



KHA's Current Report ***April 28, 2023***

President's Perspective – KHA Members Advocate on Capitol Hill

Congress is midway in its spring session. On Tuesday, a group of Kansas Hospital Association hospital executives met with members of the Kansas Congressional Delegation in their offices on Capitol Hill. We highlighted and advocated issues facing Kansas hospitals, specifically financial and workforce challenges. These visits bookended the 2023 American Hospital Association's Annual Membership Meeting, and they could not have come at a better time for discussing federal policies that affect providers nationwide and in Kansas.



Tuesday morning's AHA plenary session began with attendees listening to a presentation by a figure familiar to Kansans: Senator Roger Marshall, MD. He spoke about the challenges facing hospitals when it comes to prior authorization, particularly when it comes to treating patients on Medicaid Advantage plans. Senator Marshall has introduced two bills to address these matters, one that would streamline the prior authorization process and the other that would require more transparency for consumers considering switching to Medicare Advantage plans.

The Kansas group's first meeting on the Hill was with Senator Marshall and we got the opportunity to express our thanks to him for doggedly pursuing these issues.



In the afternoon, our focus shifted to the House of Representatives where there are troubling signs the fight over the debt ceiling and the budget may lead to calls for site-neutral Medicare payments. We discussed this concern with Congresswoman Sharice Davids and Congressman Tracey Mann, as well as with staff for Congressman Ron Estes and Congressman Jake LaTurner. On Wednesday, a House Energy and Commerce subcommittee had a hearing on site-neutral payments. Although none of our members are on the relevant subcommittee, they all understood how devastating this would be to patients' health, doctor/patient relationships and hospital finances. We also discussed workforce issues—particularly the nationwide nursing shortage—and our push for amendments to the Rural Emergency Hospital program that would make it more attractive for hospitals to join.

Later in the evening, we had the opportunity to meet with Senator Moran. As an appropriator, he is interested in helping to add the Bachelor of Science in Nursing to U.S. Department of Homeland Security's STEM certified degree list so foreign graduates of American BSN programs can receive student visa extensions with work authorizations while their prospective employers apply for their transitions to work visas. In general, our group also made sure to bring to every Kansas Congressional member's attention the fact that without a statutory waiver extension by the end of the fiscal year on Sept. 30, the Affordable Care Act's original disproportionate share hospital cuts will go into effect. These cuts are already in effect for the 40 states that have expanded Medicaid, but if they go into effect for the other 10—including Kansas—that have not expanded Medicaid, the result could be devastating to hospitals that provide care to the most vulnerable Americans. The most likely vehicle for an extension would be an end-of-year budget bill or continuing resolution. We will continue to work with the Kansas Congressional Delegation on this as we move into summer.

All in all, our time in DC was productive. Although it can seem that political gridlock is the norm, we are confident that our delegation understands our issues and continues to step forward to help. I would personally like to thank the following KHA members who attended the AHA Annual Meeting and Hill visits to advocate on behalf of Kansas hospitals:

- Greg Bentz, Saint Luke's Health System
- Molly Haase, AdventHealth
- Lisa Horn, Children's Mercy Hospital
- Dr. Rob Kenagy, Stormont Vail Health
- Bobby Olm-Shipman, Saint Luke's South Hospital
- Dallas Polen, Children's Mercy Hospital
- Carrie Saia, Holton Community Hospital
- George Stover, Hospital District #1 of Rice County
- Curt Sudbeck, Nemaha Valley Community Hospital
- Tim Van Zandt, Saint Luke's Health System
- Jake Vance, Saint Luke's Health System
- Dr. Sherri Vaughn, The University of Kansas Health System
- Kenny Wilk, The University of Kansas Health System

--Chad Austin

Save the Date for Convention – Sept. 7-8

Mark your calendars now for the [2023 KHA Annual Convention and Trade Show](#), Sept. 7-8, 2023, at the Hyatt Regency Wichita/Century II Convention Center in Wichita. The Hyatt Regency Wichita will serve as convention headquarters, and KHA has blocked hotel rooms for those attending convention at the rate of \$141 per night.



Rooms are limited at the headquarters. You may place your name on a waitlist by calling (316) 293-1234. A [list of nearby hotel options](#) is available online.

--Jennifer Findley

Vaccine Fears Overturned by Facts Webinar, University Perspectives with Kansas State – April 28

Learn about the importance and success of collaborative health efforts featuring the Vaccinate with Confidence campaign!

Date: Friday, April 28

Time: 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

REGISTER NOW

In this webinar, you will:

- Get an overview of IKC and the "Vaccine Fears Overturned by Facts" campaign from Connie Satzler
- Hear from Mirna Bonilla Salazar about the effectiveness of collaborative projects
- Learn about community health programming and opportunities for student engagement from Dr. Elaine Johannes
- Learn about partnerships leading to IKC Vaccine Confidence Health Communication Project from Sakshi Bhati, ABD
- Listen to Johnna Tumberger's internship experience with partners
- Learn about the Vet Med and One Health Partnership from Dr. Ron Orchard
- Participate in a live Q&A discussion

This event is hosted in collaboration between IKC, K-State Office of Engagement, and K-State Research and Extension.

--Karen Braman

KHA Salary and Benefits Survey Results Now Available

The annual Kansas Hospital Association salary and benefits report is now available to hospitals that participated in the 2023 survey.

KHA, MHA, and Gallagher Surveys have partnered this year to conduct the 2023 Health Care Compensation Survey. If you participated, you will have received a PDF of an overview of the compensation data for the state, along with the MO/KS region. You also will have received an excel spreadsheet that shows the data cuts along with the wider region. Next week, you will receive a log in for the online custom cut of the data from Gallagher.

If your organization participated this year, but you have not received the final report via email, please contact [Jaron Caffrey](#) for assistance. Additionally, if you did not participate in the survey but would like to purchase the compensation report, reach out to Jaron.

Thank you to the 169 Kansas organizations that participated this year.

--Jaron Caffrey

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.
- To recognize 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.

--Jan Fenwick

Medicaid Unwinding Update

For Medicaid beneficiaries who were in the first round of redeterminations for April 2023, who did not return their applications by the due date, they received a discontinuation letter last week with a termination date of May 1, 2023. The Medicaid call center has been inundated with phone calls and beneficiaries have experienced long wait delays. If KHA members receive questions from beneficiaries, please inform beneficiaries that they should still return their Medicaid application as soon as possible. Although termination will occur in the system on May 1, 2023, if the application is received within 90 days of the termination date and the application is approved, their eligibility will be turned back on and backdated to their termination date.

Please make sure beneficiaries know that the application must be received by KanCare by the date in the redetermination letter, not just postmarked by the date.

--Shannan Flach

All Payers Scorecard Demonstration Dates

During the recent District Meetings, the Kansas Hospital Association presented information about a Statewide All Payers Scorecard. Feedback received was very positive. Please register to attend a demonstration of the Scorecard on one of the following dates:

- AHA Vitality Scorecard Demonstrations (registration is needed. Please register by clicking on the session you will be joining:
 - [Thursday, May 4 at 9:00 a.m.](#)
 - [Thursday, May 11 at 9:00 a.m.](#)
 - [Tuesday, May 16 at 12:00 p.m.](#)
- Agreements will be emailed to hospital CEOs and CFOs on Wednesday, May 17, at 9:00 a.m.
The first 15 hospitals to return a signed agreement after 9 a.m. on May 17, will receive the AHA Vitality Tool free for the first year. It is a three-year commitment.

Pricing

Months 1-12

CAH, \$250/month per facility

PPS, \$500/month per facility

Months 13-36

CAH, \$500/month per facility

PPS, \$1,000/month per facility

--Shannan Flach

COVID-19 Hospital Data Reporting Guidance Post-COVID-19 Public Health Emergency

This week, the National Healthcare Safety Network sent hospitals notification of reporting changes following the end of the public health emergency. Two guidance update webinars for facilities are scheduled in early May.

Tuesday, May 2

1:30 – 2:30 p.m.

REGISTER NOW

Thursday, May 4

2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

REGISTER NOW

Additional information is available from the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's website](#).

--Sally Othmer

Funding Opportunity: RCORP-Child and Adolescent Behavioral Health Program

The Health Resources and Services Administration Rural Communities Opioid Response Program is a multi-year initiative aimed at reducing the morbidity and mortality of substance use disorder, including opioid use disorder, in high-risk rural communities. This [funding opportunity](#) is under the RCORP-Child and Adolescent Behavioral Health program, which intends to establish and expand sustainable behavioral health care services for children and adolescents ages five-17 years who live in rural communities, and to prevent substance misuse. Over the four-year grant period, awardees are required to use the RCORP-CABH funding to achieve three program goals through a consortium-based approach:

Goal 1: Service Delivery - Establish new behavioral health prevention, treatment, and recovery services for children and adolescents aged five-17 years in the target rural service area.

Goal 2: Training and Peer Mentorship - Improve the capacity of rural health care providers, paraprofessionals, non-clinical staff, and community members to care for and support children and adolescents aged five-17 with behavioral health needs.

Goal 3: Community Partnerships - Build community partnerships to ensure children, adolescents, and their families, have access to community resources and human services that support the prevention, treatment and recovery from behavioral health disorders.

Eligible applicants include all domestic public or private, non-profit, and for-profit entities. Tribes and tribal organizations are eligible. The estimated total funding is \$9 million; with a \$1 million award ceiling. For a recording of the technical assistance webinar on applying for this grant, email ruralopioidresponse@hrsa.gov.

See the [funding announcement](#) for more information and to apply. The application deadline is May 24.

--Karen Braman

Medicaid MCO Introduction Webinars

Four insurance payers, newer to Kansas, plan to bid on the KanCare contracts that begin Jan. 1, 2025. Get to know the potential managed care organizations by attending the following meetings:

- May 15, at 2 p.m. – CareSource
- May 18, at 1 p.m. – HealthyBlue
- May 22, at 2 p.m. – Molina HealthCare
- May 23 at 2 p.m. – Ucare

Topics covered:

- Introduction of team and provider representatives
- Why they are interested in bidding on the Medicaid contract
- Background of their history
- Commitment and partnership with providers
- Wrap-up and Q&A

**CLICK HERE
TO REGISTER**

For more information, contact [Shannan Flach](#) at (785) 233-7436.

--Shannan Flach

CMS Releases New Hospital Price Transparency Enforcement Rules

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services is strengthening enforcement of its hospital transparency rule by imposing stricter timelines and levying fines more quickly. CMS is taking a firmer hand and eliminating flexibilities intended to promote compliance. Hospitals that fail to provide corrective action plans or remain out of compliance for more than 90 days after submitting such plans will automatically receive civil monetary penalties. Hospitals will have a maximum of 90 days to come into compliance after CMS agrees to the corrective action plan. CMS will no longer be offering warning notices to facilities that fail to come into compliance. CMS has increased the penalty for a full calendar year of noncompliance to a minimum of \$109,500 and a maximum of \$2 million per hospital. If your hospital receives a Hospital Price Transparency Warning Notice, please respond immediately. If you have questions, please reach out to [Shannan Flach](#) at (785) 233-7436.

--Shannan Flach

Kansas Health Institute Survey on Future Educational Offerings

The Kansas Health Institute has issued an invitation for professionals and community stakeholders to participate in a survey to help shape their organization's future educational offerings. KHI is dedicated to providing high-quality education and training opportunities on a wide range of topics to professionals and community members, with the goal of building the capacity necessary to improve community health and enable informed, quality decision-making. KHI offers classes virtually and in person at the KHI Learning Center, across from the Kansas Statehouse. KHI is actively exploring opportunities to add new educational offerings by learning what topics and themes are of interest to Kansans. KHI asks that community stakeholders take the brief, a [10-minute survey](#) to help KHI improve its educational offerings by sharing an interest in potential class topics, your preferences for class format and scheduling, along with any other suggestions or ideas you may have. The deadline to complete the survey is May 5.

--Karen Braman

New APS Vendor Enables Simple and Safe Medication Disposal

[Deterra® Drug Deactivation and Disposal System](#), makes it easy for hospitals and other providers to help patients safely deactivate and dispose of unneeded medications, including prescription painkillers, in the home.

The Deterra® Drug Deactivation and Disposal System, developed by Minneapolis-based Verde Environmental Technologies, Inc., is a patented process that permanently and irreversibly deactivates and destroys prescription medications, including opioids and fentanyl, as well as over-the-counter medications, most illicit drugs, and vape fluid.

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

--Dennis George

Health Observances and Recognition Days for May Month-Long Observances

- ALS Awareness Month
- Arthritis Awareness Month
- Asthma and Allergy Awareness Month (National)
- Better Hearing and Speech Month
- Better Sleep Month
- Bladder Cancer Awareness Month
- Borderline Personality Disorder Awareness Month
- Brain Cancer Awareness Month
- Celiac Disease Awareness Month (National)
- Critical Care Awareness and Recognition Month (National)
- Cystic Fibrosis Awareness Month
- Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome Awareness Month
- Employee Health and Fitness Month (Global)
- Food Allergy Awareness Month
- Healthy Vision Month
- Hepatitis Awareness Month
- High Blood Pressure Awareness Month (National)
- Huntington's Disease Awareness Month
- Lupus Awareness Month
- Maternal Mental Health Month
- Melanoma/Skin Cancer Detection and Prevention Month (National)
- Mental Health Awareness Month
- Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month
- Necrotizing Fasciitis Awareness Month
- Neurofibromatosis Awareness Month
- NF Awareness Month
- Nurses Month (National)
- Older Americans Month
- Osteoporosis Awareness Month (National)

- Physical Fitness and Sports Month (National)
- Preeclampsia Awareness Month
- Psoriasis Arthritis Action Month
- "Run A Mile Days" Month
- Skin Cancer Prevention and Awareness Month
- Stroke Awareness Month (American and National)
- Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month (National)
- Teen Self-Esteem Month (National)
- Tourette's Awareness Month (May - June 15)
- Trauma Awareness Month (National)
- Women's Health Month (National)

Week-Long Observances

- May 1-6 – Air Quality Awareness Week
- May 1-7 – Physical Education and Sport Week
- May 6-12 – Nurses Week (National), Nursing Home Week (National)
- May 7-13 – **Hospital Week (National)**, Children's Mental Health Awareness Week, Food and Allergy Awareness Week, Stuttering Awareness Week (National)
- May 9-15 – Women's Lung Health Week (National)
- May 14-20 – Healthcare Documentation Integrity Week, Maternal Sepsis Week, Neuroscience Nurse Week, Skilled Nursing Care Week (National), Women's Health Week (National)
- May 19-25 – Poison Prevention Week (National)
- May 22-28 – Respiratory Care Week (National)

Recognition Days | Events

- May 1 – Melanoma Monday
- May 2 – Asthma Day (World), Scurvy Awareness Day (International)
- May 3 – Maternal Mental Health Day
- May 5 – Hand Hygiene Day (World)
- May 6 – Ankylosing Spondylitis Day (World), No Diet Day (International)
- May 7 – Children's Mental Health Awareness Day
- May 8 – Ovarian Cancer Day (World), Red Cross and Red Crescent Day (World), Student Nurses Day (National), Women's Check-up Day (National)
- May 10 – Lipid Day (National), Lupus Day (World), School Nurse Day (National)
- May 12 – Awareness Day for Chronic Immunological and Neurological Diseases (International), Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Day, ME/CFS and Fibromyalgia International Awareness Day, Nurses Day (International)
- May 13 – Cornelia de Lange Syndrome Awareness (National)
- May 15 – Employee Health and Fitness Day (Global), Hyperemesis Gravidarum Awareness Day
- May 17 – Hypertension Day (World)

- May 18 – Aides/HIV Vaccine Awareness Day,
- May 19 – Asian and Pacific Islander HIV/Aides Awareness Day (National), Hepatitis Testing Day, IBD Day (World)
- May 20 – Autoimmune/Auto-Inflammatory Arthritis Day (World)
- May 22 – Preeclampsia Day (World)
- May 24 – Tuberculosis Day (World)
- May 25 – Thyroid Day (World)
- May 26 – Don't Fry Day, Heat Awareness Day (National)
- May 29 – Digestive Health Day (World)
- May 30 – MS Day (World)
- May 31 – No Tobacco Day (World), Senior Health & Fitness Day (National)

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

Deputy Secretary of Agency Integration – Job ID 208434

Kansas Department of Health & Environment

Contact: [Lamar Leon](#)

1000 SW Jackson St., Suite 580

Topeka, KS 66612

Email: Lamar.Leon@ks.gov

Equal Opportunity Employer

The Kansas Department of Health & Environment is seeking an experienced and enthusiastic leader to serve as the Deputy Secretary of Agency Integration. This new position will report directly to the secretary of KDHE and have primary responsibility for the integration and alignment of health-focused activities throughout the KDHE enterprise, as well as oversee all aspects of the State's Medicaid program (KanCare), and the Children's Health Insurance Program. This position will play a critical role in advancing health improvement initiatives for the State consistent with the Healthy Kansans 2030 goals and work in partnership with the agency and other state leaders/stakeholders in improvement activities related to the State Health Rankings. Refer to the complete [job description](#) for more information and details on how to apply.

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 Updates IQR, IPFQR CART

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services released updated CMS Abstraction and Reporting Tools for the Inpatient Quality Reporting and Inpatient Psychiatric Facility Quality Reporting programs.

- Inpatient 4.30.1 supports the IQR master code list diagnosis updates and must be used for discharges from April 1 to June 30, 2023. Installation instructions and other resources are available on QualityNet.
- IPFQR version 2.3.0 includes updates to support the calendar year 2023 abstractions. Version 2.3.0 must be used for discharges and events occurring Jan. 1 through Dec. 31, 2023. IPFs are required to report IMM-2 measure data based on discharges from Oct. 1, 2022, through March 31, 2023, during the summer 2023 submission. Therefore, CART IPFQR 2.3.0 must be used to abstract Q1 2023 IMM-2 measure data. Installation and resources are available on QualityNet.

CDC Simplifies COVID-19 Vaccine Recommendations Following FDA Authorizations

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention simplified [recommendations](#) for COVID-19 vaccination following the Food and Drug Administration [authorizing](#) changes to the emergency use Authorizations of mRNA COVID-19 vaccines.

- Monovalent COVID-19 mRNA vaccines no longer are recommended for use in the U.S.
- Adults age 65 and older, as well as those who are moderately or severely immunocompromised, may receive an additional bivalent dose. Health care providers have the flexibility to administer additional bivalent doses to immunocompromised individuals as needed.
- All individuals age six and older should receive one bivalent dose, regardless of the primary series they received. These individuals do not need an additional bivalent dose unless they are over age 65 or are immunocompromised.
- For children under age six, multiple doses continue to be recommended but vary by age and vaccine type (manufacturer and mono/bivalent) that previously was received. However, all should have at least one bivalent dose.

It is anticipated that the CDC's [Interim Clinical Considerations](#) soon will be updated to provide additional information.

MACPAC Explores Medicaid Experience and Satisfaction Disparities

Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program Payment and Access

Commission [published](#) a [report](#) of the experiences and satisfaction of Medicaid-covered adults by race and ethnicity using data from the 2016-2022 Association of American Medical Colleges Consumer Surveys of Health Care Access. The study finds that 68.1 percent of individuals report having a usual source of care, and more than 80 percent report being able to get care when they needed it, being satisfied with the care they received and having positive experiences with their provider. However, persons of color were more likely to receive care at a clinic, health center or hospital emergency room, and were more likely to report experiencing unfair treatment and discrimination during their most recent medical visit.