



KHA's Current Report
April 29, 2022

President's Perspective – AHA Annual Meeting

This week, hospital and health system leaders from across the nation converged in Washington, DC, to attend the 2022 American Hospital Association Annual Membership Meeting. Attendees were eager for the opportunity to reconnect with their colleagues and form new relationships after the conferences were canceled in 2020 and 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. AHA assembled an outstanding speaker line-up that included industry leaders, elected officials and political pundits.

AHA set the tone during the opening ceremony with the Northwell Health Nurse Choir. These nurses from New York made the 2021 finale of America's Got Talent; all were touched by their performance. During the three days of meetings, sessions on resilience, equity and rural issues were insightful to our Kansas delegation. Forums on leadership and workforce provided valuable takeaways. We appreciated the opportunity to hear from U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Administrator Chiquita Brooks-LaSure, U.S. Surgeon General Vivek Murthy, MD, former CIA Director and Secretary of Defense Robert Gates and the AHA Award of Honor Recipient Anthony Fauci, MD. AHA also recognized their past chairs, (who had not received traditional honors due to COVID-19) including Melinda (Mindy) Estes, MD, from Saint Luke's Health System in Kansas City.

Since the AHA Annual Meeting is in Washington, DC, it allows hospital leaders to spend time on Capitol Hill advocating to their elected officials. We took advantage of the opportunity and had meetings with each of our senators and representatives, emphasizing the need to eliminate Medicare sequestration, protecting the integrity of the 340B Drug Discount Program, and extending essential urban and rural programs that ensure access to care. We also had the opportunity to discuss the importance of strengthening the health care workforce. While the health care workforce has shown tremendous compassion, courage and resiliency over the past two years, the difficulties created by the COVID-19 pandemic on the health care industry have been immense. The recovery and restoration of the health care workforce will require much assistance and extensive resources, including financial support. We highlighted several opportunities with our congressional delegation to assist in this effort, including supporting initiatives to fund health care scholarships, enacting legislation to protect health care workers from workplace violence, as well as developing resources to promote caregiver well-being and resiliency.

We would like to thank the Kansas Hospital Association members who were able to join us this week:

- Molly Haase, AdventHealth, Shawnee Mission;
- Nicole Milo, Centura Health, Garden City and Ulysses;
- Paul Kempinski and Dallas Polen, Children's Mercy Hospital Kansas, Overland Park;
- George Stover, Hospital District #1 of Rice County, Lyons;
- Larry Van Der Wege, Lindsborg Community Hospital, Lindsborg;
- Kiley Floyd, Niki Buesing and Courtney Schmelzle, Nemaha Valley Community Hospital, Seneca;
- Bobby Olm-Shipman and Tim Van Zandt, Saint Luke's South Hospital, Overland Park;
- Allen Van Driel, Smith County Memorial Hospital, Smith Center; and
- Sherri Vaughn, MD, and Kenny Wilk, The University of Kansas Health System, Kansas City.

--Chad Austin

Patient Satisfaction: Making a Difference – May 26

As we settle back into a normal routine of patient care following the COVID-19 surge, we need to re-focus on patient satisfaction. Research shows delivering patient-friendly care has a positive impact on staff engagement. What are hospitals doing to improve the patient experience? This webinar focuses on the relationship between the activities in your hospital that impact the patient experience and how your facility is scored on patient satisfaction. This [Quality Corner Call](#) features Susan Runyan, Healthworks consultant, presenting some of the latest patient experience research:

- Demonstrating how dietary services can delight patients
- Showing environmental service's influence on quality
- Highlighting care transition's role in patient satisfaction

This is an opportunity to learn new ideas, as well as share some activities that work at your organization around improving patient experience with Kansas hospitals.



--Jennifer Findley

Kansas State Board of Nursing Update on APRN Legislation

The Kansas State Board of Nursing [April 21 Update](#) provides an overview of [Senate Substitute for House Bill 2279](#), which will bring some changes to APRN practice. KSBN's update outlines the changes and the effective dates. The Kansas Hospital Association is receiving questions and is in the process of reviewing the legislation with outside counsel for regulatory impacts.

--Karen Braman

Attention CEOs – KHA Leadership Institute Accepting Nominations for Summer 2022

The Kansas Hospital Association is currently accepting nominations for the 2022 KHA Leadership Institute scheduled for June, July, August and September. This popular KHA program allows hospital employees who display outstanding leadership abilities to be recognized and receive additional leadership training to enhance their skills. The class is expected to fill quickly, so you are encouraged to return enrollment materials soon.

Participation is limited to 30 students to allow for networking and group interaction. Enrollment will be taken on a first-come, first-served basis. Initially, one student per hospital will be admitted. If space allows, additional students will be admitted. Nomination by the hospital CEO is a prerequisite (the nomination questionnaire is included in the brochure). Payment must be received to secure the applicant's enrollment.



Questions? Contact the [KHA Education Department](#) at (785) 233-7436.

--Hayley Finch-Genschorck

CMS Releases Proposed FY 2023 Medicare IPPS and LTCH Payment and Policy Updates

(April 29, 2022) – The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services [released](#) the proposed payment and policy [updates](#) for the federal fiscal year 2023 Medicare acute inpatient and long-term care hospital prospective payment systems. KHA created a [summary](#) to highlight these details. CMS will accept comments through June 17.

--Shannan Flach

K-TRACS Provider Toolkits Available

K-TRACS, Kansas' prescription drug monitoring program, has developed a [K-TRACS Provider Toolkit](#) to assist prescribers and pharmacists with educating patients about the use of K-TRACS to promote patient safety and prevent prescription drug misuse, abuse and diversion. The toolkit is customizable — providers may choose the materials that work best for your facility, your practice and your patients. All materials in the toolkit are free and can be downloaded and used as desired. Co-branding can also be requested. The toolkit includes patient education materials about medication safety, opioid safety and stimulant safety. Many of the materials are available in English and Spanish.

--Karen Braman

RWJF Releases 2022 County Health Rankings

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute released their annual [2022 County Health Rankings](#). The [national findings report](#) highlights important areas to advancing a just recovery for economic security and health, as well as seven [new measures](#) that support local data to action as it relates to income, education, family and social support, and health outcomes. To support state and local health improvement efforts, the Kansas Health Institute has produced [individual county profiles](#) that include a five-year comparison of County Health Rankings data and measures with the greatest impact on the rankings in each county.

--Karen Braman

Remdesivir (Veklury) Approved for Use in Pediatric Patients Under 12 Years of Age with COVID-19

On April 25, the Food and Drug Administration [announced](#) it expanded the approval of the antiviral COVID-19 treatment, [remdesivir \(Veklury\)](#), to include pediatric patients 28 days of age and older weighing at least three kilograms (about seven pounds) with positive results of direct SARS-CoV-2 viral testing, who are hospitalized, or not hospitalized and have mild-to-moderate COVID-19 and are at high risk for progression to severe COVID-19, including hospitalization or death. The Food and Drug Administration's action makes remdesivir the first approved COVID-19 treatment for children under 12 years of age. As a result of the approval action, the FDA revoked the emergency use authorization for remdesivir that previously covered this pediatric population.

Until the FDA's latest approval expansion for remdesivir, it was only approved to treat certain adults and pediatric patients (12 years of age and older weighing at least 40 kilograms) with COVID-19.

--Karen Braman

Telehealth Best Practice Guides for Providers

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has created telehealth resources for health care providers including doctors, practitioners and hospital staff. The available [best practice guides](#) include:

- [Telehealth for behavioral health care](#)
- [Telehealth for HIV care](#)
- [Telehealth for maternal health services](#)
- [Telehealth for school-based services](#)

--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 March:

- Jeffrey Carrier, chief executive officer, Western Plains Medical Complex, Dodge City (also CEO at St. Catherine Hospital, Garden City, and Bob Wilson Memorial Hospital, Centura Health, Ulysses)
- Matt Tait, chief executive officer, Meadowbrook Rehabilitation Hospital, Gardner
- Jackie Feathers, chief executive officer, Kanza Mental Health and Guidance Center, Inc., Hiawatha
- Amber Williams, interim president and chief executive officer, Southwest Medical Center, Liberal
- Robert Mille, chief financial officer, Meade District Hospital/Artesian Valley Health System, Meade (receiving CEO mailings until new CEO announced)
- Lori Smith, chief financial officer, Wilson Medical Center, Neodesha (receiving CEO mailings until new CEO announced)
- Aimee Zimmerman, RN, BSN, MHA, chief executive officer, Logan County Health Services, Oakley
- Brian Howells, administrator, Wamego Health Center, Wamego.

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

Health Observances and Recognition Days for May Month-Long Observances

- Arthritis Awareness Month
- Asthma & Allergy Awareness Month (National)
- Better Hearing and Speech Month
- Celiac Disease Awareness Month (National)
- Critical Care Awareness and Recognition Month (National)
- Cystic Fibrosis Awareness Month
- Employee Health and Fitness Month (Global)
- Healthy Vision Month
- Hepatitis Awareness Month
- High Blood Pressure Education Month (National)
- Lupus Awareness Month
- Mental Health Month
- Nurses Month (National)

- Older Americans Month
- Osteoporosis Month (National)
- Physical Fitness and Sports Month (National)
- Preeclampsia Awareness Month
- Run a Mile Day(s) (National)
- Skin Cancer Prevention and Awareness Month
- Stroke Awareness Month (National)
- Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month (National)
- Workers Compensation Advocacy Awareness Month

Week-Long Observances:

- May 1-7
 - Children's Mental Health Awareness Week
 - Physical Education and Sport Week (National)
- May 2-8
 - North American Occupational Safety and Health Week
- May 3-7
 - Air Quality Awareness Week
- May 6-12
 - Nurses Week (National)
- May 8-14
 - Hospital Week (National)
 - Maternal Sepsis Week
 - Skilled Nursing Care Week (National)
 - Women's Health Week (National)
- May 9-15
 - Food Allergy Awareness Week
- May 9-15
 - Stuttering Awareness Week (National)

Recognition Days | Events:

- May 4
 - Asthma Day (World)
- May 5
 - Hand Hygiene Day (World)
- May 6
 - No Diet Day (International)
- May 7
 - Children's Mental Health Awareness Day
- May 8
 - Cornelia de Lange Syndrome Awareness (National)
 - Red Cross and Red Crescent Day (World)

- Student Nurses Day (National)
- May 11
 - School Nurse Day (National)
- May 12
 - Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Day
 - Nurses Day (International)
- May 18
 - AIDS Vaccine Day 2022 (World)
 - HIV Vaccine Awareness Day
- May 19
 - Asian and Pacific Islander HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (National)
- May 20
 - Autoimmune/Auto-inflammatory Arthritis Day (World)
- May 21
 - Don't Fry Day
- May 27
 - Senior Health & Fitness Day (National)
- May 31
 - No Tobacco Day (World)

Mark Your Calendar for National Hospital Week – May 8-14

National Hospital Week is an opportunity to highlight our hospitals, health systems and health care workers. Now, more than ever, this important week gives us all the opportunity to highlight the innovative ways they are supporting the needs of their community members during this pandemic. For more information, contact: Marie Johnson, American Hospital Association, (202) 626-2351, mjohnson@aha.org | #healthcareheroes #hospitalweek.

The Kansas Hospital Association is pleased to present you with the [2022 SHSMD Health Observances and Recognition Days Calendar](#). This publication is intended to provide our members with accurate and authoritative information about healthcare-related events. The calendar is published and copyrighted in cooperation with the Society for Healthcare Strategy and Market Development of the American Hospital Association. All rights are reserved. SHSMD members include health care strategy professionals involved in strategic planning, marketing, business development, digital engagement, communications and public relations. If you are interested in SHMD membership, [check them out online](#).

Special thanks to [Baldwin Publishing](#) and the [Kansas Health Service Corporation](#) for their sponsorship of the Health Observances Calendar. In an effort to go green and reduce paper waste, the calendar is only available on the KHA website; login is required.

--Jan Fenwick

Position Available
Chief Executive Officer
Meade District Hospital/Artesian Valley Health System
P.O. Box 820, 510 E. Carthage
Meade, KS 67864-0820
Contact: [Kelly Thornton](#), Director of Human Resources
Phone: (620) 873-2141, Ext. 7541
Fax: (620) 873-7669
Email: kthornton@avhealthsystem.com
Website: <https://avhealthsystem.com/>
Equal Opportunity Employer

Meade District Hospital, aka Artesian Valley Health System, is composed of the hospital and its five-member board of directors, approximately 175 staff members, Lone Tree Retirement Center, Meade Rural Health Clinic, Plains Rural Health Clinic, and Montezuma Rural Health Clinic. Meade, located 175 miles west of Wichita, has an outstanding school system and is an ideal location for hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities. The successful CEO candidate will demonstrate skills in leadership, financial management, staff development, team building, positive medical staff, board, employee and community relations, and have an understanding of Critical Access Hospital and RHC operations and finance. Applicants should be a creative visionary, an effective strategist that can manage innovation, be driven by honesty, integrity and the ability to motivate others to promote the philosophy, mission, vision, goals and values of the hospital. An extremely generous benefits package is offered, including vacation, sick time, family health insurance, wellness programs, pension plan and various voluntary insurance packages. Salary is commensurate with experience. To apply, send applications and resumes by May 6, 2022, to [Kelly Thornton](#).



If you have a management position available in your organization 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 and National News

CDC Issues Health Advisory Related to COVID-19 Treatments

The CDC issued a [Health Advisory](#) related to the availability and use of outpatient treatment for patients with mild to moderate COVID-19 who are at risk for severe outcomes of the disease. The alert also includes recommendations on treatments to not use for these patients. The CDC suggests providers should reference the NIH's [COVID-19 Treatment Guidelines](#), in combination with factors such as access to and availability of treatment, to inform their decision-making related to COVID-19 treatment options for patients.

CMS Updates Inpatient, Outpatient CART

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services released updated CMS Abstraction and Reporting Tools supporting ICD-10-CM and ICD-10 codes in the CMS master code tables effective April 1. The update includes CART [inpatient version 4.28.1](#) and CART [outpatient version 1.20.1](#).

CMS Proposes Rule to Reduce Barriers to Coverage, Simplify Medicare Enrollment and Expand Access

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services [released](#) a [proposed rule](#) that updates Medicare enrollment and eligibility rules to reduce barriers to coverage, simplify Medicare enrollment and expand access through Medicare special enrollment periods. The rule would [extend](#) SEPs for individuals affected by an emergency or disaster, for those affected by a health plan or employer error, formerly incarcerated individuals, coordination with the termination of Medicaid coverage, and for other exceptions based on a case-by-case basis. The rule also gives additional flexibilities to those who may qualify for Medicare due to an end-stage renal disease diagnosis. Comments are due 60 days after the Federal Register publication date.

CMS Updates HQR Portal with IPFQR Reports

The Inpatient Psychiatric Facility Quality Reporting Program Facility, State and National Report is available for download from the Hospital Quality Reporting [portal](#). The report is found under the program reporting tab in the left-side navigation menu by choosing the performance reports option.

HHS Releases Hospital and Nursing Home Ownership Data

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services [released](#) public data about mergers, acquisitions, consolidations and changes of ownership from 2016 through 2022. According to the [ASPE report](#), changes of ownership were much more common in nursing homes than hospitals, the majority of SNFs that were purchased have a single owner and states exhibit wide variation in ownership. CMS expects to release updated data on a quarterly basis. According to HHS, "this data is a powerful new tool for researchers, state and federal enforcement agencies, and the public to better understand the impacts of consolidation on health care prices and quality of care."

CMS Releases HSRs for FY 2023 VBP Program

Hospital-specific reports for the FY 2023 Hospital Value-Based Purchasing Program mortality and complication measures now are available via the [Hospital Quality Reporting System Managed File Transfer](#). The review and correction period ends Monday, May 9. [Additional information](#) is available.

CMS Releases OQR Claims Detail Reports

Claims Detail Reports for certain measures are available for facilities participating in the Hospital OQR program for CY 2023 payment determination. The measures include the following:

- OP-32: Facility Seven-Day Risk-Standardized Hospital Visit Rate after Outpatient Colonoscopy – reporting period Jan. 1 through Dec. 24, 2019, and July 1, 2020, through Nov. 30, 2021
- OP-35: Admissions and Emergency Department Visits for Patients Receiving Outpatient Chemotherapy – reporting period Jan. 1 through Nov. 30, 2021
- OP-36: Hospital Visits after Hospital Outpatient Surgery – reporting period Jan. 1 through Nov. 30, 2021

The CDR is available for download through a Managed File Transfer account. [Additional details](#) are available.

MLN Connects Provider eNews Available

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services issued the following [updates](#) to *MLN Connects Provider eNews*:

- [Patient Eligibility Information for Additional Services — Now Available](#)
- [Physicians, Teaching Hospitals, Physician Assistants, & Advanced Practice Nurses: Open Payments Review & Dispute Ends May 15](#)
- [Are You on the Missing Digital Contact Information Report?](#)

Other News

ATTEND: Through the TJC performance measure dashboards, the perinatal care exclusive breast milk feeding measure, PC-05, has been noted as a measure that can be improved. TJC is hosting a [webinar](#) with additional details at 11 a.m. Wednesday, May 4.

ACCESS: Now available on the Quality Reporting Center is an [on-demand webinar](#) that provides answers to FAQs to aide hospitals in successfully reporting their COVID-19 vaccination coverage among health care personnel measure data for the IQR program.

READ: Addressing health disparities in the health care system, CMS released its [2022 strategy on health equity](#), which presents a framework to support health for all people served by their programs and eliminate avoidable differences in health outcome.