



MEDIA RELEASE

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Chad Austin selected as next President and CEO of the Kansas Hospital Association

(January 23, 2020) – The Kansas Hospital Association Board of Directors has selected Chad Austin to fill the position of president and CEO for the Kansas Hospital Association upon the retirement of current KHA president and CEO Tom Bell on Sept. 1, 2020. Until that time, Austin will serve as executive vice president of KHA.

“Chad Austin has a tremendous knowledge and understanding of Kansas hospitals no matter their size or geographical location. He already has a stellar record of serving those hospitals in many capacities, and he will continue that exceptional service as president and CEO,” said Tom Bell, president and CEO of the Kansas Hospital Association.

Austin began his career at KHA in 1999 after graduating from the University of Kansas with a master’s degree in Health Services Administration. Throughout his career at the hospital association, he has held responsibilities for managing all of the association’s data-related activities, rural health and Critical Access Hospital issues, and the oversight of the Kansas Rural Health Options Project.

In Austin’s previous role as the senior vice president of government relations, he oversaw all state and federal advocacy initiatives for the association. His duties also included the oversight of the association’s public relations, finance and reimbursement activities.

Austin serves as an adjunct faculty member at Washburn University. He is a member of the American College of Healthcare Executives and the Kansas Association of Health Care Executives. He also is actively involved with the American Hospital Association, National Rural Health Association, and the Kansas Society of Association Executives. Austin is a 2011 graduate of the Leadership Kansas program.

“Chad exemplifies all the best qualities of a true leader. He is an amazing advocate and resource to KHA members, and we are looking forward to him serving in this role,” said Melissa Atkins, administrator and CEO of Graham County Hospital and 2020 KHA board chair.

The Kansas Hospital Association is a voluntary, non-profit organization existing to be the leading advocate and resource for members. KHA membership includes 219 member facilities, of which 123 are full-service, community hospitals. Founded in 1910, KHA’s vision is Optimal Health for Kansas.

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