President’s Perspective – KHA Announces New President and CEO
By now, you have seen the member memo we sent (and perhaps the recent press release) announcing that the KHA Board of Directors has selected Chad Austin to fill the position of president and CEO for the Kansas Hospital Association upon my retirement in September. I hope you will indulge me this week while I take a minute and add my congratulations.

Many of you already know Chad well, as he has essentially devoted his entire professional life to this organization. He began working at KHA in 1999, and in the intervening 20 years has held responsibilities for managing many aspects of the association's operations including the association's data-related activities, rural health and Critical Access Hospital issues, as well as the oversight of the Kansas Rural Health Options Project. Most recently, he has been in charge of KHA's advocacy efforts on both the state and federal level. As you well know, he has done a terrific job and is tremendously respected by policy makers on both sides of the political aisle.

All those factors will benefit Chad in his role as KHA president and CEO. But perhaps more important than any of these qualities is Chad's appreciation for KHA members and the challenges they face. As we discuss policy matters in our office, Chad's foremost question is always "How does this affect our members and the people they serve?" His respect for Kansas hospital leaders and health care providers is second to none.

Needless to say, I am very proud of the work that Chad has done for Kansas hospitals over the years. I am also proud that the KHA Board took its governance responsibilities very seriously and conducted an extensive evaluation and selection process.

Chad would be the first person to say he is only one member of a KHA staff team made up of top-notch people and professionals. And he would be correct, of course. He also would be the first to say that we have an important legislation session before us right now and a lot of work to do before September.

Certainly, the 2020 legislative session is upon us, and passing legislation is never as easy as it could (or should) be. So, while that will continue to be our focus, today is a good time to pause and say congratulations to Chad.

--Tom Bell

Corporate Compliance Workshop – Feb. 13
Plan to attend the Corporate Compliance Workshop on Thursday, Feb.13, at the J.O. Sundstrom Conference Center in Lindsborg. This course on corporate compliance will build on basic principles and advance the knowledge of corporate compliance officers.
This workshop is designed for compliance officers, hospital attorneys, senior-level administrators, risk and quality managers, clinical management, and others interested in corporate compliance issues.

Please contact the KHA Education Department at (785) 233-7436, if you have any questions. --Hayley Finch-Genschorck

Register Now for the 2020 Critical Issues Summit – Feb. 27-28

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. Session topics will include the following:

- The Challenges of Hospital Finance
- The Board’s Role in Improving Health Care Quality and Safety
- The Age of Consumerism: Seeing Health Care through Outsider’s Eyes
- Strategic Planning in Uncertain Times
- Panel Discussion: The Future of Rural Kansas

The summit will be at the Wichita Marriott. A block of rooms has been reserved for the nights of Feb. 26 and 27 at the rate of $112, plus tax. The room block is available until Wednesday, Feb. 5. After that, reservations will be taken on a space-available basis. To make your reservation and receive the special rate, call (316) 651-0333 and ask for the Kansas Hospital Association room block.

Please contact the KHA Education Department at (785) 233-7436, if you have any questions. --Hayley Finch-Genschorck

Hotel Deadline Approaching for the Infection Prevention Conference – March 5-6

The 2019 Infection Prevention Conference will prepare infection preventionists by providing resources for assessing, reporting and providing stewardship in the realm of infection prevention in multiple settings. The course is designed for experienced professionals, as well as those new to the specialty.

This seminar will be at the DoubleTree by Hilton Wichita Airport. A block of rooms has been reserved for the nights of March 4 and 5 at the rate of $124, plus tax. The room block will be available until Monday, Feb. 3. After that, reservations will be taken on a space-available basis. Call (316) 945-5272 and ask for the Kansas Hospital Association room block to receive the special rate.

Please contact the KHA Education Department at (785) 233-7436, if you have any questions. --Hayley Finch-Genschorck
KHA Joins AHA Amicus Brief
This week, the Kansas Hospital Association joined 32 other state hospital associations as a party to an amicus "friend of the court" brief urging the United States Supreme Court to quickly review an appeals court decision, which held the Affordable Care Act's individual mandate unconstitutional. Language in the brief states, "Unless the court quickly resolves whether the individual mandate is constitutional and severable from the rest of the law, the valuable reforms designed to improve health care and lower cost will hang in limbo for several years. A delayed resolution may force hospitals to postpone or abandon the adoption of innovative models, such as Accountable Care Organizations, that are designed to improve health care and lower costs...Prompt and final resolution of these questions is necessary to settle how hospitals and health systems will continue to deliver care."

KHA will keep you informed of the progress of this case as it unfolds.
--Deborah Stern

Quality Focus Continues, Summit on Quality Change in 2020
The Kansas Hospital Association and Kansas Healthcare Collaborative continue our steadfast focus on quality and patient safety – and assisting KHA member hospitals with education and resources focused on performance improvement. KHC has decided to not offer the 2020 Summit on Quality due to timelines for Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services quality improvement contracts, but will be well positioned to plan future educational opportunities once those timelines are clear. KHC will continue as planned to recognize and reward exemplary quality improvement work in Kansas through KHC's Leadership in Quality Awards—now in its sixth year, thanks to the generous support of the KAMMCO Foundation. For more information, visit KHC's website.
--Karen Braman

New Medicare Outpatient Observation Notice
Hospitals, including Critical Access Hospitals, are required to provide a Medicare Outpatient Observation Notice to Medicare beneficiaries (including Medicare Advantage health plan enrollees) informing them they are outpatients receiving observation services and are not inpatients of a hospital. The Office of Management and Budget has recently renewed the Medicare Outpatient Observation Notice, CMS-10611. The MOON is unchanged from its current version and only the expiration date is different on this renewed notice. Hospitals are required to use the new MOON beginning April 1, 2020. Both the previous and new versions of the notice are acceptable for use through March 31, 2020.

The notice, including Spanish versions, are accessible using this link. Additional information regarding the MOON is available on the CMS website. Full instructions regarding hospital requirements are available in Section 400, of Chapter 30 of the CMS Claims Processing Manual.
--Tish Hollingsworth
CMS January Refresh of Hospital Compare
The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services has completed a January refresh of Hospital Compare, indicating it plans to propose significant methodology changes to star ratings that could take effect as early as 2021. For more information, please see the AHA Advisory, including talking points, which may be helpful to you and your team if questions are received by the media or others about your hospital's performance. KHA is monitoring this issue. Once CMS releases their proposed changes, KHA will gather input from members to include in a response to CMS and work with AHA to advocate on your behalf.
--Karen Braman

Cardinal Health Initiates Product Recall of Surgical Gowns Due to Quality Issue
Cardinal Health notified customers Jan. 21 of an urgent medical device recall related to specific production lots of single-sterile and bulk non-sterile Cardinal Non-Reinforced Surgical Gowns, Cardinal Fabric-Reinforced Surgical Gowns and RoyalSilk Non-Reinforced Surgical Gowns. Some of the affected gowns were manufactured at locations that did not maintain proper environmental conditions as required by law, and as a result, Cardinal cannot provide assurances that identified item codes and lot numbers were properly sterilized. The distribution of affected gowns occurred between Sept. 1, 2018, and Jan. 10, 2020. Affected hospitals should identify and segregate impacted lots. Cardinal Health Presource Kits are not part of this recall, but will be subject to separate field action at a later date, the company said. Kits containing affected gowns should remain segregated from other supplies and not used.

The Kansas Hospital Association is monitoring this issue and working closely with the American Hospital Association, which is in communication with Cardinal and federal officials, including the Food and Drug Administration. Please let KHA know if your hospital is impacted. Additionally, hospitals and health systems can express concerns or provide feedback to FDA by emailing deviceshortages@fda.hhs.gov. For more information, see the AHA Quality Advisory on this issue.
--Karen Braman

National One Health Awareness Month
January 2020 is One Health Awareness Month – designated as such when on Dec. 19, 2019, the U.S. Senate unanimously passed the bipartisan Senate Resolution 462, introduced by Senators Dianne Feinstein (Democrat-California) and Martha McSally (Republican-Arizona). The "One Health" designation brings attention to the fact that the health of humans, animals and our environment are all interconnected. For several years, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment's Kansas Healthcare Acquired Infection / Antimicrobial Resistance Advisory Group, and many key partners, including the Kansas Hospital Association, have been working to approach HAI/AR work from a One Health perspective by focusing on bringing together representatives from all areas of One Health to discuss issues, choose common goals and create resources for all areas of health care. Visit the Kansas HAI/AR Advisory Group website for more information and resources.
--Karen Braman
Federal Focus
HHS Guide for Clinicians on the Appropriate Dosage Reduction or Discontinuation of Long-Term Opioid Analgesics Webinar
The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity will host a webinar at 1 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 30, 2020. Speakers will discuss the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' guide on the appropriate dosage reduction or discontinuation of long-term opioid analgesics. Additionally, speakers will discuss the advice the HHS guide provides to clinicians who are contemplating or initiating a reduction in opioid dosage or discontinuation of long-term opioid therapy for a patient with chronic pain. Click here for more information.

CDC Reports First U.S. Case of Coronavirus from China
This week, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention confirmed confirmed the first case of 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) in the U.S., specifically in the state of Washington. The patient returned on Jan. 15 from Wuhan, China, where an outbreak of pneumonia caused by this novel coronavirus has been ongoing since December 2019. The patient sought care and was treated at a medical facility in Washington.

The CDC is closely monitoring the outbreak in China. Additional information and guidance for health care professionals is available on its website, as well as criteria to guide the evaluation of patients under investigation for 2019-nCoV.

Health care providers should immediately notify infection control personnel at their health care facility, as well as their local or state health department in the event of a PUI for 2019-nCoV.

Supreme Court Declines to Expedite Affordable Care Act Appeal
The Supreme Court rejected efforts by the U.S. House of Representatives and several states to fast track the appeal of the ruling by the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals invalidating the individual mandate under the Affordable Care Act. The decision makes it unlikely the court will address the issue until after the presidential election.

FDA Approves Ebola Vaccine
The U.S. Food and Drug Administration recently approved the use of Ervebo, a vaccine for the prevention of Ebola virus disease in individuals 18 years and older. The vaccine is administered as a single-dose injection and is a live, attenuated vaccine that has been genetically engineered to contain a protein from the Zaire ebolavirus. The Democratic Republic of the Congo currently is experiencing the world’s second largest EVD outbreak. While the risk of EVD in the U.S. remains low, the development of this vaccine is an important milestone and component of meaningful public health preparedness and response.

CMS Announces Education Sessions
The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services announced the following outreach and education sessions for hospitals participating in the Inpatient Quality Reporting Program or Inpatient Psychiatric Facility Quality Reporting Program.

- 1 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 29 — Hospital IQR Program FY 2022 Chart-Abstracted Validation Overview for Randomly Selected Hospitals
- 1 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 30 — IPFQR Program Manual Version 5.1 and Updated Paper Tools Review
Registration is required and available at the respective links.

**AHA Releases Health Care Workforce Report**
The American Hospital Association published details and insights into health care workforce in their recent report, *Health Care Talent Scan*. With 2.3 million new health care workers needed by 2025, the challenges are immense. This report provides details on how those workforce issues are exacerbated by the shifting health care landscape, increasing use of technology and changing consumer demands.

**MedPAC Recommends Payment Changes for FY 2021**
The Medicare Payment Advisory Commission is recommending that 2021 Medicare payments to hospitals should increase by 3.3 percent. MedPAC continues to back a proposal to replace the existing quality programs by splitting the payment update into a 2 percent overall rate increase and tying 1.3 percent to enacting a Hospital Value Incentive Program. MedPAC remains concerned that hospitals are operating with negative Medicare margins. In 2018, Medicare margins fell to a negative 9.3 percent, and MedPAC expects margins to improve to a negative 8 percent for 2020.

**CMS Issues CLIA Memo**
The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services issued a memo on the applicability of proficiency testing referral to cytology/histopathology slide staining by a separate entity. CMS clarified that staining of cytology/histopathology slides is not considered a part of examination, and those entities that only engage in these preparatory steps are not considered laboratories. Therefore, they are not subject to Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments, and CMS would not consider it a proficiency testing referral.

**OMB Releases Revised Notification Forms**
The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services will require hospitals to use newly revised forms, including "Important Message from Medicare" and "Detailed Notice of Discharge," beginning Wednesday, April 1. The forms recently were revised by the Office of Management and Budget. The Important Message from Medicare form number has changed to CMS-10065. The Detailed Notice of Discharge form number remains CMS-10066. Both forms can be accessed in English or Spanish.

**MLN Connects Provider eNews Available**
Updates to *MLN Connects Provider eNews* were issued by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. *eNews* includes information about national provider calls, meetings, events, announcements and other MLN educational product updates. The latest issue provides updates and summaries of the following:

- Quality Payment Program
  - Merit-based Incentive Payment System 2020 payment adjustments
  - New MIPS participation framework for 2021 performance period
- Comparative Billing Reports: Access via CBR portal
- CMS reduces psychiatric hospital burden with new survey process

**CDC COCA Hosts Call on Current Influenza Season**
The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity will host a call at 1 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 28, to discuss the current 2019-2020 influenza season, specifically addressing clinical issues and pertinent CDC recommendations.