



KHA's Current Report
April 14, 2023

President's Perspective – Learning from Each Other

For the past two weeks, the Kansas Hospital Association has been hosting its spring district meetings. The meetings serve as an opportunity for Kansas hospital leaders to gather together to share ideas and discuss those issues most pressing to our industry. The chance to engage and network with our peers serves many purposes, but most of all is an opportunity to learn from each other and to share our experiences.

Each KHA district meeting was kicked off with a discussion surrounding the latest happenings to address the health care workforce shortage. Members learned about the Health Professional Shortage Area designation and the criteria used to determine eligibility. The HPSA designation identifies areas facing a critical shortage of health care professionals and enables those areas to obtain additional resources to address unmet primary, dental and mental health needs. A few of the federal programs that rely on the HPSA designation include the National Health Service Corps and the J-1 Visa Waiver Program.

We also touched upon the new opportunity for Kansas hospitals to engage in apprenticeship programs. The registered apprenticeship program is an industry-driven, high-quality career pathway where employers can develop and prepare their future workforce, and individuals can obtain paid work experience, classroom instruction and industry-issued, nationally recognized credentials. In health care, apprentice roles may include CNAs, dietary, medical coders, phlebotomists and LPNs.

We discussed health care workforce incentive programs like the Kansas Nursing Service Scholarship, Kansas Promise Act and the Rural Opportunity Zone program. If you would like to learn more about these opportunities, I encourage you to reach out to [Jaron Caffrey](#) on the KHA team.

Another topic touched upon during the KHA district meetings centered on hospital financial sustainability and the need to reduce administrative burdens related to insurance organizations. One solution being considered by the KHA membership is the development of an all-payor scorecard. Stay tuned for more information on this opportunity in the coming months. We also highlighted the KanCare request for proposals process, interested bidders and the Medicaid policy changes we will be requesting.

Members had the chance to learn the latest on KHA's advocacy efforts on the state and federal level. On the federal side, members heard about the advocacy issues on the horizon that included the Congressional debt ceiling deadline, the status of the 340B Drug Discount Program, modifications to the Rural Emergency Hospital program, and potential changes to the Medicare payment policies.

We also discussed the status of several state legislative priority issues that have been considered in Topeka. While the health care industry saw positive results with the passage of several budget enhancements, including grants for apprenticeship programs in health care, there are still a handful of outstanding items that remain, such as the health care worker protection legislation. Throughout this session, the KHA advocacy team also had to play a lot of political defense to overcome several policy proposals that were detrimental to the hospital and health care industry.

During our meetings, we collected valuable feedback on the initiatives occurring in Kansas communities to improve preventative health care services. Some of the initiatives highlighted included strategies to improve health screenings from colonoscopy and mammography screenings to physicals and wellness visits. Members shared ideas that are improving immunizations in their communities, as well as ideas they are implementing to improve overall physical and mental health. KHA staff will compile these strategies and work with members to share more details on these best practices in the coming months. Several other updates were shared with the membership that included the [KHA Drug Diversion Prevention Toolkit](#) and [Resources](#); new [economic impact resources](#); the [KHA awards program](#); [resources for the Medicaid unwinding and RFP process](#); and [KHA's educational programs](#). As always, we greatly appreciate our KHA sponsors who shared valuable information from KHSC, APS and KAMMCO.

Thanks to all of you who attended our in-person meetings. Your participation and involvement was much appreciated! If, however, you weren't able to join us for one of the meetings, we will be hosting a virtual KHA district meeting from 9 a.m. to noon on April 18. [Registration is available online](#). Don't hesitate to let us know if you have any questions or need additional assistance!

--Chad Austin

PAC Contributors Spotlight – April 14

The Kansas Hospital Association Political Action Committee is made up of contributors like you. We want to thank everyone who has donated in 2023 and highlight a few of our top donors in the month of March. The PAC Spotlight honors and thanks donors:

- David McCorkle, Citizens Health – Chairman's Circle
- Rhonda Goddard, Graham County Hospital – Capitol Club
- Kiley Floyd, Nemaha Valley Community Hospital – Capitol Club
- James Parker, Kiowa District Healthcare – President's Club

We appreciate all of our PAC members – we couldn't do it without you!

State and federal governments pay for well over half of Kansas hospital care and regulate 100 percent of our activities. Those are the main reasons why the work of KHA and its political action committee, KHA-PAC, is so important. Elected individuals who have a passion and understanding of the unique role hospitals play in their communities are critical. Your individual contributions to the KHA-PAC are used to support those who champion our issues.

To become a contributor, visit <https://kha-pac.square.site/>. Additional information, including suggested contribution levels, can be found by visiting <https://www.kha-net.org/AboutKHA/KHAPAC/>.

If you have questions about the PAC or how to get involved, please contact Tara Mays at (785) 233-7436.

--Tara Mays

QHi Back to Basics Training April 26

Please join us from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. on [Wednesday, April 26](#), for our next QHi Back to Basics training session. After a quick program update, we will walk through the [QHi site](#), demonstrating the basics of selecting measures, adding users, entering/uploading data and running/scheduling reports. All QHi participants are invited to attend this free webinar.

**CLICK HERE
TO REGISTER**

--Sally Othmer

KHA Seeks Candidates for Director of Corporate Relations

The Kansas Hospital Association is seeking candidates to fill the position of [director of corporate relations](#). Ideally, the chosen candidate will be on board in late June/early July.

This position is responsible for serving KHA and its members by providing executive support for the president and CEO, as well as KHA senior leadership team while delivering friendly customer service and focusing on KHA's mission and goals of the association.

Other facets of this position include supporting the KHA Executive Committee, KHA and KHSC Board of Directors, various policy committees, and coordinating the annual KHA/KHSC board retreat. Other important functions include coordinating new member contacts and orientation to KHA. This candidate regularly interacts with hospital and health system executives.

If you know of someone with skills to match this position and a desire to be a resource for Kansas hospitals, please direct them to [HR Partners](#) to learn more information on the application process. Please direct all questions and requests for information about this position to [Lisa Conaway](#) at (785) 233-7436.

--Lisa Conaway

2022 American Hospital Association Annual Survey

On March 30, 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. Survey materials include a [walkthrough](#) explaining how to complete the survey online and a [copy of the survey](#) as a reference.

In an effort to improve the accuracy of 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, if you need an extension to complete the survey or if you didn't receive it, please contact [Dee Lewis](#) at KHA (785) 233-7436.

--Dee Lewis

Kansas State Board of Healing Arts – Who We Are, What We Do and How We Do It – April 19

The Kansas Board of Healing Arts invites you to participate in a one-hour virtual presentation that provides an overview of the agency, insight into each department, licensing, recent and pending changes, as well as agency resources. Connection instructions are listed below. If you have questions, please contact [Ali Diaz](#), Kansas State Board of Healing Arts (785) 296-8648.

Time and Date:

From noon to 1 p.m. on April 19, 2023

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83621169788?pwd=VnVGT3N6a0UrUms4NSt1N3MyME5pUT09>

Meeting ID: 836 2116 9788

Passcode: 989620

Find your local number: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/kcU8lcG2xZ>.

--Karen Braman

Hard Conversations, Improved Healthcare – KPQC Spring Conference May 23

Mark your calendar for May 23 to attend the Kansas Perinatal Quality Collaborative Spring Conference at the Sunflower Foundation Education Center in Topeka. The theme for this year's meeting is Hard Conversations, Improved Healthcare. The audience for the meeting is KPQC members working to improve maternal and infant health outcomes in Kansas. After the meeting, participants will be able to:

- Identify the current Fourth Trimester Initiative projects and goals for enrolled hospitals in 2023
- Discuss three ways health insurance companies are now working to improve maternal mortality in Kansas

- Discuss how maternal health providers can improve health outcomes in collaboration with the Division of Children and Families in Kansas through three case studies surrounding inpatient care in the postpartum setting.

[CLICK HERE
TO REGISTER](#)

--Karen Braman

New APS Vendor Can Help Health Care Organizations Cut Telecom Bills

[Allied Business Solutions, LLC](#), based in the Kansas City area, provides in-depth audits of voice, data, video, and cellular bills. They help hospitals and others save money by making sure they're not overpaying for telecom services. Allied Business Solutions uses proprietary software and long-time industry expertise to identify and halt telecom overpayments that historically have averaged 32 percent of their clients' monthly bills.

For more information, contact [Dennis George](#) at (913) 327-8730.

--Dennis George

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!
CLICK HERE](#)

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 for other health care openings in Kansas.

--Jan Fenwick

Federal and National News

CMS Releases FY 2024 Medicare Inpatient and LTCH PPS Payment and Policy Updates

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services [released](#) the Medicare inpatient prospective payment system and long-term care PPS [payment](#) and policy [updates](#) for the fiscal year 2024. The following are major updates:

IPPS

- Market basket increase of 2.8 percent (3.0 percent less 0.2 percent productivity adjustment amount); CMS estimates the "proposed increase in operating and capital IPPS payment rates will generally increase hospital payments in FY 2024 by \$3.3 billion"
- Decrease in Medicare disproportionate share hospital uncompensated care payments of \$115 million
- Continues the low-wage hospital policy
- Changes graduate medical education payments for training in Medicare rural emergency hospitals

LTCH PPS

- "For FY 2024, CMS expects the LTCH standard payment rate to increase by 2.9 percent and LTCH PPS payments for discharges paid the LTCH standard payment rate to decrease by approximately 2.5 percent, or \$59 million, due primarily to a projected 4.7 percent decrease in high-cost outlier payments as a percentage of total LTCH PPS standard federal payment rate payments."
- Revises the LTCH quality reporting program

Comments are due at 4 p.m. Friday, June 9.

CMS Issues Life Safety Guidance

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services [issued](#) revised Life Safety guidance for hospitals and other providers. The revised guidance allows a hospital that is required to meet the 2012 *edition of NFPA 99* to apply for a categorical waiver to implement a health care microgrid system in lieu of backup power by a generator or battery system.

CMS Issues Interim Guidance for RHCs

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services [issued](#) interim guidance on location determinations for rural health clinics. The interim guidance is based on changes issued in a [2022 final rule](#) by the Census Bureau and the [2020 Decennial Census](#). CMS notes that only the CMS location, not the state agency or accrediting organization, can make the final location determination for an RHC applicant or exiting RHC requesting relocation.

CMS Releases FY 2024 SNF Payment and Policy Updates

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services recently released the fiscal year 2024 Medicare payment and policy updates for the [skilled nursing facility](#) prospective payment system. CMS estimates the net [increase](#) in payments will be 3.7 percent, or \$1.2 billion.

CMS Releases MA Prior Authorization Final Rule

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services [released](#) a [final rule](#) that [revises](#) the Medicare Advantage and Medicare prescription drug benefit programs. The rule includes marketing restrictions for MA plans, regulations to improve access to behavioral health and new regulations regarding the use of prior authorization to ensure people with MA coverage receive access to the same medically necessary care they would receive in traditional Medicare.

CDC Issues Health Alert about Marburg Virus Disease

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued a [health advisory](#) about the outbreaks of Marburg virus disease in Equatorial Guinea and Tanzania to increase awareness of the risk of imported cases in the U.S. The advisory summarizes the CDC's recommendations for case identification, testing and clinical laboratory biosafety considerations for U.S. providers, and provides links to MVD resources.

The risk of MVD in the U.S. is low; however, health care providers are asked to remain aware of the potential of imported cases and to ask travel questions. Should a facility suspect an MVD case, they should call their local public health agency or Department of Health and Social Security at (800) 392-0272.

MLN Connects Provider eNews Available

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

- [COVID-19: End of Public Health Emergency](#)
- [CMS Roundup \(Apr. 07, 2023\)](#)
- [Medicare Shared Savings Program: Application Toolkit Materials](#)

- [Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility Interdisciplinary Team Meetings After the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency](#)
- [Hospital Outpatient Departments: Prior Authorization for Facet Joint Interventions Starts July 1](#)
- [Opioid Treatment Program Webpage Updates](#)