President’s Perspective – Welcome to New AHA and KHA Board Leaders

The beginning of the new year also marks a change in board leadership for both the American Hospital Association and the Kansas Hospital Association. I wanted to take a few minutes this week to reflect on the new board leaders in both of these organizations.

First, we are excited to note that the chair of the Board of the American Hospital Association for 2020 is Melinda Estes, MD, the president and CEO of St. Luke's Health System. A board-certified neurologist and neuropathologist, Dr. Estes oversees the operations of Saint Luke's Health System, the region's only locally-owned, not-for-profit, faith-based, aligned health system, which includes 18 hospitals and campuses; renowned heart, neuroscience and cancer programs; home care and hospice; behavioral health care; more than 100 physician practices and retail clinics; senior living communities, and more. Dr. Estes has been instrumental in leading AHA’s efforts to develop and implement effective physician leadership strategies, something we have tried to parallel at KHA.

St. Luke's hospitals have been active members and leaders in KHA, and we are thrilled to have "one of our own" in this important and influential position for 2020. We look forward to working with Dr. Estes as AHA board chair and know she will provide exceptional leadership.

Speaking of exceptional leadership, I am pleased to welcome Melissa Atkins as the 2020 chair of the KHA Board of Directors. Melissa serves as chief executive officer of the Graham County Hospital in Hill City. Melissa is a certified public accountant and has an extensive history in hospital finance and auditing. She first joined Graham County Hospital in 2009 as the chief financial officer. In 2012, she was promoted to CEO.

Melissa joined the Graham County Hospital after a period of frequent leadership changes and has clearly brought stability to the local healthcare delivery system. She has focused much of her attention on efforts to recruit and retain providers to Hill City and has shown it is possible to do just that in rural Kansas. We will have a busy and challenging year at KHA, but I have no doubt that Melissa will provide superb leadership as we move forward.

Please join me in congratulating both Dr. Estes and Melissa Atkins and thanking them for their service to hospitals and the patients they serve.

--Tom Bell
**Registration Now Open: 2020 Infection Prevention Conference**
Mark your calendar and plan to attend the 2020 Infection Prevention Conference, March 5-6 at the [DoubleTree by Hilton Wichita Airport](https://www.doubletreehotels.com/hotel/wichita-airport) in Wichita.

This conference will help prepare health care professionals to be facilitators, as well as resources for surveillance, prevention and control of infections. It will aid professionals new to the responsibilities of infection prevention in managing the everyday duties of infection surveillance, analysis of disease data, problem identification and resolution.

Please contact the [KHA Education Department](https://www.kha.org/) at (785) 233-7436, if you have questions.

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**Hayley Finch-Genschorck**

**KHA Advocacy Day – Jan. 21**
Join the Kansas Hospital Association, state legislators and Kansas hospital executives at our [2020 Advocacy Day](https://www.kha.org/advocacy), Jan. 21, at the [Maner Conference Center](https://www.manerconferencecenter.com/) in Topeka. The day will kick off at 9:00 a.m. Lunch will start at 11:30 a.m.

This is your opportunity to learn about our advocacy focus and visit with your elected officials about the important issues facing Kansas hospitals. We encourage CEOs, senior staff and hospital trustees to attend.

Please direct questions to [Melissa Willey](mailto:melissa.willey@kha.org), KHA Education Department, at (785) 233-7436.

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**Hayley Finch-Genschorck**

**KHA Discharge Data Submission Review Webinar – Jan. 24**
Please join us from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. on Friday, Jan. 24 for a review of the Kansas hospital inpatient and outpatient data submission process. Steve Warchol, DBA, Hospital Industry Data Institute, will review new enhancements to the submission site and provide a review of the data submission process from the point of submission to reviewing Edit and Verification reports. A question and answer session will follow. There is no charge to participate. This is an excellent opportunity for those responsible for submitting the data and for those that use the data (through Analytic Advantage) to support strategic planning and market share analysis. Understanding the data submission and editing process facilitates improvement in the quality of the data thus improving the quality of the KHA hospital reports.

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**Sally Othmer**
Health Care Scholarship Money Available
Please let your staff know that any Kansan planning to attend college for a new health care degree or those seeking a health care license may apply today for a Kansas Hospital Education and Research Foundation Health Care Scholarship. Individual scholarships of up to $1,000 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.
- **Advanced Clinical Practice**: graduate level students in any clinical health care discipline. Sample degrees include: 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, healthcare administration, leadership, master of science management and healthcare 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. Sample degrees include: human resources or another degree with a concentration in human resources – sponsored by the Kansas Healthcare Human Resources Association.

Priority will be given to hospital employees, particularly those who work in facilities licensed for 25 or fewer acute beds. Thanks to the Kansas Association of Health Care Executives and the Kansas Healthcare Human Resources Association for partnering with KHERF to administer these scholarship programs.

All applications are entered through Reviewr. 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 must be uploaded as a PDF. The submission deadline is Feb. 28.

More information is available on the KHERF website. If you have any questions or need further information, please contact Susan Cunningham at (785) 233-7436.

--Susan Cunningham

VA Electronic Referral and Authorization System
The Veteran's Affairs Eastern Kansas Health Care System is now utilizing HealthShare Referral Manager, a new electronic referral and authorization program. HSRM is the VA’s new solution to streamline and improve the referral and authorization management process for veteran care. HSRM has been developed to make the exchange of patient information and documents between the providers and the VA Medical Centers seamless, accurate and secure.
HSRM will be deployed in a phased manner across the VA Medical Centers, and is currently utilized by the VA Eastern Kansas Health Care System. It is available at no cost, and technical support is available to help with the implementation. For further information on signing up for HSRM, review the step-by-step instructions in the Oct. 18, 2019 notice from the VA. Additional information regarding the HSRM are outlined in the Quick Reference Guide for Community Providers. Weekly training opportunities also are available to assist providers in navigating the set up and implementation of HSRM.

Detailed information regarding HSRM is included in the Community Provider End User Guide. 
--Tish Hollingsworth

2020 KHA Workforce Vacancy and Turnover Survey
Last week, the 2020 KHA Annual Workforce Questionnaire was emailed to member hospitals. The survey collects valuable information on vacancies and turnover for key health care positions. Your participation in the survey is greatly appreciated. Last year’s results can be viewed at www.khastat.org and in the Health Care Vacancies and Turnover in Kansas Report. Completed surveys are to be emailed back to Sally Othmer at the Kansas Hospital Association by Friday, Jan. 31. 
--Sally Othmer

Be Vigilant for Potential Cyberattacks from Iran, Middle East
Now is the time to assess your organization’s cybersecurity posture. A U.S. led airstrike on Jan. 3 in Iraq eliminated Qassem Soleimani, the head of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps Quds Force, a U.S. designated Foreign Terrorist Organization. Although the U.S. government has not identified a specific threat from Iran targeting U.S. health care, the public has been asked to remain vigilant for physical and cyber-based suspicious activity.

Many in the U.S. government believe Iran will attempt a retaliatory strike against U.S. interests overseas or potentially against U.S. critical infrastructure via a cyberattack. Iran has used cyberattacks to conduct retaliatory strikes against the U.S. in the past and possesses a significant offensive cyber capability, including the ability to destroy data, disrupt computer networks and cause significant financial loss. If cyberattacks against other U.S. critical infrastructure or entities occur, collateral damage or disruption to health care operations may result.

For example, in November 2018, Iran-based hackers were indicted by the FBI for developing and deploying the SamSam ransomware, which also targeted U.S. hospitals and health care organizations. In March 2018, nine Iranians were indicted for conducting a massive hacking campaign on behalf of the IRGC, which targeted universities including academic medical centers. In 2016, seven Iranians working on behalf of the IRGC were indicted for conducting denial of service attacks against U.S. financial institutions and accessing the control system of a small dam.

Hospitals and health systems should assess their cybersecurity posture with special emphasis on:

- Patching of critical cyber vulnerabilities, especially those present in medical devices or mission critical systems, which could impact care delivery operations and patient safety. Assess backup and manual operation capability of life-saving medical devices.
- Reminding staff to be especially vigilant for possible spear phishing emails and not click on suspicious or unexpected emails and/or attachments.
- Assessing and testing of email security, intrusion detection and response systems.
- Assessing of dependencies and cybersecurity of network connected mission critical systems, such as utilities (especially power supply), HVAC and access control systems. It's also important to assess redundancy and manual override capability of these systems.
- Assessing and testing of backup security, redundancy and restoration times – ensuring backups are offline, with multiple copies on site and cloud-based, on different media types.
- Vendor risk management program – reviewing cybersecurity requirements and dependencies on mission critical vendors and those that have remote or direct access to sensitive data, operations, backups and locations. Identify high-risk vendors – and their subcontractors – especially those based overseas.
- Reviewing, updating and testing a unified, cross function cyber incident response plan, which incorporates a designated cyber response firm and local FBI Cyber Task Force Point of Contact.
- Reviewing sufficiency and limitations of cyber insurance for your organization and your vendors, including any "act of war" exclusions.
- Reviewing additional cyber defensive measures distributed by the FBI on April 9, 2019, in response to increased cyber threats posed by IRGC.

The American Hospital Association is continuing to monitor this developing situation in close coordination with government agencies. Kansas state agencies are being briefed as well, and we will communicate any specific risks or developments as we become aware.

--Ron Marshall

**KHA Pursuing Changes to CNA Training Sites**

In response to requests from Kansas Hospital Association members interested in training Certified Nurse Assistants, KHA began researching laws and regulations on the state and federal level to learn what the current requirements entail. Federal regulations do not mention training site requirements for CNAs; however, Kansas regulations do specify where this training can occur. These training sites include adult care centers, long-term care units of hospitals or simulation laboratories. To begin the discussion of adding hospitals, without long-term care units, to the list of accepted CNA training sites, KHA recently met with staff from the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services, which oversees CNA training programs and the long-term care associations.

KHA is pleased to report that although several regulations and the training manual will need to be revised, the idea of pursuing regulatory changes to permit hospitals without long-term care units to train CNAs was well-received. KDADS will be creating a workgroup to look at the needed regulatory changes. Due to the upcoming start of the legislative session, it was agreed the workgroup would begin meeting in April. We appreciate our members bringing this issue to our attention.

--Deborah Stern

**2020 OPPS Final Rule Analyses Distributed**

Early this week, hospitals paid under the Medicare Outpatient Prospective Payment System were emailed a hospital-specific impact analysis showing how their Medicare fee-for-service outpatient payments will change from calendar year 2019 to 2020 based on the policies set forth in the OPPS final rule.
The final rule includes policies that will establish a process for prior authorization for certain covered outpatient department services, establish requirements for all hospitals to make hospital standard charges available to the public, continue the phase-in of payment changes for clinic services furnished in excepted off-campus provider-based departments, and change the minimum level of supervision required for hospital outpatient therapeutic services from direct supervision to general supervision. Additional details on policy changes are included in KHA's Payment Rule Brief.

A copy of the final rule and other resources related to the OPPS are available on the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services website. The hospital-specific impact analysis is available on the HIDI Analytic Advantage website to authorized users.

--Tish Hollingsworth

**Kansas Hospitals Achieve HIIN Milestone Success**

The Kansas Hospital Association congratulates Kansas hospitals who recently achieved Milestone 15 in the Kansas Hospital Improvement Innovation Network. More than 80 percent of the 111 hospitals participating in the Kansas HIIN through the Kansas Healthcare Collaborative met criteria for timely and complete data submission by Dec. 23. A majority of hospitals achieved 100 percent data submission, significantly above the 80 percent threshold. Preliminary analysis indicates more than half of participating hospitals are currently achieving HIIN measure performance goals in more than 70 percent of their applicable patient safety focus areas. KHA recognizes the hard work of our Kansas hospitals and appreciates the support provided by KHC to assist hospitals with meeting HIIN goals. The final Kansas HIIN Milestone date is March 16, 2020. KHA and KHC are planning to recognize hospitals for their HIIN achievements following the final Milestone. For questions or more information, contact KHC.

--Karen Braman

**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 November:

- Sandrea "Sandi" Wright, chief executive officer, Ashland Health Center, Ashland;
- Brian Lawrence, chief executive officer, Coffeyville Regional Medical Center, Coffeyville;
- Bill May, interim chief executive officer, Hillsboro Community Hospital, Hillsboro (Mike Rooker starts as chief executive officer on Jan. 20);
- Janell Goodno, chief executive officer, Kiowa District Healthcare, Kiowa;
- David Hofmeister, EdD, MA, chief executive officer (no longer acting administrator), Kearny County Hospital, Lakin;
- William Ermann, president and chief executive officer, Southwest Medical Center, Liberal, left effective Jan. 6 (new leader to be announced);
- Tawnya Seitz, chief financial officer/corporate compliance officer, Lincoln County Hospital, Lincoln (receiving chief executive officer mailings during the interim);
- Dan McCormick, president and chief executive officer, Valley Hope Association, Norton; and
- Joel Phelps, chief executive officer, Salina Regional Health Center, Salina.
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. A username and password is 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

Federal Focus

New Resources Now Available on the QPP Resource Library
The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services has posted several new Quality Payment Program materials to the QPP Resource Library. The new resources include the QPP access user guide and MIPS 2020 performance period resources.

CMS Releases 2018 Quality Payment Program Performance Data
The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has released the 2018 Quality Performance Program performance data. For more information, see CMS' blog post or the 2018 QPP performance infographic.

CMS Awards Funding to Combat Opioid Misuse
To combat opioid misuse among expectant mothers and improve care for children impacted by the crisis, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services announced 10 states selected to receive funding under the Maternal Opioid Misuse Model and issued eight cooperative agreements for the Integrated Care for Kids Model. The overall goals of funding are to improve quality of care, increase access to treatment based on state-specific needs, and reduce expenditures for mothers and infants. Additional details about the models and a press release is available online.

FDA Finalizes Enforcement Policy on Unauthorized Flavored Cartridge-Based E-Cigarettes
The U.S. Food and Drug Administration issued a policy last week that prioritized enforcement against certain unauthorized flavored e-cigarette products that appeal to youth, which included fruit and mint flavors. Two of these key studies informing the new enforcement policy are the 2019 National Youth Tobacco Survey and the 2019 Monitoring the Future Survey.

Additional resources include the FDA's Youth Tobacco Prevention Plan and the Surgeon General's Advisory on E-cigarette Use Among Youth.

CMS Reminds Hospitals of Third Quarter 2019 Submission Deadlines
The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services released the inpatient and outpatient reporting checklists related to submission deadlines of third quarter 2019 data (July 1 through Sept. 30, 2019) for the Inpatient and Outpatient Quality Reporting programs.

- Saturday, Feb. 1 — outpatient clinical data
- Monday, Feb. 3 — inpatient population and sampling counts for chart-abstracted measures
- Tuesday, Feb. 18 — clinical data for inpatient chart-abstracted measures; healthcare-associated infection data (submitted to the National Healthcare Safety Network); and PC-01 elective delivery (clinical web-based measure)
CMS Releases Abstraction Paper Tools
The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services released topic-specific documents pertaining to universal (alphabetical) abstraction and the CMS Abstraction and Reporting Tool. The documents are available on QualityNet and are effective for discharges dated Jan. 1 through June 30, 2020. Separate documents are provided for the following:

- Universal (alphabetical) abstraction paper tools, where the data elements are arranged in alphabetical order rather than tool-specific order
- CART abstraction paper tools, where the data elements are arranged in CART order

CMS Releases IPFQR Program Manual Version 5.1
The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services released Inpatient Psychiatric Facility Quality Reporting Program manual version 5.1. Effective Jan. 1, the manual provides a comprehensive overview of the IPFQR program and measure specifications for data to be reported to CMS in calendar year 2021. The manual and associated release notes are located on the IPFQR Program Resources and Tools page of the Quality Reporting Center.