



KHA's Current Report
January 31, 2025

President's Perspective – Inspiring the Future Health Care Workforce

What an exciting and fulfilling week we had hosting our third annual Kansas Virtual Health Care Career Day. More than 4,200 students from more than 200 schools joined us during the Kansas Virtual Health Care Career Day. KHA organized the event with the Kansas Department of Education and the Kansas Board of Regents. The primary goal of the Kansas Virtual Health Care Career Day is to give students a glimpse inside Kansas hospitals to learn more about the many career opportunities, both clinical and non-clinical, available in health care and engage them in real-world learning. This event also kicks off Career and Technical Education Month, celebrated in February.

As you might anticipate, the success of the Kansas Virtual Health Care Career Day requires the coordinated involvement and participation of several individuals and organizations. I thank each hospital for collaborating with KHA to highlight several health care professions and provide attendees with a "behind the scenes" look. The health care careers showcased during the virtual career day included respiratory therapy, family practice medicine, facilities management, behavioral health, pharmacy, health IT/cybersecurity, occupational therapy and critical care nursing/ICU. Throughout the event, Kansas middle, high school and collegiate students – alongside hundreds of adult learners and interested second careerists – heard first-hand from Kansas health care professionals across the state who explained what training is required to perform their function, but also why they believe their career choice is rewarding.

Thank you to the teams at AdventHealth, Overland Park, Ottawa and Shawnee Mission; Clay County Medical Center, Clay Center; Community HealthCare System, Onaga; HaysMed, Hays; NMC Health, Newton; Rice Community Health, Lyons; Rooks County Health Center, Plainville; and The University of Kansas Health System, Kansas City.

This event also showcases our [www.HappyInHealthCare.org website](http://www.HappyInHealthCare.org). The site features a career quiz, scholarships, schools, jobs and many other avenues for exploring resources about health care careers. Each career includes information on the education needed, minimum salaries, job opportunities and much more. We have recently added maps and links to hospitals, colleges and universities. Please check out all of the great resources on the [www.HappyInHealthCare.org website](http://www.HappyInHealthCare.org)!

KHA will continue to explore new approaches to promote and support the hospital community. If you couldn't attend the Kansas Virtual Health Care Career Day, videos and resources will soon be available on the [KHA website](#) and at www.HappyInHealthCare.org. Thank you again to all the hospitals that participated in the virtual career day to help us promote the fantastic opportunities in the health care field!

--Chad Austin

Register Now for the Critical Issues Summit for Hospital Boards 2025

Register now and plan to attend this year's Critical Issues Summit for Hospital Boards on March 6-7 in Wichita. The Critical Issues Summit brings together hospital leadership and trustees from across the state 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.

Session topics will include the following:

- Board and Governance Best Practices
- Legal and Ethical Considerations in AI Health Care Applications
- Empowering Rural Communities Through Meaningful Engagement
- Policy Issues Impacting the Health Care Sector
- Strengthening Health Care Governance: Best Practices for Hospital Boards
- Reframing Resilience: Connecting to the Present, Others and Oneself

The summit will be at the Hyatt Regency Wichita, 400 W Waterman St, Wichita, KS 67202. A block of rooms for March 5 and 6 has been reserved at \$137, plus tax. The room block is available until Wednesday, Feb. 12. After that, reservations will be made 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.

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



[Click to Register](#)

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--Hayley Finch-Genschorck

Noon Briefing: Medicaid's Presumptive Eligibility Program

Join Kansas Hospital Association staff for a Noon Briefing from noon to 1:00 p.m. on Feb. 26. The Kansas Department of Health and Environment will share how the Presumptive Eligibility process works, including how a facility can become a qualified entity and the steps involved in assisting individuals with their Medicaid applications. Attendees also will discover how an organization can receive reimbursement for services provided during the Presumptive Eligibility period. This webinar will help you understand the benefits and responsibilities of becoming a qualified entity and how it can improve health care access in your community.



--Hayley Finch-Genschorck

White House Rescinds Memo Freezing Federal Funds

The Office of Management and Budget has issued a [new memo](#) rescinding OMB [Memo M-25-13](#), which previously instructed federal agencies to temporarily pause all activities related to the distribution of federal financial assistance, including grants and loans, associated with the new administration's recent executive orders. The funding freeze will no longer take effect on Feb. 3. A federal judge halted the implementation of the initial OMB memo on Tuesday, and the White House rescinded it entirely on Wednesday.

Initially, the OMB gave federal agencies until Feb. 10 to submit detailed information on any programs, projects or activities related to this pause to be reviewed for alignment with the new administration's priorities outlined in various EOs.

Please contact your KHA staff team with questions or other concerns on this or related items.

--Jaron Caffrey

HCAIP Update

Starting this week, the Kansas Hospital Association will provide a weekly update on the timeline from the end of the calendar quarter to the transfer of funds to the Medicaid managed care organizations for distribution to hospitals for the quarterly enhancement payments funded by the Health Care Access Improvement Program, more commonly known as the hospital provider tax. The Kansas Department of Health and Environment has collected and shared the data with our consultants, Health Management Associates, who are completing the quarterly calculations for the fourth quarter of 2024 quarterly enhancement payment.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

--Audrey Dunkel

White Bagging Regulations Effective Jan. 24.

The new "white bagging" regulation, [68-7-20a. Delivery of prescriptions dispensed to an alternate site for administration](#), became effective on Jan. 24. The Board of Pharmacy held a public hearing on Dec. 11, 2024, and adopted the regulation after months of meetings with industry stakeholders, including Kansas Hospital Association member hospitals, patients, the Kansas Council of Health System Pharmacy, Kansas Pharmacists Association and KHA staff to create the regulation. "White bagging" refers to the process where health insurers cover essential patient-specific medications contingent upon the medication being distributed from a third-party pharmacy to an administration site for administering. The regulation puts guardrails in place for insurance companies that use white bagging and governs several areas for public protection, including requirements for policies and procedures, notifications, drug storage during delivery,

returning drugs to the originating pharmacy and delivery time. We thank our members, KCHP and partners as we advocated for KHA member hospitals and your patients to implement these critical regulations.

--Karen Braman

KSMGMA Membership and Spring Conference

As we all know, health care is challenging to navigate. The Kansas Medical Group Management Association strives to provide health care managers, directors and executives across Kansas with the resources they need to thrive in an ever-changing landscape.

KSMGMA membership offers valuable, industry-relevant education through exclusive monthly webinars, newsletters and an [annual conference](#). The conference, which will take place April 9-11 in Wichita, is an opportunity to learn from top industry leaders and network with fellow medical practice professionals across Kansas. It's a unique space to build relationships with business partners and explore their services and products. [Register for the KSMGMA Annual Conference today.](#)

In addition, KSMGMA members gain access to two specialized committees: Rural Health Clinics and Insurance Billing. These committees provide a vital support network where members can connect with professionals well-versed in the complex rules and regulations surrounding these critical areas.

The KSMGMA Board of Directors is dedicated to offering resources that foster the development of medical practice managers. Our membership includes professionals from both privately owned practices and hospital-owned clinic systems. Connecting with like-minded peers gives you a sense of community and additional support to help retain staff and advance your practice.

Visit www.ksmgma.com to learn more about KSMGMA membership. For further information, contact Melissa (Missy) Beasley, the 2024-2025 KSMGMA president, at (620) 421-4880, Ext. 5889.

--Cindy Samuelson

APS Webinars for Greenstaff Medical Staffing, WoodRiver Energy and Vigilor from TRIMEDX

[APS](#) is happy to host the following webinars in February, offering services to members that help them save money and solve diverse operational challenges.

[Greenstaff Medical Staffing Tuesday, – 10:00 a.m. on Feb. 4](#)

Speakers: Cathy Vollmer, vice president and Laquanda Stewart, director of operations. Greenstaff Medical stands as a premier medical staffing agency at the nexus of the American health care industry. Serving the private and public sectors, they excel in delivering bespoke staffing solutions that connect the finest Allied Health Professionals, Locum Tenens, Per Diem Nurses and Travel Nurses with fitting job opportunities.

[WoodRiver Energy – 10:00 a.m. on Feb. 5](#)

WoodRiver Energy will discuss the natural gas options offered to APS members. Action is required, so please plan on participating in this very informative webinar. WoodRiver Energy is devoted to helping small and medium-sized commercial, industrial, educational and agricultural businesses with specialized market solutions that bring savings and manage risk through natural gas.

[Vigilor from TRIMEDX – 10:00 a.m. on Feb. 6](#)

Speaker Scott Trevino, senior vice president of cybersecurity.

Vigilor offers a range of capabilities to identify and mitigate cybersecurity threats and patient safety risks tied to connected medical devices. A compromised medical device can become a Trojan Horse for hospitals that assume they are adequately protected. The company currently manages more than 2.3 million medical devices nationwide.

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

Upcoming SANE Courses

There are a couple of upcoming courses for sexual assault nurse education and sexual assault response teams, including:

- Jan. 30-31: 40-hour SANE Clinical Course, KU Medical Center, Kansas City, KS



- March 12-14: 64-hour adult, adolescent and pediatric SANE Didactic course, Goodland, KS



--Karen Braman

KPQC Launches New Safety Bundle – All Hospitals Encouraged to Enroll

This month, the [Kansas Perinatal Quality Collaborative](#) launched the Alliance for Innovation on [Maternal Health Severe Hypertension in Pregnancy patient safety initiative](#).

Addressing maternal hypertension is a crucial part of improving health outcomes for both mothers and infants in Kansas. According to 2016-2020 KS Maternal Mortality Review Committee data, cardiovascular conditions and hypertension were the first and second leading causes of pregnancy-related death in Kansas. All KHA member hospitals are encouraged to participate since emergency departments and clinics across the state care for patients who may experience hypertension in pregnancy, not just birthing hospitals. This initiative provides technical assistance, policy and procedures and other education and resources at no cost.

For more information, see the [KPQC Severe Hypertension in Pregnancy Safety Bundle Fact Sheet](#). KPQC sent hospitals enrollment information for the initiative this week from KPQC. For questions or to enroll, please contact kari.smith@kansaspqc.org.

--Karen Braman

Health Observances and Recognition Days for February

Month-Long Observances

- Age-Related Macular Degeneration / Low Vision Awareness Month
- American Heart Month
- Cancer Prevention Month (National)
- Children's Dental Health Month (National)
- Cholangiocarcinoma Awareness Month
- Condom Month (National)
- Gallbladder and Bile Duct Cancer Awareness Month
- Kids ENT Health Month
- Marfan Syndrome Awareness Month
- Prenatal Infection Prevention Month (International)
- Raynaud's Awareness Month
- Recreational Therapy Month
- Self-Check Month (National)
- Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month
- Turner Syndrome Awareness Month
- Wise Healthcare Consumer Month (National)

Week-Long Observances

- Feb. 2-8 – Burn Awareness Week
- Feb. 3-9 – Perianesthesia Nurse Awareness Week and Tinnitus Awareness Week
- Feb. 7-13 – African Heritage and Health Week
- Feb. 7-14 – Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week
- Feb. 9-15 – Cardiovascular Professionals Week, Cardiac Rehabilitation Week (National), Heart Failure Awareness Week, Random Acts of Kindness Week and Sepsis Survivor Week
- Feb. 10-14 – Phlebotomists Recognition Week
- Feb. 14-21 – Condom Week (National) and Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia Care Staff Education Week
- Feb. 24-March 2 – Eating Disorder Awareness Week (National)

Recognition Days | Events

- Feb. 1 – Aspergillosis Day (World)
- Feb. 2 – Rheumatoid Awareness Day
- Feb. 4 – Cancer Day (World)
- Feb. 6 – Time to Talk Day
- Feb. 7 – Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (National), Give Kids A Smile[®] Day, Go Red for Women and Wear Red Day (National)
- Feb. 9 – Toothache Day
- Feb. 10 – Epilepsy Day (International)
- Feb. 11 – Day of the Sick (World)
- Feb. 14 – Donor Day (National) and Impotence Day (National)
- Feb. 15 – Childhood Cancer Day (International)
- Feb. 17 – Random Acts of Kindness Day
- Feb. 21 – Caregivers Day (National)
- Feb. 22 – Heart Valve Disease Awareness Day (National)
- Feb. 28 – Rare Disease Day and Repetitive Strain Injury Awareness Day (International)

The Kansas Hospital Association and Society for Healthcare Strategy and Market Development are pleased to bring you the [2025 Calendar of Health Observances & Recognition Days](#). Yet another example of our commitment to providing health care strategists with practical, timely resources, this calendar is designed to help you plan your community health events, internal and external communications, social media campaigns and more. The calendar is easy to navigate, interactive and features more than 230 health observances and recognition days. Don't miss out on receiving calendar updates from SHSMD sponsor Baldwin Publishing. Not only do they provide you with a Health Observance Guide with ALL the content you need to post every day for the following month, they also give access to healthy recipes, cooking videos, branded cookbooks, recipe calendars, wellness content and solutions.

--Jan Fenwick

Position Available

[Information Technology Director](#)

[Greenwood County Hospital](#)

100 W. 16th St.

Eureka, KS 67045-1064

Contact: [Janel Palmer](#), Human Resources Director

Phone: (620) 583-0504

Fax: (620) 583-6702

Email: jpalm@gwch.org

Website: www.gwch.org

Apply Online Today!
CLICK HERE

The Greenwood County Hospital has a full-time opportunity for an information technology director. This position will oversee and evaluate all technology operations according to established goals and devise and develop IT policies and systems to support the implementation of strategies set by upper management. Previous health care experience is desirable. Applicants must be detail-oriented and able to concentrate for long periods while dealing with multiple distractions throughout the day. This position requires a skill set to multitask, prioritize duties and maintain confidentiality. Excellent benefits are offered. GWCH is a tobacco-free campus and drug-free workplace and conducts post-employment drug screening.

Email [Jan Fenwick](mailto:Jan.Fenwick@kshhs.org) if you have a management position available in your organization and would like it posted in *the Current Report*. Also, check out www.kshealthjobs.net for other health care openings in Kansas.

--Jan Fenwick

Federal and National News

HRSA Announces Nursing Workforce Diversity Program

The Health Resources and Services Administration released a new Notice of Funding Opportunity to enhance the nursing workforce. The [Nursing Workforce Diversity Program](#) aims to increase nursing education opportunities for individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds, including racial and ethnic minorities underrepresented among registered nurses. HRSA will award approximately \$22.2 million to up to 40 grantees over four years through this funding opportunity. [Applications](#) are due by Tuesday, March 18.

HRSA Announces Rural Residency Planning and Development Program

The Health Resources and Services Administration is accepting [applications](#) through Thursday, April 10, for funding to develop new sustainable rural residency programs to improve and expand access to health care in rural areas. The Rural Residency Planning and Development Program will fund eligible applicants up to \$750,000 for three years, from Aug. 1, 2025, to July 31, 2028.

Before You Go ...

- A recent [study](#), *The Impact of Addiction Consultation and Medication for Opioid or Alcohol Use Disorder on Hospital Readmission*, published in the *Journal of General Internal Medicine*, explores the key role Addiction Care Teams play in patient care. Consultations are associated with higher rates of medication receipt during admission, MOUD discharge prescriptions and reduced risk of rehospitalization.
- Harm reduction, a crucial approach in addressing substance use disorders, focuses on meeting people who use drugs where they are and providing evidence-based interventions to minimize risks. This [article](#) from the *American Journal of Nursing* discusses the importance of nurses embracing harm reduction principles when working with people who use drugs.