizations. This course will provide an overview of financial management in health care. Topics may include health care reimbursement systems, health care cost management and the economic impact of financial decisions.

Data Analysis and Decision Making – As the need for data analysis grows, understanding how to collect, analyze and interpret health care data is crucial for optimizing clinical processes, enhancing patient care and guiding strategic initiatives and strategic planning. This course is designed to equip students with the skills and knowledge needed to harness the power of data for informed decision-making and explore current trends in data analysis.

Health Care Policy and Administration – Students will analyze health care policy development and implementation at local and national levels and examine the influence of political, economic, and social factors on health care policy. The course will provide insights into the complexities of health care systems and the role of stakeholders in shaping policy decisions. Course instruction will provide students with the tools to understand the policy landscape, navigate regulatory frameworks and master administrative strategies in health care organizations.

If you have a doctoral degree or 15 years of experience in health care and are interested in being an adjunct professor or have any recommendations for adjuncts for this program, reach out to [Melinda Rangel](#), MBA director at Tabor College.

--*Steve Poage*

Newborn Blood Spot Collection: Timing of Collection and Importance of Timeliness

Some conditions on the newborn screening panel can cause permanent disability or even death in as little as five days. Timely collection and shipping of a satisfactory specimen is critical for early identification and intervention, possibly preventing the condition's progression. Seventeen conditions screened are considered time-critical. For healthy babies, blood spot collection should occur between 24 and 48 hours of birth. Results of a newborn screen collected before 24 hours of birth are considered invalid because the analytes in the baby's blood are not independent of the mother's blood. An invalid result means another blood spot collection must complete the screening process. A NICU baby will have a blood spot collection taken based on hospital policy for admission. A blood spot screening should be conducted again for NICU babies between 48 and 72 hours of birth. The Kansas Newborn Screening Program strives to meet national standards by reporting time-critical results within five days of birth and all other results within seven days. Please visit the [Kansas Newborn Screening Program](#) for more information regarding timeliness and quality assurance for blood spot collection.

--*Karen Braman*

Funding Opportunity – Rural Communities Opioid Response Program – Overdose Response

The Rural Communities Opioid Response Program – Overdose Response through the Health Resources and Services Administration is a one-year program supporting improved health care in rural areas by addressing their immediate and short-term needs related to the provision of substance use disorder services. RCORP – Overdose Response aims to reduce and prevent the risk of overdoses in rural areas. HRSA will make approximately 20 awards of up to \$300,000 each. The RCORP-Overdose Response Program will support specific, short-term substance use disorder prevention, treatment and recovery activities, as well as work related to capacity building, supportive services and special populations. Allowable activities are defined in the [notice of funding opportunity](#). Eligible organizations include all domestic public or private, non-profit or for-profit entities.

The Federal Office of Rural Health Policy is hosting [technical assistance webinar via Zoom](#) for applicants at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 30. For more information about this funding opportunity, contact the program coordinator, Diana Wang, at ruralopioidresponse@hrsa.gov.
--Karen Braman

Position Available

[Chief Financial Officer](#)

[Clay County Medical Center](#)

P.O. Box 512, 617 Liberty

Clay Center, KS 67432-0512

Contact: [Christi Rice](#), human resources director

Phone: (785) 632-2144 Ext. 3706

Fax: (785) 632-3352

Email: ChRice@ccmcks.org

Website: www.ccmcks.org

Apply Online Today!
CLICK HERE

The CFO directs and supervises the entire organization's financial management, including hospital accounting, financial management, patient financial services, health information management and materials management. The CFO is also responsible for the annual budget and annual audit. The CFO serves on the Executive Committee and is integral in the strategic development and performance of CCMC. The CFO acts in a leadership role for hospital financial activities including development, committee assignments and sources of revenue and cost structure, among other assigned matters. Qualifications include a bachelor's degree in accounting, finance, business management or a related field. A master's degree in health care, business or related management field is preferred; five years of accounting and finance management experience in a Critical Access Hospital and rural health clinic experience are preferred. A minimum of three years of leadership positions or a significant scope of responsibility is required. An attractive compensation package has been created to attract an outstanding individual.

If you have a management position available in your organization and would like it posted in *Current Report*, email the information to [Jan Fenwick](mailto:Jan.Fenwick@kshealthjobs.net). Also, don't forget to check out www.kshealthjobs.net for other health care openings in Kansas.

--Jan Fenwick

Federal and National News

Congress Enacts Short-term Spending Measure

Following a tumultuous week of Republican infighting and closed-door negotiations, Congress enacted the [American Relief Act, 2025](#) (H.R. 10545). The measure funds the federal government through Friday, March 14, 2025, and includes several provisions of interest to hospitals.

Key items include the delay of the Medicaid Disproportionate Share Hospital cuts through Monday, March 31, 2025, and the extension of the enhanced Medicare low-volume payment adjustment, Medicare Dependent Hospital program and Medicare telehealth flexibilities and hospital at-home program through that same date.

Before You Go ...

- Learn more about a new nasal spray called [Opvee](#) that is saving lives and reversing opioid overdoses. One Michigan county saw a 26 percent drop in overdose fatalities after implementing the drug, which works similar to Narcan and can last longer in the patient's system.