President's Perspective – MHA Report Examines Medicaid Expansion

Last week, our friends at the Missouri Hospital Association released a report on "Medicaid Expansion in Missouri—Economic Implications for Missouri and Interviews Reflecting Arkansas, Indiana and Ohio Experiences."

This report is obviously very timely for the state of Missouri, which is contemplating a ballot initiative regarding Medicaid expansion this year. But it is also important and timely for any state still considering expansion.

To prepare this report, Health Management Associates conducted a targeted analysis of the economic impact of an Affordable Care Act Medicaid Expansion in Missouri, with an emphasis on the effects on the state budget. HMA examined the literature on states' experience with Medicaid expansions and took a deeper look at three largely Republican states that had robust discussions about the potential impact of an expansion prior to its implementation — Ohio, Indiana and Arkansas.

The Missouri report is different from some others you may have seen in that HMA interviewed leaders with first-hand experience in those states and asked them to reflect upon what did and did not work in their state. Here are some of the study's general findings:

- **No State Has Reversed Its Expansion Decision.** Despite significant initial concerns in the states interviewed for this report, as well as other Expansion states, no state has reversed its decision to adopt Medicaid expansion in the more than six years since this program was first authorized on a national scale.
- **Arkansas, Indiana and Ohio Expansion Costs Have Been Controlled.** Each state meticulously worked to customize its program to keep costs under control and capture state dollars that were then used to fund the state's share of expansion.
- **Expansion Benefits the Mental Health, Substance Use Disorders, and Incarcerated Populations.** Large state-only outlays could be used to draw down a 90 percent federal match. Not only are matching funds available for populations currently served with state-only outlays, funding opportunities expand for opioid and addiction prevention programs. Federal money also becomes available to help combat recidivism for incarcerated populations.
- **State Sales Tax Will Grow.** Missouri could expect an increase in sales taxes as a result of the Medicaid expansion as other states have experienced.
- **Gains in Employment Are Expected.** Experience from other expansion states demonstrates that expansion has had a positive impact on people's ability to seek work, obtain jobs and engage in volunteer work.
• **The Health Care Infrastructure Will Be Enhanced.** Improvements in the health care delivery system and quality of care are likely to occur. A reduction in uncompensated care can be expected as well.

These kinds of findings are not necessarily new—in fact they mirror what Gov. Laura Kelly's Medicaid Expansion Task Force found as it looked at other state experiences. But the new report from Missouri is nevertheless significant for Kansas. Despite the compromise worked out between Gov. Kelly and Sen. Jim Denning, political opposition remains. Having a report from a neighboring state that uses firsthand interviews will be very helpful in overcoming that opposition.

Thanks, and best of luck to our partners at the Missouri Hospital Association.

--Tom Bell

**There's Still Time to Register for the CAH Financial Best Practices Workshop – Feb. 18**

Join Kansas Hospital Association staff on Tuesday, Feb. 18, for the Critical Access Hospital Financial Best Practices Workshop at the Hilton Garden Inn in Salina.

During this workshop, Ralph Llewellyn and Jessica Aasen of Eide Bailly will share best practice strategies in several areas that will assist facilities to improve their financial indicator performance for multiple indicators. The following topics will be addressed:

- Revenue cycle best practices;
- Staffing/productivity best practices;
- Revenue stream best practices; and
- Provider strategies.

This in-person workshop, part of the Kansas Financial Indicator Project for Kansas CAHs, is sponsored by the Kansas FLEX program. Webinars were held in November and December 2019. During these webinars, the top financial indicators recommended for monitoring and benchmarks for each indicator were shared. The graphic presentation of this information highlighted the differences in performance levels amongst providers, as well as the fact that some providers are able to out-perform the benchmarks.

Please contact Susan Cunningham at (785) 233-7436, if you have any questions.

--Jennifer Findley

**Recognize Your Trustees on Feb 27-28**

The Kansas Hospital Association’s Trustee Recognition and Accountability Program annually recognizes trustees at the Critical Issues Summit for the standards of excellence they uphold, governance best practices they adhere to, and the education in which they have invested. We encourage you to complete a Trustee Accountability and Recognition Program form to recognize the trustees in your hospital that:
• Understand and embrace the need for governance accountability;
• Govern according to a standard of excellence;
• Are willing to formally recognize their adherence to governance best practices;
• Embrace community accountability; and
• Structure their community benefit and outreach programs to meet identified community needs.

Completed forms must be returned to the attention of Cindy Samuelson, KHA, by Feb. 21. Email csamuelson@kha-net.org or fax forms to (785) 233-6955.

--Cindy Samuelson

Osborne County Memorial Hospital Dramatically Reduces Patient Falls

Osborne County Memorial Hospital is a 25-bed hospital located in northcentral Kansas. In 2018, the hospital experienced 11 falls on the nursing floor, causing hospital leadership to seek solutions to reduce falls by a minimum of 30 percent over the next year. As part of the Kansas Healthcare Collaborative "Falls Sprint," the hospital's improvement team tested a variety of interventions that exceeded their goals. Read more about Osborne's successful efforts at www.KHConline.org/osborne.

KHC is currently recruiting success stories from HIIN hospitals to feature. Contact KHC Program Director Michele Clark for the easy-to-complete template at (785) 235-0763.

--Karen Braman

The 2020 KHA Compensation and Benefits Survey through Gallagher Due Feb. 14

The Kansas Hospital Association is now partnering with Gallagher for all compensation and benefits data. Gallagher emailed survey invitations to KHA membership in January. Survey responses are due Feb. 14. If you did not receive your organization’s invitation, please contact Dee Lewis, KHA, at (785) 233-7436.

To facilitate the transition, Gallagher provided a walkthrough of the participation process. A recording of the webinar is available here. Additional information regarding the survey is available on the KHA website. Participation in the compensation and benefits survey is free to KHA membership. Only participating members have access to the results.

--Sally Othmer
Cardinal Health Surgical Gown Issue Update
The American Hospital Association hosted a call Feb. 5 with Cardinal Health leaders to update AHA members on Cardinal Health’s surgical gown issue. Cardinal Health has established a public website to keep customers up-to-date and informed of actions the company is taking. During the call, Cardinal Health announced the following:

- Customers should have already received their field actions notice package via FedEx. If they did not, they can contact their Cardinal Health sales representative or email GMB-CardinalSurgicalGownRecall@cardinalhealth.com.
- Cardinal Health's microsite remains updated with information related to this issue.

Cardinal Health stated they have engaged a third-party to strengthen their supplier program processes and are working in alignment with the Food and Drug Administration. Regarding supply, Cardinal Health stated with respect to procedure packs, they have begun shipping replacement packs to clients, and clients should begin experiencing relief. Cardinal Health estimated full replenishment to occur by March.

--Karen Braman

KHHRA and KAHCE Offer Health Care Scholarships
The Kansas Healthcare Human Resources Association and Kansas Association of Health Care Executives offer scholarships for a new health care degree or health care license in the following categories:

- **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. Sample degrees include: human resources or another degree with a concentration in human resources – sponsored by the Kansas Healthcare Human Resources Association.

Additional categories for Kansas Education and Research Foundation scholarships include:

- **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.

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 the scholarship programs.
All applications are entered through Reviewer. 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

**Funding Opportunity - Kansas Overdose Data to Action Program**

The Kansas Healthcare Collaborative, in partnership with Kansas Department of Health and Environment, is soliciting applications from hospitals interested in participating in a project to identify provider needs related to opioid use and pain management and in implementing evidence-based interventions including opioid overdose protocols, policies and procedures. The interventions will engage emergency department staff and community partners to promote referrals to evidence-based treatment and community resources.

Applications are due to KHC by March 6, 2020, with notification of awards by March 20, 2020. KHC expects to award funding to two projects.

--Karen Braman

**KAHCC Emerald Awards and Spring Meeting Dates**

Save the date for the 2020 Kansas Association of Health Care Communicators Annual Spring Conference, April 23-24 in Lawrence. The KAHCC conference welcomes health care professionals in the areas of marketing, communications, public relations, recruitment, foundation, business development, and leadership to learn about trends and best practices while engaging in networking opportunities.

The spring conference will be held in conjunction with the KAHCC Emerald Awards. These awards recognize the work in categories such as communications, events, advertising, writing, and public relations. Work entered can be created by an individual, team or a vendor/agency supported project. The Call for Entries is now available. The deadline to submit work for the KAHCC Emerald Awards is March 6.

KAHCC is currently accepting membership applications for 2020. Membership may be renewed along with conference registration and/or Emerald Awards entry. For more information, visit www.kahcc.org or contact Cindy Samuelson or Jan Fenwick at (785) 233-7436.

--Cindy Samuelson

**HIDI Transition to New Data Submission Platform**

The Kansas Hospital Association’s partner in patient discharge data collection, the Hospital Industry Data Institute, is releasing a new, upgraded version of their data submission and collection platform. Beginning this week, all data submitters began transitioning to the new platform, HIDInet V3. The new platform has a different URL from the current site, and each user will receive an email notification from HIDI with log in credentials to the new site.

A recording of the Jan. 24 KHA HIDI Data Submission Review webinar is available on KHA’s website. For questions regarding access to the new data submission site, please contact Dee Lewis at (785) 233-7436.

--Sally Othmer
Rural Community Action Guide: Building Stronger, Healthy Drug-Free Rural Communities
The Federal Administration released a new tool to assist rural community leaders in building an effective local response to the crisis of addiction. The Rural Community Action Guide is intended to arm rural leaders with information they can put into immediate action to address addiction in rural areas. It provides background information, recommended action steps, and promising practices to help manage the impact of substance use disorder on local communities and help persons with the disease of addiction.
--Karen Braman

Position Available
Director of Radiology (Full-time)
St. Luke Hospital and Living Center
535 S. Freeborn
Marion, KS 66861
Contact: Sharon Zogelman, human resources director
Phone: (620) 382-2177
Fax: (620) 382-9104
Email: sharon.zogelman@slhmarion.org
Website: www.slhmarion.org/

The director of radiology provides management for a community's radiology services, ensuring delivery of radiology technical operations and local administrative functions. The successful candidate will utilize professional judgment, knowledge and leadership to develop new methods, educate others, improve systems, and demonstrate responsibility for administrative duties in radiology. This person will collaborate with all members of the local health care team to provide quality service to our customers and proactively support the St. Luke Hospital mission, vision and values. On-call duty is required.

If you have a management position available in your organization that you would like posted in Current Report, email the information to Jan Fenwick. Also, don't forget to check out www.kshealthjobs.net for other health care openings in Kansas.
--Jan Fenwick

Federal Focus
New Federal Poverty Guidelines
The U.S. Department of Health & Human Services released new guidelines used to determine financial eligibility for certain federal programs. Programs using the guidelines include Head Start, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, the National School Lunch Program, the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, and the Children's Health Insurance Program.
Webinar on Methamphetamine Use Disorder: Getting Up to Speed on Trends and Treatments
The Mid-America ATTC is promoting an upcoming webinar from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. on Feb. 25. The Health and Human Services Region VII Mid-America Addiction Technology Transfer Center Network is a collaboration between Truman Medical Centers Behavioral Health and the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Nursing and Health Studies. Mid-America ATTC serves the states of Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska. Registration is required.

Trump Delivers State of the Union Address
On Feb. 4, President Donald Trump delivered his 2020 State of the Union speech. He said his priorities include "lowering the cost of health care and prescription drugs, and to protect patients with preexisting conditions." He supported more funding for HIV and childhood cancer initiatives. He favors "requiring drug companies, insurance companies and hospitals to disclose real prices to foster competition and bring costs way down." Discussing the consequences of mass illegal immigration, he mentioned "hospitals so crowded you can't get in."

eCQM Reporting Deadline Approaches
The deadline for hospitals participating in the Hospital Inpatient Quality Reporting and/or Promoting Interoperability Programs to submit data to meet calendar year 2019 electronic clinical quality measure reporting requirements is Monday, March 2. Details regarding the submission process can be found on the CMS website.

A webinar to address questions regarding CY 2019 eCQM reporting is scheduled at 1 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 11. Additional details and registration information is available on the Quality Reporting Center.

GAO Assesses Effect of Medicaid Payment on SUD Treatment
The federal Government Accountability Office issued a report and summary examining the effects of Medicaid payment changes on the availability of substance use disorder treatment. The report was mandated by federal law.

CMS Releases Fact Sheet on FY 2020 HAC Reduction Program
The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services released a fiscal year 2020 fact sheet about the Hospital-Acquired Condition Reduction Program. The fact sheet includes an overview, measures, scoring methodology and contacts with additional resources. For the FY 2020 HAC program, the cutoff for the 75th percentile of total HAC scores is 0.3306.

CMS Announces Education Session
A webinar for hospitals participating in the Hospital Value-Based Purchasing, Hospital-Acquired Condition Reduction and Hospital Readmissions Reductions Programs is scheduled at 1 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 12. Registration is required for the presentation, which will provide an overview of publicly reported data for the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services inpatient hospital pay-for-performance programs.
Trump Administration Releases Medicaid Block Grant Guidance
Last week, the Trump administration announced guidelines for states wishing to accept a portion of its federal Medicaid funding in the form of a capped grant. CMS calls the initiative Healthy Adult Opportunity. The CMS guidance explains how states can request a Section 1115 waiver to receive Medicaid funding for nondisabled adults under age 65 that are below 133 percent of the federal poverty level in the form of either a lump-sum block grant or a capped amount per enrolled participant. The capped federal funding is offered with the promise of increased flexibility for the states to incorporate features (like premiums, co-payments, work requirements, benefit limitations, etc.) that typically would not be allowed under the traditional Medicaid program. Participating states will be required to report 25 quality measures on rates of flu vaccination; screening for depression and follow-up care; prenatal and postpartum care; and effective treatment of high blood pressure, diabetes and mental illness. Medicaid funding for children, disabled persons, elders and pregnant women is excluded from the option.

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:

- Outpatient Prospective Payment System Pricer file: January 2020
- Hospice Care: Safeguards for Medicare patients
- CMS expands coverage of Next Generation Sequencing as a diagnostic tool for patients with breast and ovarian cancer

CMS Updates Hospital Compare January 2020 Data
The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services updated data for quality reporting programs, measures and measure groups on Hospital Compare and Data.Medicare.gov. CMS also announced discontinued reporting on Hospital Compare for several measures. Additional details are available.