



***KHA's Current Report***  
***March 31, 2023***

**President's Perspective – Hospitals Keep Kansas Healthy and Economically Strong**

A vigorous health care system is essential not only for the health and welfare of community residents but also to enhance economic opportunity. Health-related sectors are some of the fastest growing in the economy. Given demographic trends, this growth is likely to continue. Furthermore, evidence shows that quality health care improves business productivity, aids in the recruitment and retention of businesses, as well as attracts and retains retirees.

The Kansas Hospital Association's new report on [\*The Importance of the Health Care Sector to the Kansas Economy\*](#) was performed by a team led by Donna Ginther, distinguished professor of economics and director of the Institute for Policy & Social Research at the University of Kansas. The research is modeled on previous studies completed by Professor John Leatherman, now retired from Kansas State University.

As our members understand, the health care sector in Kansas provides substantial contributions to the state's economy. Not only does it generate direct jobs and employee income – it also supports additional businesses across many industries through supply chain linkages and employee spending on household goods and services. These secondary feedbacks are known as multiplier effects.

The Kansas health care sector contributes more than 300,000 jobs and almost \$20 billion in labor income to the Kansas economy, including direct effects and multiplier effects. This labor income, when spent, generates over \$600 million in sales tax revenue.

Hospitals alone employ more than 72,000 Kansans and direct labor income of more than \$6 billion. The hospital sector has large multiplier effects. Every 100 hospital jobs support an additional 73 jobs in non-health care sectors. And, every \$1000 in current hospital wages and salaries sustains an additional \$483 in income for employees of grocery stores, restaurants, gas and electric utilities, along with other industries used by hospitals and their employees.

As we continue to look for opportunities to enhance our state's economy, a strong health care system, anchored by well-supported community hospitals, is essential. This report was highlighted for the KHA Board during last week's meeting and will be shared with our elected officials and the public in the coming weeks. We encourage our members to use this information as you discuss the economic impact of hospitals with your staff, boards and communities. County-specific reports will be available this summer.

Other items highlighted at the KHA board meeting included:

- Updating the KHA Strategic Plan to reflect the current priorities of the association;
- Approving associate membership applications for Advocate Health Services, LLC; Kompass Funding; and Nex-Tech;
- Recapping the latest discussions at the American Hospital Association's Regional Policy Board and Rural Health Services meetings;
- Approving the KHA finance and investment report;
- Highlighting the latest advocacy developments on the state and federal levels;
- Adopting a two-year KHA-PAC campaign goal of \$168,000; and
- Discussing several key KHA updates in the areas of quality and patient safety; communications; workforce strategies; education; rural health; and the KHA awards program.

As always, please feel free to reach out to your team at KHA if you should need any assistance. We look forward to seeing everyone at the upcoming [KHA District Meetings](#) that begin next week. See you there!

--Chad Austin

### **Attention CEOs – KHA Leadership Institute Nominations Now Open for Summer 2023**

The Kansas Hospital Association is currently accepting nominations for the 2023 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.



--Melissa Willey

### **KDHE Releases Dates for Medicaid 3.0 Provider Public Forum Meetings**

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment is seeking stakeholder input as it begins to develop a Request for Proposal for the 2025 KanCare Managed Care Organizations' contracts. During these meetings, KDHE staff will provide updates and information about KanCare. Participants can provide feedback and ask questions about how input will be used to create the RFP. These meetings will be held via Zoom. Registration is required before. Meeting dates and registration can be found [here](#). KHA encourages hospitals to participate in these forums to provide feedback. [Talking points](#) have been created to help you during these forums.

--Shannan Flach

### **Rural Opportunity Zone Program Webinar**

The Office of Rural Prosperity within the Department of Commerce is holding an informational webinar about the Rural Opportunity Zone Program at 1 p.m. on March 31. This webinar is open to anyone who would like to learn more about the program and how it could benefit your organization to attract employees to relocate to any of the 95 counties in Kansas identified as eligible by this program.

The ROZ Program provides eligible counties the offering of one or both of the following incentives for new full-time residents:

- Student Loan Repayment Assistance
  - Provides up to \$15,000 in Student Loan Repayment Assistance over five years
- 100 percent State Income Tax Credit
  - To qualify, a taxpayer must have lived outside of Kansas for five-plus years immediately prior to establishing their domicile in a Kansas ROZ
  - Must have had no more than \$10,000 in Kansas source income in any one year prior

[Learn more](#) about the ROZ Program. You can register for the webinar at this [link](#).

--Jaron Caffrey

### **2022 MedPAR Report Now Available**

As a reminder, the 2022 MedPAR Average Hospital Charges for Medicare Patients DRGs Report is now available for download from the [KHA HIDI Advantage User Portal](#). The reports are compiled from information taken from the federal fiscal year 2021 Medicare Provider Analysis and Review files available from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. The reports, located in the Special Request folder under the Advantage Analytics tab, contain information on ALL diagnosis-related groups from Kansas and metropolitan Kansas City facilities with Medicare discharges. Each report lists adjusted average charges in an easy-to-read format. Hospitals are listed alphabetically and by hospital rank within specific DRGs. The report is provided free to all KHA member hospitals.

--Dee Lewis

### **KONL Spring Conference – April 27**

Register now for the [Kansas Organization of Nurse Leaders 2023 Spring Conference](#)! The conference takes place from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on April 27 at the Drury Plaza Hotel in Wichita. [Register online](#) and pay with a credit card or check. Also, please book your hotel room at the [Drury Inn](#) for \$124 per night. The hotel block closes on April 8, 2023. [The brochure is available for download](#).

*--Karen Braman*

### **2022 American Hospital Association Annual Survey**

This week, the Kansas Hospital Association emailed hospital CEOs and CFOs materials necessary to complete the 2022 AHA Annual Survey. The survey deadline for completion is May 31. Survey results provide information critical to advocacy efforts and populates [www.khastat.org](http://www.khastat.org). Survey materials included [copy of the survey](#) as a reference.

In an effort to improve the accuracy of the information provided, KHA encourages facilities to [complete and submit the survey online](#). The web-based collection tool is easy, efficient and secure. For assistance with survey login, or if you need an extension to complete the survey, please contact [Dee Lewis](#) at KHA (785) 233-7436.

*--Dee Lewis*

### **AHA and NRHA Comment on DEA Telehealth Rules**

This week, the American Hospital Association and the National Rural Health Association announced the submission of comments in response to the Drug Enforcement Administration's proposed rules for the prescribing of controlled medications via telemedicine, including buprenorphine for opioid use disorder. The DEA is proposing to no longer allow DEA-registered practitioners to prescribe buprenorphine via telehealth without an in-person exam, with limited exceptions. AHA urged the DEA to establish a special registration process to waive the in-person evaluations for practitioners who register with the DEA. Until then, AHA strongly urged the agency to continue to waive the requirement as it has during the COVID-19 public health emergency. You can find AHA's comments [here](#). NRHA highlighted the restrictive and potentially dangerous disruption of care triggered by the proposed rule. You can find NRHA's full summary [here](#).

*--Karen Braman*

### **Rural Health Care Coordination Program Funding Opportunity**

The Health Resources and Service Administration has announced a [funding opportunity](#) for Rural Health Care Coordination. The program is intended to promote rural health care services outreach by improving and expanding the delivery of health care services through comprehensive care coordination strategies in rural areas. This award is intended to serve as initial seed funding to implement creative community-based health solutions in rural communities to expand access to and coordination of care with the expectation that awardees will then be able to sustain the program after the federal funding ends. Over the four-year performance period, a maximum of 10 award recipients will receive up to \$300,000 per year in funding to improve health outcomes through coordinated, community-wide, sustainable

programs in rural communities. Eligible applicants include all domestic public or private, non-profit or for-profit entities, including community-based organizations, federally recognized tribes, tribal organizations and faith-based organizations. [View the grant opportunity here](#). Applications are due May 15. To learn more about the [Rural Health Care Coordination Program](#) [click here](#). HRSA's Federal Office of Rural Health Policy will hold a technical assistance webinar via [Zoom](#) for applicants from 2 to 3 p.m. on Thursday, April 6, 2023.

Attendees without computer access or computer audio can dial in toll-free (833) 568-8864; participant's code: 3203297. HRSA will record the technical assistance webinar. Please contact [FORHPRHCCP@hrsa.gov](mailto:FORHPRHCCP@hrsa.gov) for playback information.

--Karen Braman

### **Fraudulent Nursing Diploma Scheme Leads to Federal Charges and the Closing of Three Florida Nursing Schools**

In late January, the Department of Justice [announced](#) the results of a multi-state investigation dubbed "Operation Nightingale." The investigation focused on the alleged selling of fraudulent transcripts and nursing degrees from three Florida-based nursing schools, which are now closed. The bogus diplomas and transcripts permitted individuals to apply to take the nurse licensure examination (NCLEX) and, if they successfully passed, permitted these individuals to obtain a license to practice nursing as a licensed practical nurse or registered nurse. It was reported that more than 7,600 fraudulent nursing diplomas were issued by these Florida-based programs to individuals across the United States. The Kansas State Board of Nursing and other nursing regulatory bodies have partnered with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Justice Department to identify any possible graduates from the fraudulent nursing programs who may have obtained a nursing license in Kansas. KSBN shared this response regarding Operation Nightingale included in its entirety below. We appreciate the work that the KSBN is doing to follow up on this issue. KSBN advises any specific questions be directed to [Carol Moreland](#).

#### ***KSBN Response re: Operation Nightingale (nursing school fraud)***

*The mission of the Kansas State Board of Nursing (KSBN) is to assure the citizens of Kansas safe and competent practice by nurses and mental health technicians. KSBN and other nursing regulatory bodies have partnered with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services – Office of Inspector General (HHS-OIG), the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the Justice Department to identify any possible graduates from the fraudulent nursing programs that may have a nursing license in Kansas. We have identified less than 10 individuals. It is important to understand that the schools involved in these investigations do have legitimate graduates. The allegedly fraudulent transcripts and diplomas provided to individuals who do not attend or successfully complete the program may look just like those issued to legitimate graduates. Nursing regulatory bodies in affected states have been investigating individual cases and are taking appropriate action in accordance with their state laws and due process. KSBN will conduct investigations with the identified individuals to identify if the education credentials are legitimate. After our*

*investigation, if KSBN has taken action against an individual's license, the employer will be notified if they are enrolled in the free Nursys e-Notify notification service.*

*KSBN and other nursing regulatory bodies in the United States are constantly working to ensure that all nurses and candidates are legitimate. We are committed to our mission of public protection and are working to fully resolve this matter. Nursing is a very specialized profession and there are no short cuts in nursing.*

*--Karen Braman*

### **FDA Approves First Over-the-Counter Naloxone Nasal Spray**

The Food and Drug Administration [announced](#) on March 29 the agency's approval of [Narcan nasal spray](#) (4-milligram naloxone hydrochloride nasal spray) for over-the-counter use – the first naloxone product approved for use without a prescription. Naloxone is a medication that rapidly reverses the effects of opioid overdose and is the standard treatment for opioid overdose. The FDA's action allows Narcan nasal spray to be sold directly to consumers in pharmacies, convenience stores, grocery stores and gas stations, as well as online. Expected OTC availability, according to Emergent BioSolutions, the manufacturer, is late summer of this year. In the meantime, the prescription product will remain available through current access channels, including pharmacies through standing order or co-prescription laws and through community distribution.

*--Karen Braman*

### **Uploading Files from KDADS Website**

The Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services is noticing multiple users uploading files, but not submitting their requests. As a reminder, with recent updates made to the upload portal, it is no longer sufficient to solely upload files, a request must also be submitted. Files uploaded without submitted requests are not visible to the CARE team. You may also notice a reminder message throughout that portal that reads "You must now SUBMIT all file upload requests by clicking on the Submit button on the Request Details tab of your request. The button will appear after you have uploaded at least one file." KDADS has provided an updated [frequently asked questions document](#) including links to March 21, 2023 training and other resources.

*--Ron Marshall*

### **Health Observances and Recognition Days for April Month-Long Observances**

- Alcohol Awareness Month
- Autism Awareness Month (National)
- Cancer Control Month (National)
- Child Abuse Prevention Month (National)
- Child Nutrition Month (Global)
- Defeat Diabetes Month

- Distracted Driving Awareness Month
- Donate Life Month (National)
- Facial Protection Month (National)
- Foot Health Awareness Month (National)
- Health and Neck Cancer Month
- Humor Month (National)
- Interprofessional Healthcare Month (National)
- Irritable Bowel Syndrome Awareness Month
- Medicaid Awareness Month
- Minority Health Month (National)
- Occupational Therapy Month
- Oral Cancer Awareness Month
- Parkinson's Awareness Month
- Primary Immunodeficiency Awareness Month (National)
- Rosacea Awareness Month
- Sarcoidosis Awareness Month (National)
- Sexual Assault Awareness & Prevention Month
- Sexually Transmitted Infections Awareness Month
- Sjögren's Awareness Month
- Soy Foods Month
- Sports Eye Safety Month
- Stress Awareness Month (National)
- Testicular Cancer Awareness Month
- Women's Eye Health & Safety Month

### **Week-Long Observances**

April 3-9 – Public Health Week (National)

April 11-17 – Black Maternal Health Week

April 16-22 – Oral, Head and Neck Cancer Awareness Week

April 18-24 – Pediatric Sepsis Week

April 23-29 – Infertility Awareness Week (National), Patient Experience Week and Pediatric Transplant Week (National)

April 24-28 – Youth Violence Prevention Week (National)

April 24-30 – Every Kid Healthy Week, Infertility Awareness Week (National), Immunization Week (World) and Infant Immunization Week (National)

### **Recognition Days | Events**

April 1 – Stress Awareness Day

April 2 – Autism Awareness Day (World)

April 4 – SAAM Day of Action

April 6 – Bohring-Opitz Syndrome Awareness Day

April 7 – Health Day (World)

April 10 – Youth HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (National)



April 11 – Parkinson's Day (World)  
April 14 – Chagas Disease Day (World) and Donate Life Blue and Green Day (National)  
April 16 – Healthcare Decisions Day (National)  
April 17 – Hemophilia Day (World)  
April 19 – Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia Action Day  
April 22 – Earth Day  
April 25 – DNA Day (National) and Malaria Day (World)  
April 28 – Day for Safety and Health at Work (World)  
April 29 – Prescription Drug Take Back Day (National)



### **Mark Your Calendar for National Hospital Week May 7-13.**

#WeAreHealthcare National Hospital Week is an opportunity to highlight our hospitals, health systems and health care workers, as well as the innovative ways they are supporting and connecting to their community.

#### **Why We Celebrate**

- To recognize the 5,000 hospitals, health care systems, networks, and others who provide care to their community.
- Our caregivers have taken on unimaginable challenges and have risen to the occasion repeatedly.
- We think it is essential others see the impact hospitals have made on communities, especially in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Visit [AHA's National Hospital Week website](#) for tools and resources to celebrate National Hospital Week in your community.

The Kansas Hospital Association and Society for Healthcare Strategy and Market Development are pleased to bring you the [2023 Calendar of Health Observances & Recognition Days](#). An example of providing practical, timely resources supporting KHA's vision, "Optimal Health for Kansans," this calendar is designed to help you plan your 2023 community health events, internal and external communications, social media campaigns and more. This year's calendar is SHSMD's first ever easy-to-navigate and interactive calendar featuring over 230 health observances and recognition days! And don't miss out on the chance to receive calendar updates from SHSMD sponsor Baldwin Publishing. Not only do they provide you with a Health Observance Guide with ALL the content you need to post every day for the following month, they also give access to healthy recipes, cooking videos, branded cookbooks, recipe calendars, wellness content and solutions.

*--Jan Fenwick*



## **Position Available**

[Chief Executive Officer](#)

[Trego County-Lemke Memorial Hospital](#)

320 N. 13th St.

WaKeeney, KS 67672

Contact: [Neva Hendrix](#)

Phone: 785-743-2182, ext.101

Fax: (785) 743-6317

Website: <http://www.tclmh.org>

**Apply Online Today!**  
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### Overview of Responsibilities:

- Manage and direct the organization toward its primary objectives, establish current and long-range objectives, and plan policies subject to approval by the Board of Directors.
- Dispense advice, guidance, direction and authorization to carry out major plans and procedures, consistent with established policies and the board's approval.
- Oversee the adequacy and soundness of the organization's financial structure.
- Review the operating results of the organization, compare them to establish objectives and take steps to ensure appropriate measures are taken to correct unsatisfactory results.
- Represents the organization with major customers, vendors, the financial community and public.

### Qualifications:

- Recent experience as an administrator of a Critical Access Hospital
- Bachelor's degree preferred along with a minimum of four years of experience in a hospital setting.
- Financial expertise in hospital and fiscal management.
- The ability to work cooperatively with and manage physicians and advanced practice providers.

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](http://www.kshealthjobs.net) for other health care openings in Kansas.

--Jan Fenwick

## Federal and National News

### HIDI Releases Update to Health Equity Dashboards

The Health Equity Dashboards data have been refreshed within [HIDI Advantage](#) to include measure calculations based on discharge data from Q4 of CY 2022. These data updates can be found in [Advantage Optics](#) within the Care Optics folder.

For questions about accessing the website or running the reports, contact [HIDI](#).

### TJC Solicits Comments to Address Environmental Sustainability

TJC is developing new requirements to address environmental sustainability for the hospital and CAH accreditation programs. Comments on the proposed requirements are accepted until Wednesday, May 3. [Additional information](#) is available.

### White House Administration Celebrates the 13th Anniversary of the ACA

March 23 marked the 13th anniversary of the Affordable Care Act. The Biden-Harris Administration is [celebrating](#) by highlighting the increase in marketplace enrollees. Nearly 16.4 million consumers enrolled in a health insurance marketplace coverage plan during the 2023 open enrollment period – 1.8 million more than in 2022.

### HRSA Announces Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network Initiative

HRSA announced a modernization [initiative](#) that includes several actions to strengthen accountability and transparency in the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network. The initiative includes the release of new organ donor and transplant data, prioritization of modernization of the OPTN information technology systems, and a request to Congress to include increases and updates to the budget.

### Before You Go ...

- The next outreach and education webinar, [Hospital VBP Program: Knowledge Refresher – FY 2025 Overview](#), is at 1 p.m. Wednesday, April 5, for hospitals participating in the Hospital Value-Based Purchasing Program.
- AIM is hosting [90-minute educational webinars](#) on obstetric emergencies at least monthly from March through August 2023. The Missouri PQC encourages all facilities, particularly non-obstetric facilities, to participate to gain knowledge of best practices for facility implementation to improve maternal outcomes. Webinars for this topic are color-coded in purple with the name "OB Emergency Readiness COL." [Additional information](#) is available.
- *MLN Connects Provider eNews* [issued](#) the following updates:
  - [COVID-19: Booster Dose for Children six months – four years](#)
  - [Identity & Access Management System: Easier for Surrogates](#)
  - [Medicare Advantage Value-Based Insurance Design Model Extended](#)
  - [Supplemental Security Income & Medicare Beneficiary Data: FY 2021](#)
  - [DMEPOS for Skilled Nursing Facility: Pre-Discharge Delivery for Fitting & Training](#)