



KHA's Current Report
March 21, 2025

President's Perspective – Healthworks Facilitates Collaboration and Innovation to Improve Health

Healthworks is important in helping the Kansas Hospital Association achieve its mission and vision. While both organizations share a common vision of Optimal Health for Kansans and Kansas Hospitals, the mission of [Healthworks](#) is *To facilitate collaboration and innovation to improve health*. Healthworks educates partners, brings groups together and finds funding to provide services to change health care for the better.

Healthworks has a variety of programs to assist KHA members. We are excited about a new effort to provide tools and resources for hospitals related to [grant writing](#). We know how important supplemental funding can be when margins are tight. Other projects we have worked on include preparing for [rural emergency hospitals](#), providing benchmarking tools, supporting [improvement in Critical Access Hospital finance and operations](#), assisting hospitals with accessing [broadband connectivity](#), developing the future workforce and providing [scholarships](#) to hospital employees.

I want to take a moment to highlight one of Healthworks' programs, [QHi](#). This program began as a collaborative effort with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, the Kansas Hospital Association and the Kansas Hospital Education and Research Foundation (now Healthworks) using Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility Program grant funds. QHi continues to be sustained by the Kansas Office of Rural Health, state and network partners and individual participants. It has been managed by Healthworks since 2003.

Rural hospitals rely on QHi to assess performance and identify improvement opportunities across hundreds of financial, clinical quality, workforce and patient satisfaction indicators. Today, more than 250 hospitals and 37 clinics in 10 states use QHi to compare performance measures with others, learn about proven practices and implement change where improvement is needed.

The financial indicators area of QHi has had many recent updates, including the 10 measures that make up the Financial Outlook Measure set. These measures mirror the measures considered in many national reports showing hospitals' financial distress. While those studies look at historical information, QHi allows you to compare these measures in real time with your peers. This information can help guide decision-making and strategic planning. KHA also can use this aggregate information to continue educating policymakers on Kansas hospitals' financial health.

This information is more valuable than ever for hospitals and the association in today's environment. I encourage you to consider utilizing this free tool to monitor your performance if you are not already doing so.

Healthworks uses their time, energy and resources to inspire action. QHi is just one great example of how they do that. Thanks to everyone who continues to support Healthworks by participating in their projects. The Healthworks Board is currently reviewing priorities, and we look forward to bringing you even more opportunities.

--Chad Austin

Join Us for 2025 KHA Spring District Meetings in April

KHA District Meetings provide members with timely information, essential in helping KHA learn about your top issues. We encourage CEOs, CFOs, HR executives, trustees and senior staff to join us. We want to have interactive conversations, so we invite key staff working or interested in the topic areas below.

- Financial Strategies – Price transparency, financial stability and economic awareness campaign
- Quality and Safety – Challenges with rural OB care and optimizing reimbursement for population health
- Workforce Strategies – Workforce vacancy and turnover, new hybrid RN program and physician recruitment
- KHSC and APS Spotlight Services
- State and Federal Advocacy
- Member Updates and District Discussions
- State and Federal Advocacy and Regulations Discussions

The [full agenda](#) is online. Join us to network with your peers and KHA staff at 9:30 a.m. Meeting times will be from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., with lunch provided. You can attend any meeting, so pick the best location for your schedule! These meetings are provided at no charge.

KHA District	Date	Location	Address	City
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



Thank you to our sponsors for these free meetings: Diamond-Level: APS, KAMMCO and KHSC; Platinum-Level: Qualivis.

--Cindy Samuelson

Welcome Susan Holmes to the KHA Staff Team

Earlier this month, the Kansas Hospital Association welcomed Susan Holmes as our new program manager for Healthworks. Susan has spent more than 30 years in public education in the Washburn Rural School District, with a significant portion of that time as a Washburn Rural Middle School counselor. She retired in May 2024 and started working at Haskell University until recent federal layoffs impacted her position.

Susan holds a Bachelor of Arts in English from Washburn University and a Master of Counselor Education from Emporia State. The knowledge and skills she will bring to this position will be invaluable to the KHA membership. Susan and her husband, Doug, live in Overbrook. They have three grown children and six grandchildren.

--Chad Austin

QHi March Back to Basics Training Session – March 26

After a brief program update, participants will walk through the basics of selecting measures, adding users, entering/uploading data and running/scheduling customized reports. [Please register in advance.](#)

A [recording of the February training session](#) is available.

--Sally Othmer

Recruitment and Retention Strategies: Providing Real-Time Feedback Educational Webinar – April 3

In today's competitive job market, attracting and retaining top talent requires a dynamic and multifaceted approach. This webinar will equip health care leaders and human resources professionals with tools and strategies to create a more engaging, supportive and growth-focused work environment, leading to stronger retention and improved recruitment outcomes.

Effective feedback is essential for employee development, but balancing the preferences of individual team members with business needs can be tricky. This session delves into strategies for providing real-time, constructive feedback that drives behavior change while fostering continuous growth. Explore how to implement bidirectional feedback, create opportunities for micro-mentoring and prioritize retention-focused initiatives with high impact and low time commitment.



--Hayley Finch-Genschorck

UnitedHealthcare Releases Site of Services Medical Policies in First Quarter 2025

UnitedHealthcare has released three policies that have steadily implemented new Site of Service requirements, moving services out of hospitals and into alternative settings for ambulatory surgery, infusion drug delivery, colonoscopies, and, most recently, imaging services. These policies are:

- [Site of Service policy for Screening Colonoscopies](#) effective Jan. 1
- [Site of Service policy for Provider Administered Drugs](#) effective Feb. 1
- [Site of Service policy for MRI/CT Scans](#) effective March 1

Mandatory Site of Service policies are of concern to providers because they:

- Affects patient access to services, particularly at a time when there are already lengthy waitlists
- Require providers to spend crucial time making a clinical argument for why services should be covered in a hospital setting
- Disrupt continuity of care and force patients to travel long distances to facilities that may have no affiliation with the clinicians caring for the patient
- Constitutes a misrepresentation that frustrates patients who assumed they could receive services at their local hospital
- Unintended consequences that limit access to care, such as nursing homes that are already in short supply, are now expected to transport patients longer distances

Additionally, on Feb. 1, 2025, UHC began requiring a [GA modifier](#) on claims for commercial plan members as an addition to consent requirements under its "Charging Members for non-covered services protocol." According to providers, this policy:

- It places an enormous administrative burden on providers and their staff to predict, prior to rendering a service, whether it may or may not be covered and provide the member with a detailed account of what might be covered and what that service would cost
- Restricts a provider's ability to bill for services rendered when they are denied by a carrier
- Conflates services that are not within the scope of coverage and for which the health plan has no standing (e.g. A cosmetic procedure) with a medical necessity denial

If you have any questions, please contact Shannan Flach at sflach@kha-net.org.

--Shannan Flach

KHA Membership Directory Updates Due March 21

The Kansas Hospital Association Membership Directory is an indispensable tool for members. We strive to assist members in communicating with peers, and we need your help to ensure the information is current. KHA members were recently sent a draft of their current data as it appears in the KHA database and online directory. We asked you to edit this document, providing us with the names, titles and email addresses of your executive staff. If you haven't already done so, please return the requested information, noting any edits, additions or deletions you wish made by March 21, to the attention of Jan Fenwick, (KHA, 215 SE 8th Ave., Topeka, KS, 66603; email jfenwick@kha-net.org; or fax: (785) 233-6955). New this year, the information provided to members for updating is available in Word format to make it easier to update. **If you want your information sent in Word, email jfenwick@kha-net.org, and she will email it to you.** As a reminder, the online and print directories are only available to KHA members.

In addition, our publishing partner for the directory, E&M Consulting, is wrapping up its advertising campaign for the KHA Membership Directory. They will be contacting members with advertising opportunities. They are very professional and produce a high-quality directory. If you are interested in advertising or have questions, please contact an E&M sales associate at (800) 572-0011, Ext.8005, or advertising@emconsultinginc.com. As always, your support of the Kansas Hospital Association is greatly appreciated!

--Jan Fenwick

Administrative Professional Networking Roundtable Zoom Meeting – March 27

There's still time for administrative professionals and executive assistants to register for our next KHA Administrative Professional Networking Roundtable Zoom Meeting from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, Mar. 27. This free, interactive session will focus on exchanging best practices, brainstorming and sharing valuable tips.

This isn't just another webinar – active participation is encouraged, so please have your cameras on and audio ready. Note that the session will not be recorded.

CEOs, we ask that you share this information with your executive assistants and encourage them to register.



If you have questions, contact [Tom Hagen](#) at (785) 233-7436. Let's make these discussions engaging and productive.

We look forward to seeing you there.

--Tom Hagen

Measles / MMR Vaccine Resource Hub

On March 13, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment and the Stevens County Health Department reported a positive case of measles in a resident of Stevens County. It is currently unknown whether this case is linked to any ongoing measles outbreaks in the United States. KDHE, along with the Stevens County Health Department, are notifying individuals who may have been exposed to this case of measles. This incident marks the first measles case in Kansas since 2018. With this reported case and the growing measles outbreak in Texas and multiple other states, the Immunize Kansas Coalition, of which KHA is a member, has launched a [Measles and MMR Vaccine Resource Hub](#).

On the resource hub, you will find information about measles and the MMR vaccine, important updates on the measles outbreak in other states, the KDHE HAN alert on the case in Kansas and the CDC HAN on expanding measles outbreak and guidance for upcoming travel season. Other resources include common answers to questions or concerns, "Protect Against Measles" campaign resources, and information for providers. As a reminder, per [K.A.R. 28-1-2](#), measles is a four-hour reportable disease. If a health care provider, laboratory or hospital suspects, tests, or diagnoses an individual with measles, KDHE should be notified immediately.

--Karen Braman

Disruptions in Availability of Hemodialysis Bloodlines Letter

On Friday, March 14, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration released [Disruptions in Availability of Hemodialysis Bloodlines – Letter to Health Care Providers | FDA](#) to communicate supplier issues with hemodialysis bloodlines. The letter states that the supply delays are expected to extend into early fall of 2025, and they recommend conservation. They also provide guidance on reporting any supply chain challenges to the FDA.

--Larry Van Der Wege

Kansas Alliance for Drug Endangered Children Conference – April 8

The Kansas Alliance for Drug Endangered Children is hosting a statewide conference from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Kansas State Alumni Center in Manhattan. The conference will feature state and national experts and focus on educating professionals (including child welfare, legal, medical and social service) who may have an opportunity to identify and/or respond to children living in environments where illegal drugs are manufactured, sold, distributed or used. Children living in drug environments are at risk for devastating effects, including developmental delays, severe neglect, physical, and emotional and sexual abuse.

There is a cost of \$100 for the conference (\$40 for students). [View the agenda](#). Registration and lodging information [here](#).

--Karen Braman

Save the Date – Maternal Mortality Prevention Conference Aug. 7-8

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment and its partners are hosting a maternal mortality conference Aug. 7-8 in Kansas City. The conference will explore the complex intersections of physical and mental health, substance use and intimate partner violence – key drivers of maternal mortality in Kansas. Collaborative sessions will give attendees tools and actionable solutions to provide responsive, compassionate care and foster interdisciplinary partnerships that increase access to resources and promote safer, healthier environments for mothers and families. The conference will be free, and continuing education credits will be available. Additional details and registration will be coming soon from KDHE / Kansas Connecting Communities. For questions, contact kcc@ku.edu.

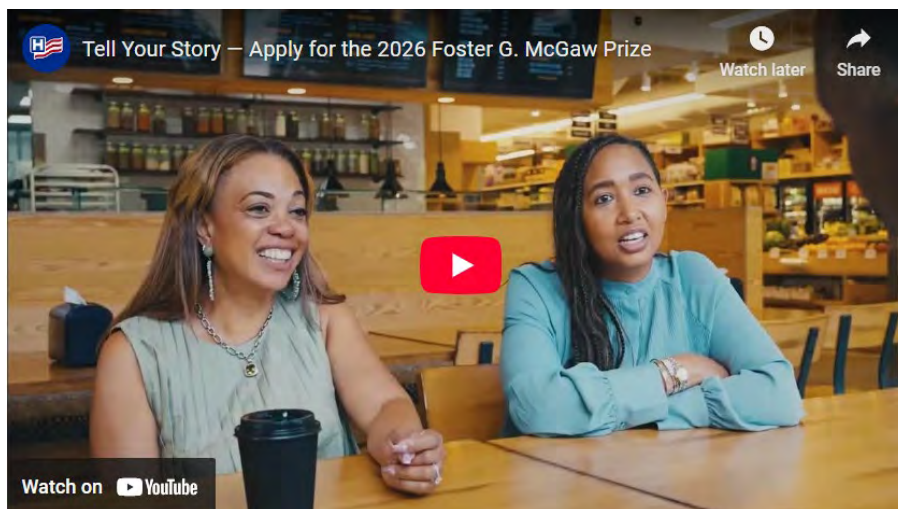
--Karen Braman

Don't Leave Your Story Untold! Enter AHA's Foster G. McGaw Prize Competition

The Kansas Hospital Association knows how much Kansas hospitals and health systems improve community health and well-being through leadership and community partnerships. KHA encourages you to apply for AHA's 2026 Foster G. McGaw Prize. Applications are due noon Central, Tuesday, May 6, 2025. [Download the 2026 Foster G. McGaw Prize Competition flyer](#) and [apply today!](#)

The Prize honors hospitals and systems that demonstrate a strategic approach to community health. Organizations should show alignment between community health needs and co-designed initiatives; collaboration with a broad range of community organizations; improved access to care; and attention to societal factors that influence health.

The annual award honors one winner with \$100,000. Up to three finalists are awarded \$10,000. The awards will be presented at the AHA Leadership Summit, Denver, CO in July 2026.



Contact fostermcgaw@aha.org with questions. To learn more about the Prize, [watch the celebratory video](#) and [download the honoree booklet](#).

--Jan Fenwick

Federal and National News

Congress Enacts, President Signs Continuing Resolution

Congress enacted and President Donald Trump signed a [continuing resolution](#) that funds the government through Tuesday, Sept. 30.

The bill contains extensions to the Medicare telehealth and hospital-at-home flexibilities, extension to the enhanced Medicare low-volume payment adjustments, extension to the Medicare Dependent Hospital Program and prevents Medicaid disproportionate share funding reductions through fiscal year 2025.

Addiction Policy Forum Explains Why Addiction Literacy Matters

Despite decades of research, misconceptions about substance use disorders persist. [Addiction literacy](#) — the ability to access, understand and apply information about SUDs — is essential in reducing stigma, improving treatment outcomes and empowering individuals to manage their health.

Addiction literacy makes a difference in the following ways:

- Reduces stigma
- Encourages prevention strategies
- Promotes early diagnosis and treatment
- Combats misinformation
- Increases intention to help
- Increases self-efficacy

The Addiction Policy Forum [offers](#) resources for people who use drugs, their family members and the providers working with these individuals.

MLN Connects Provider eNews Available

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

- [Medicare Shared Savings Program: Application Deadlines for Jan. 1, 2026, Start Date](#)

Before You Go...

The results of a recent [study](#) published in *JAMA Network Open* suggest that individuals who require hospital-based care for cannabis use disorder are at an elevated risk of premature death. Increases in mortality risk relative to the general population were greatest in individuals ages 25 to 44 years.