



**Kansas Hospital
ASSOCIATION**

***KHA's Trustee Resource
February 2024***

Trustee Education at the Critical Issues Summit

Register to attend this year's Critical Issues Summit for Hospital Boards, Feb. 29-Mar. 1, in Wichita. The Critical Issues Summit, hosted by the Kansas Hospital Association, 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 critical topics facing hospitals today. Session topics will include the following:

- Future Trends in Health Care and a Road Map for Navigating the Path Ahead
- Caring for Your Community and Its Unique Needs
- Strategies and Tactics to Keep Health Care Local
- Networking Roundtable Discussions and Reception
- Cybersecurity – What a Hospital Board Needs to Know?
- Explore Opportunities in Hospital Finance

The Critical Issues Summit is KHA's premier trustee education event, [register today](#). The Critical Issues Summit will be at the Hyatt Regency Wichita, 400 W. Waterman St., Wichita, KS 67202. We have been notified that the room block is full, but we hope you can still join us. If you need recommendations for other hotel locations, contact [Hayley Finch-Genschorck](#) at (785) 233-7436.



Trustee Recognition at the Critical Issues Summit

As KHA attends board meetings across the state, it is obvious many governance best practices are being utilized. KHA encourages members to recognize board members for their dedication and service. KHA started the [Trustee Accountability and Recognition Program](#) in 2010 as a response for hospitals to demonstrate their accountability to legislators, attorneys generals and their communities.

The program annually recognizes trustees at the [KHA Critical Issues Summit](#). The [Trustee Accountability and Recognition Program](#) recognizes hospitals and trustees that:

- Understand and embrace the need for governance accountability
- Govern according to a standard of excellence

- Formally recognize their adherence to governance best practices
- Embrace community accountability
- Structure their community benefit and outreach programs to meet identified community needs

We encourage hospitals to recognize trustees at this year's [Critical Issues Summit](#) by completing a [recognition form](#) by Feb. 23. Email or fax the form to [Cindy Samuelson](#) at (785) 233-6955.

Inspiring the Health Care Workforce of the Future

Last week, the Kansas Hospital Association hosted our second Kansas Health Care Virtual Career Day and launched our new www.HappyInHealthCare.org website. We had more than 3,000 students from more than 160 schools, ranging from middle schools to universities, joining us during the Kansas Health Care Virtual Career Day. KHA organized the event in partnership 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. The health care careers showcased were physical therapy, radiology technologists, business office, behavioral health, nursing, laboratory, emergency medical technician/paramedic and surgery. Throughout the event, Kansas high school students heard, first-hand, from Kansas health care professionals across the state who explained what training is required to perform their function and why they believe their career choice is rewarding. Thank you to the teams at Anderson County Hospital, Garnett; Citizens Health, Colby; HCA Midwest Health, Overland Park; Kansas Rehabilitation Hospital, Topeka; LMH Health, Lawrence; Logan County Health Services, Oakley; Memorial Health System, Abilene; and Phillips County Health System, Phillipsburg.

Another exciting activity occurring this week was the launch of KHA's updated www.HappyInHealthCare.org website. The new site allows interested individuals to view scholarships, schools and jobs available, as well as to explore resources on many health care careers. Each career will include information on needed education, minimum salaries, job opportunities and outlook, and much more. We also are very excited to launch a feature allowing interested students to take a brief quiz to narrow the health care careers matching their interest. Please check out all the great resources on the www.HappyInHealthCare.org website!

KHA will continue to explore new approaches to promote and support the hospital industry. Kansas Health Care Virtual Career Day videos and resources will soon be available at www.HappyInHealthCare.org.

Has Your CEO Been Introduced to All KHA Can Offer?

Each January and July, the Kansas Hospital Association has the privilege to host a new CEO orientation. This is a semi-annual gathering of CEOs who have recently taken on their position in a Kansas hospital. This event is a great opportunity to meet other CEOs around the state, to learn more about Kansas, and the KHA resources available to members. In addition to information on advocacy, health care finance and reimbursement, workforce, regulatory issues, quality, data, education and communication, CEOs met with Senator Chase Blasi (R-Wichita) to learn more about the Kansas Legislature and to tour the Kansas Capitol.

KHA staff thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to get to know the new CEOs and are grateful they took time out of their busy schedule to join us in Topeka. Thank you to:

- Kevin Faughnder, Norton County Hospital, Norton
- Alex Haines, St. Luke Hospital and Living Center, Marion
- Melissa Hall, Susan B. Allen Memorial Hospital, El Dorado
- Cathy Pimple, Newman Regional Health, Emporia
- Jeremy Rabe, Trego County-Lemke Memorial Hospital, WaKeeney
- Sarah Ragsdale, Smith County Memorial Hospital, Smith Center

We also greatly appreciated the participation of KHA Board Chair Bobby Olm-Shipman, Saint Luke's South Hospital, Overland Park, and KHA Board Chair-Elect George Stover, Hospital District #1 of Rice County, Lyons, for attending the meeting to share their perspectives of the Kansas health care system and value of KHA.

If you are interested in your CEO joining us in July, contact [Cindy Samuelson](#) or [Susan Pattie](#) at (785) 233-7436.

Kansas Hospital Leaders Engage in Advocacy Efforts

In January, hospital leaders and advocates from across the state braved the cold temperatures, traveling to Topeka, to participate in Kansas Hospital Association's Advocacy Day. This annual event provides KHA members an opportunity to connect with their elected officials. Governor Laura Kelly welcomed attendees and highlighted the importance of the health care sector and the need to support Kansas hospitals. She reiterated her ardent support to strengthen rural Kansas communities, including their local hospitals, through policy initiatives such as Medicaid expansion. Attendees also heard from elected officials including Kansas Secretary of State Scott Schwab, Senate President Ty Masterson, House Majority Leader Chris Croft and Kansas Department of Health and Environment Secretary Janet Stanek. Each of the presenters shared their support for Kansas hospitals and their willingness to explore health care policies during the 2024 legislative session.

One of the highlights of KHA Advocacy Day focuses on the luncheon opportunity for Kansas hospital leaders to meet with their state elected officials. Several of the advocacy topics emphasized by the KHA membership revolved around ensuring financial viability, promoting health care workforce opportunities and reducing the administrative burdens imposed by health insurance organizations through polices such as prior authorization and credentialing. While KHA Advocacy Day is a key opportunity to meet our elected officials, it will be vitally essential Kansas hospital leaders continue to engage in advocacy efforts throughout the legislative session.

Thank you to all the hospital trustees who attended KHA Advocacy Day and advocated for our priorities. The key to effective grassroots advocacy is the personal interaction between elected officials and their constituents. If you were unable to attend this year's KHA Advocacy Day, you can still become part of our grassroots advocacy team by meeting with your elected officials when they are in their home districts. Let us know how we can assist you in this endeavor!

United to Transform Initiative Launches Statewide

United to Transform is a targeted statewide project intended to identify means of reducing the enormous toll of substance use disorders in the lives of Kansans. The aim is to expand the understanding of community-level strengths and challenges and recommend well-defined opportunities to align systems and implement innovative solutions. The project is initiated by Sunflower Foundation, funded by [Kansas Fights Addiction Grant Review Board](#) and conducted by the University of Kansas Center for Public Partnerships and Research. Engagement of interested parties – those working in the SUD field, experts at the community level, those being impacted and the public – will fuel statewide exploration and understanding. The United to Transform initiative will include in-person community visits, periodic webinars and a newsletter to be used throughout the coming year to gather information, as well as provide periodic content updates and notes on the project. If you are interested in joining this effort, [please register](#) to receive the newsletter and notices of project activities.

AHA Patient Safety Initiative

The American Hospital Association has launched a national [patient safety initiative](#) for AHA member hospitals. The three foundational issues to be focused on in 2024 include:

1. Fostering a culture of safety from the board room to the bedside
2. Identifying and addressing inequities in safety
3. Enhancing workforce safety

The initiative is a collaborative, data-driven effort to add to hospitals' and health systems' strong voice in the national conversation around health care safety, center the views of clinicians and tell the hospital and health system patient safety story. If your hospital is an AHA member hospital and interested in joining this initiative, [click here](#).

Hospital Board Chair Leadership Program a Success

Last fall, the Kansas Hospital Association and governWell hosted our first-ever, two-part Hospital Board Chair Leadership program with nearly 40 board leaders in attendance. We were pleased to bring KHA members to this new program specifically designed for new board chairs and chair-elects. The two sessions were packed with topics focused on the board chair's leadership role; how to build purposeful agendas; facilitation and executive sessions; understanding the Open Meetings Act; enhancing the board chair/CEO relationship; best practices for board conduct and orientation; and developing an effective board self-assessment.

This virtual program included two 90-minute sessions on Zoom and an opportunity for several of our attendees to take advantage of an optional individual coaching session. Breakout rooms were used so trustees could connect with others in their location and in similar facilities. The feedback we received from attendees was positive, and we hope to offer this program again in 2024. If you would be interested in participating in a future session, contact [Cindy Samuelson](#) at (785) 233-7436.

Scholarship Application Window Open – Apply Today

If you are planning to attend college for a health care degree or seeking a health care license, apply today for a [Healthworks Health Care Scholarship](#). Individual scholarships of up to \$1,500 will be given in the following categories:

- **Undergraduate Health Care:** Undergraduate students in non-nursing health care fields. Sample degrees include physical therapy assistant, clinical lab scientist, phlebotomy, pharmacy technician, occupational therapy assistant and medical imaging.
- **Undergraduate Nursing:** Undergraduate students who have been accepted into a licensed or degreed nursing program. Sample degrees include licensed practical nurse, registered nurse and bachelor of science in nursing.
- **Faculty:** Graduate-level students in the final courses necessary to become health care faculty.
- **Advanced Clinical Practice:** Graduate-level students in any clinical health care discipline. Sample degrees include a doctorate of nursing practice, master of social work, family nurse practitioner, doctorate of pharmacy and doctorate in physical therapy.
- **Health Care Administration:** Students in health care administration, whether under- or graduate level. Sample degrees include organizational leadership, health care administration, leadership, master of science management and health care management – sponsored by the Kansas Association of Health Care Executives.
- **Human Resources:** Students in health care human-resource-related field, whether under- or graduate level. Human resources certifications are also eligible for scholarship support. Sample degrees include human resources or another degree with a concentration in human resources – sponsored by the Kansas Hospital Human Resources Association.

Priority will be given to hospital employees, particularly those working in facilities licensed for 25 or fewer acute beds. Our thanks to the Kansas Association of Health Care Executives and the Kansas Healthcare Human Resources Association for partnering with Healthworks to administer their scholarship programs.

The submission deadline is Feb. 28. [Applications](#) may be started and saved for completion at a later date. In addition, letters of recommendation may be added by either the applicant or their employer. All documents may be uploaded as a PDF or an MP3.

Please share this with anyone you know who is pursuing a health care degree or certification. If you have any questions, or need further information, contact [Susan Pattie](#) at (785) 233-7436.