



***KHA's Current Report***  
***February 28, 2025***

**President's Perspective – AHA's Rural Health Care Leadership Conference**

Earlier this week, I joined several Kansas hospital leaders and attended the American Hospital Association's Rural Health Care Leadership Conference. As always, the AHA team did an excellent job with session topics. The conference brought together rural health care leaders and providers nationwide to discuss and explore innovative ways to strengthen and sustain rural health care. The industry experts varied and covered topics such as enhancing workforce wellbeing, incorporating artificial intelligence in care delivery, leveraging clinically integrated networks and achieving financial sustainability in an unpredictable environment. Several useful and practical resources were shared during the various presentations that could benefit rural hospitals and their communities.

Several key messages and topics were highlighted in the educational sessions. One of the most well-attended sessions focused on understanding the current financial environment for hospitals. Presenters from the North Carolina Rural Health Research Program and the RUPRI Center for Rural Health Policy Analysis shared the latest research and trends related to hospital financial distress. While Kansans are aware of the national reports highlighting the vulnerabilities of hospitals across the country, the findings indicate that financial distress occurs in many communities regardless of Medicare designation, type of ownership, affiliation status or operation of long-term care and other services. It was clear that Medicare Advantage continues to grow, with more than 50 percent enrollment in Medicare, including nearly 40 percent of rural beneficiaries. The impact of Medicare Advantage programs did not go unnoticed during the conference and was mentioned in several sessions. KHA will continue to develop resources for members to educate their community members on the Medicare Advantage program. If you have not yet visited the dedicated [Medicare Advantage webpage](#), we encourage you to do so.

Attendees also heard an update from the AHA advocacy team on the latest activities in Washington, DC, and the policy initiatives that are being touted to support rural health care. The AHA advocacy agenda is comprehensive and focuses on five primary areas:

- Supporting Flexible Payment Models
- Ensuring Fair Reimbursement, Access to Capital and Regulatory Relief
- Imposing Commercial Insurance Accountability
- Bolstering the Workforce and
- Protecting the 340B Program

The imminent advocacy focus revolves around extending several expiring rural payment programs and minimizing the Medicaid cuts that Congress is considering. Depending on the upcoming policy decisions, rural hospitals may be disproportionately impacted by the reductions discussed, which would exacerbate an already fragile health system. KHA will continue to partner with AHA and the National Rural Health Association on federal advocacy policies to support and protect Kansas hospitals and our communities.

I also want to thank several current KHA members who attended and presented at the event. Presenters included Benjamin Anderson, president and CEO, and Rex Degner, MD, trustee from Hutchinson Regional Medical Center. Benjamin and Dr. Degner discussed the importance of enhancing collaboration among the hospital board, CEO, and medical staff. Other Kansas hospital and health care leaders who attended represented Holton Community Hospital, Community Memorial Healthcare, Goodland Regional Medical Center, and the Sunflower Health Network. Thank you to everyone for attending and representing Kansas!

--Chad Austin

### **There Is Still Time to Register for the Critical Issues Summit for Hospital Boards 2025**

Register and plan to attend this year's Critical Issues Summit for Hospital Boards on March 6-7, 2025, 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.



--Hayley Finch-Genschorck

### **Provider Tax Update**

The 2024Q4 report for the quarterly distribution of Medicaid enhancement payments funded through the provider tax were sent out this week. The Kansas Department of Health and Environment actuary is currently calculating the funding amounts by managed care organization and will not complete their calculations until next week. Funds will be transferred to the MCOs on March 14. The quarterly enhancement payments should begin arriving in hospital accounts the following week.

If you have any questions, please contact Audrey Dunkel at [adunkel@kha-net.org](mailto:adunkel@kha-net.org).

--Audrey Dunkel

## **Board of Healing Arts Works to Expedite New Physician Licensing Process**

Last fall, the Kansas Hospital Association convened a group of members and the Kansas State Board of Healing Arts to discuss the process and timeline for licensing new physicians. A change was made in 2021 to Kansas Administrative Regulation 100-6-2 based on recommendations from a multi-stakeholder task force to align active physician licensure requirements with the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education post-graduate training requirements. This change increased the required postgraduate training from 12 to 36 months before issuing an active license. At the same time, this regulatory change to active licensure requirements was made, and a new license category, [Resident Active License](#), was created to allow residents in good standing to obtain a license to moonlight after successfully completing 12 months of PGT. It was recently discovered that the 2021 regulatory change unintentionally caused the length of time for active licensure processing to be prolonged.

After the convening and a follow-up workgroup with KHA members and KSBHA, KSBHA created a new form to help expedite the licensing process for physicians currently in their third year of PGT and have secured employment. The new [Postgraduate Training Year 3 Verification form](#) may be submitted 45 days before the PGT program's completion date, allowing for applications to be reviewed by KSBHA licensing staff sooner and, if requirements are met, approved for licensure. The Postgraduate Training Year 3 Verification form must be completed by the applicant and the educational institution. If any amendments are made to an applicant's program completion status, the applicant and educational institution must notify the KSBHA of these changes. Please note that the applicant is still responsible for submitting the Postgraduate Training Verification form upon completion of the program, as stated on the form.

The form can be found online under the [KSBHA Forms section](#). It will not be included in the initial application packet and is NOT required to be completed. KSBHA requests that this form only be used for those offered and accepted employment. If this form is used as a matter of course, it will not have the intended effect and will not expedite the licensure process. Given the implementation timeline for the upcoming 2025 graduation season, KSBHA kindly requests patience as they implement.

KHA staff continue to work with members, KAMMCO, and hospital and payer credentialing staff to reduce the timeline for licensing and credentialing new physicians. We appreciate the collaboration with KSBHA, members and stakeholders to streamline the time from residency completion to active practice for Kansas physicians and increase access to care.

As a reminder, having physician candidates who have applied for Kansas licensure sign the [Third Party Release](#) allows the hiring hospital to receive updates from KSBHA staff during the application process.

We appreciate KSBHA's effort to work with KHA members and staff to find an effective strategy to reduce the licensing timeline. We look forward to continuing to work with partners on credentialing timelines. KHA will also work with KSBHA to promote and increase awareness of this new process. In the meantime, for questions regarding KSBHA's Postgraduate Training Year 3 Verification, please contact Chandni Bhakta at [Chandni.Bhakta@ks.gov](mailto:Chandni.Bhakta@ks.gov).

--Karen Braman

### **Renewed Federal Enforcement of Price Transparency Regulations**

On Tuesday, President Donald Trump signed an executive order directing federal agencies to ramp up the enforcement of price transparency regulations issued during his first term. The order directs the Departments of the Treasury, Labor and Health and Human Services to rapidly implement and enforce the Trump health care price transparency regulations. The order instructs agencies to take action to implement and enforce price transparency regulations within 90 days to:

- Mandate the disclosure of the actual prices of items and services, not estimates
- Standardize price disclosures to improve comparability across hospitals and health plans
- Strengthen enforcement policies to ensure compliance with the transparent reporting of complete, accurate, and meaningful data

With increased enforcement on the horizon, which could include civil monetary penalties, we encourage members to review their price transparency compliance efforts to ensure alignment with existing federal requirements. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services provides a [website](#) with key provisions to help you navigate the mandatory requirements. KHA has prepared [talking points on price transparency](#) and will continue to keep these updated on the KHA website. If you need a vendor to help get your hospital into compliance, please contact Shannan Flach at [sflach@kha-net.org](mailto:sflach@kha-net.org).

--Shannan Flach

### **New 2025 Lab Director Regulations and Lab Performance Educational Webinar**

The University of Kansas School of Medicine – Wichita is hosting an educational webinar regarding new 2025 CLIA regulations for laboratory directors found in 42 CFR 493.1443. The webinar is also designed to improve in-house lab profitability and efficiency, assist in lab leadership transitions, and maintain compliance.

The webinar is from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. on April 15. The registration fee is \$75.

[Click to Register](#)

Larry Van Der Wege

### Registration Now Open for the KHA Spring District Meetings

The Kansas Hospital Association Spring District Meeting dates and locations have been set. These meetings are a great informational and networking opportunity for all CEOs, trustees and senior staff. Join us at 9:30 a.m. for networking. Meeting times will be from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. with lunch provided. You can attend any location, so pick the location that best fits your schedule! These meetings are provided at no charge. An agenda will be available soon.

<b>KHA District</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>City</b>
NW	April 1	Logan County Health Services - EMS Building	703 W. 3rd St.	Oakley
SW	April 2	St. Catherine Hospital-Garden City	401 E. Spruce St.	Garden City
SC	April 3	Pratt Regional Medical Center	200 Commodore	Pratt
NC	April 4	Abilene Childcare - Nichols Education Center	1003 N. Brady	Abilene
SE	April 8	Mercy Hospital Pittsburg	1 Mt Carmel Way	Pittsburg
NE	April 9	Sunflower Foundation - Powerhouse Conference Center	5820 SW 6th Ave.	Topeka



--Cindy Samuelson

### KHA Administrative Professional Networking Roundtable Zoom Meeting

The Kansas Hospital Association is offering an Administrative Professional Networking Roundtable Zoom Meeting to connect executive assistants, foster a dynamic exchange of best practices, brainstorm and share invaluable tips and tricks.

The next virtual discussion is from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, March 2. This will not be your typical webinar—active participation is key. We encourage all participants to have their cameras on and audio ready to facilitate rich conversations. Please note that these discussions will not be recorded.

Please register at the link below if you're eager to collaborate actively with your peers. CEOs, please forward this to your EA to invite them as well. Once registered, you will receive an email with a survey to gather ideas and topics for discussion as a group. Start thinking about what you'd like to ask or share. We're excited to shape these discussions based on your input!



--Hayley Finch-Genschorck

### KHA Seeks Health Care Preceptor Academy Faculty Contracted Position

If you're an experienced clinician who is passionate about teaching and mentoring, this role may be an excellent fit for you. The selected candidate will deliver pre-written training to new and seasoned clinical preceptors to improve their skills in mentoring nursing/health professions students and new hires (four to six seven-hour classes in 2025 with potential continued courses in 2026). Qualifications include an MSN degree, current Kansas registered nurse licensure, and a minimum of three years of clinical experience with prior precepting or teaching experience preferred. To apply, submit your resume and a brief cover letter by Friday, March 14, to Hayley Finch-Genschorck at [hfinch@kha-net.org](mailto:hfinch@kha-net.org).



--Hayley Finch-Genschorck

### Join Us at the KAHCC Spring Conference and Emerald Awards!

Join your fellow Kansas health care communications professionals at the [Kansas Association of Health Care Communicators' 2025 Spring Conference and Emerald Awards!](#) Mark your calendars for Thursday and Friday, April 24-25, at the Meridian Center in Newton. This is an event you won't want to miss!

### Showcase Your Excellence with the Emerald Awards

This is a fantastic opportunity for health care communication teams to shine by entering the prestigious [Emerald Awards](#). Whether you're working solo, with a team, or collaborating with a vendor or agency, we encourage you to submit your best work. The categories are diverse, including internal and external communications, special events, media relations, digital media projects, videos, websites, advertising, writing and more. Our [streamlined online entry platform](#) makes submissions easier than ever. Ensure your entries are submitted by 5 p.m. on Friday, March 7, 2025. Winners will be celebrated at the conference and awards ceremony.

### Scholarships and Membership

We are excited to offer [KAHCC scholarships](#) to up to four current members, selected through a lottery from scholarship applicants. If you're not a member, now is the perfect time to join! The [KAHCC membership](#) fee is a modest \$40.



--Shelby Stacy

### **Sunflower Chapter HFMA & KAHPAM Spring Conference – April 17-18**

The [Sunflower \(Kansas\) Chapter of Healthcare Financial Management Association](#) and the [Kansas Association of Healthcare Patient Access and Account Managers](#) invite you to attend the April 17-18, spring conference at the [Hilton Garden Inn & Convention Center](#) in Salina. This is an in-person-only event. The registration fee is \$175 for HFMA or KAHPAM members and \$275 for non-members.

[Click to View Agenda](#)

[Click to View Event Summary](#)

[Click to Register](#)

[CONTACT US](#)

--Dee Lewis

### **HIMSS Kansas Chapter 2025 Conference – April 10-11**

Registration is open for the 2025 [Kansas Chapter Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society](#) Conference, April 10-11 at the [Drury Plaza Hotel Broadview](#) in Wichita. Entitled [Mission: Discovery](#), the 2025 conference will include expert presentations and discussions on Artificial Intelligence, Cyber Security, the new HIPAA rules and much more. Early bird pricing and registration is available.

[Click to View Agenda](#)

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

[Click to Register](#)

[CONTACT US](#)

--Sally Othmer

### **Get Ready to Golf for the KHA PAC – Aug. 11**

Does the thawing snow have you daydreaming of hitting the golf course? Us too! Mark your calendars now for the annual [Kansas Hospital Association Political Action Committee](#) Golf Tournament on Aug. 11 at the beautiful Salina Country Club in Salina. Hold the calendar, recruit your team now, and sign up to sponsor today by visiting <https://kha-pac.square.site/>. For questions, please feel free to contact Tara Mays at [tmays@kha-net.org](mailto:tmays@kha-net.org).

--Tara Mays

### **CEO Staffing Changes**

The Kansas Hospital Association would like to inform you of the latest member hospital administrator changes since our last hospital list printout in January:

- Margaret Grismer, RN, MSN, chief executive officer, SCK Health, Arkansas City
- Lucretia Stargell, MBA, FACHE, CPPS, chief executive officer, Rawlins County Health Center, Atwood, and Goodland Regional Medical Center, Goodland
- Jonathan Gleason, chief executive officer, Graham County Hospital, Hill City
- Bill May, interim chief executive officer, Hillsboro Community Hospital, Hillsboro
- Rance Ramsey, chief executive officer, Hodgeman County Health Center, Jetmore
- Alisha Herrman, chief executive officer, Edwards County Medical Center, Kinsley (no longer interim)



- Mark Rooker, administrator, Lindsborg Community Hospital, Lindsborg
- John Fitzthum, chief executive officer, Community HealthCare System, Inc., Onaga
- Britni Green, chief executive officer, MidAmerica Rehabilitation Hospital, Overland Park
- Laurie Labarca, hospital president, Ascension Via Christi Hospitals Wichita, Inc. (St. Francis), Wichita (no longer interim)

Our [Kansas Hospitals and Health-Related Facilities list](#) is available on the KHA website in PDF (Adobe Acrobat Reader format) at [www.kha-net.org](http://www.kha-net.org). A username and password are required. Click on Kansas Hospitals, CEO Directories, Kansas Hospital List and Kansas Hospitals and Health-Related Facilities List. Please contact [Cheryl Carson](#) at (785) 233-7436 if you have updates and provide the start date of the new administrator/chief executive officer, picture, birthday and press release/bio.

--Cheryl Carson

### **Health Observances and Recognition Days for March Month-Long Observances**

- Athletic Training Month (National)
- Bleeding Disorders Awareness Month
- Brain Injury Awareness Month
- Breathe Better, Sleep Better Month
- Child Life Month
- Clap4Health
- Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month (National)
- Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month (National)
- Endometriosis Awareness Month (National)
- Kidney Month (National)
- Multiple Sclerosis Education and Awareness Month
- Myleoma Action Month
- Nutrition Month®(National)
- Save Your Vision Month
- Social Work Month
- Traumatic Brain Injury Awareness (National)
- Trisomy Awareness Month
- Workplace Eye Wellness Month



## Week-Long Observances

- March 2-8 – Bone Marrow Failure Awareness Week
- March 3-7 – Dental Assistants Recognition Week™
- March 9-15 – Patient Safety Awareness Week, Pulmonary Rehabilitation Week (National), and Sleep Awareness Week (National)
- March 10-16 – Brain Awareness Week
- March 12-15 – Medical Genetics Awareness Week
- March 16-22 – Poison Prevention Week (National)
- March 17-21 – Health Care HR Week and LGBTQ Health Awareness Week (National)
- March 17-23 – Drug and Alcohol Facts Week (National)

## Recognition Days | Events

- March 1 – Baby Sleep Day
- March 3 – Birth Defects Day (World)
- March 10 – Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (National)
- March 12 – Registered Dietitian Nutritionist Day
- March 13 – Kidney Day (World)
- March 14 – Sleep Day (World)
- March 18 – Health Workforce Well-Being Day
- March 20 – Native American HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (National) and Oral Health Day (World)
- March 21 – Down Syndrome Day (World)
- March 24 – Tuberculosis Day (World)
- March 25 – Diabetes Alert Day (American)
- March 26 – Epilepsy Awareness – Purple Day
- March 30 – Bipolar Day (World) and Doctors' Day (National)

The Kansas Hospital Association and the 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

## **Federal and National News**

### **U.S. House Passes Budget Resolution**

On Tuesday evening, the U.S. House of Representatives passed a [budget resolution](#) that provides structure to an appropriations package and committee budgetary instructions. The latest Senate budget resolution is significantly different than the House version. Once the Senate passes its version of a budget resolution, a reconciliation process will need to occur.

House Concurrent Resolution 14 includes \$4.5 trillion in tax cuts and \$2 trillion in reduced federal spending over the next 10 years. The resolution calls for deficit spending of \$2.1 trillion for the federal fiscal year 2025, a national debt increase to \$55.6 billion by the end of FFY 2034 and raises the debt ceiling by \$4 trillion. The Committee on Energy and Commerce would need to create a budget that decreases spending by \$880 billion over the next 10 years.

### **ASAM Offers Strategies for Engaging Nonabstinent Patients in SUD Treatment**

Less than 15 percent of those living with a substance use disorder in the U.S. receive treatment each year. One possible explanation is the common misconception that a patient must abstain from all substances first. Patients who continue or resume use are often denied or discharged from treatment.

To combat this, the American Society for Addiction Medicine developed [guidance](#), published in the *Journal of Addiction Medicine*, on the engagement and retention of nonabstinent patients in SUD treatment. The guidance includes the following 10 strategies.

- Cultivate patient trust by creating a welcoming, nonjudgmental and trauma-sensitive environment.
- Do not require abstinence as a condition of treatment initiation or retention.
- Optimize clinical interventions to promote patient engagement and retention.
- Only administratively discharge patients as a last resort.
- Seek to reengage individuals who disengage from care.
- Build connections with people with SUD who are not currently seeking treatment.
- Cultivate staff acceptance and support.
- Prioritize retention of front-line staff.
- Align policies and procedures with the commitment to improve engagement and retention of all patients, including nonabstinent patients.
- Measure progress and strive for continuous improvement of engagement and retention.

### **Before You Go ...**

- A recent viewpoint [article](#) published in *JAMA Psychiatry* entitled, *A Framework for Suicide Risk Screening After Overdose: The Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS) Trauma Survey Framework*, explores innovative ways to tackle the co-existing epidemics of suicide and drug overdose.

- A [report](#) published in *JAMA Network Open* entitled, *Mindfulness Training vs. Recovery Support for Opioid Use, Craving, and Anxiety During Buprenorphine Treatment: A Randomized Clinical Trial*, shows the clear benefits of additional education and support for patients taking medications for opioid use disorder.