



KHA's Current Report
September 29, 2023

President's Perspective – Member Engagement Makes a Difference

Member engagement is a core ingredient for a strong association. One of the six strategic priorities for the Kansas Hospital Association is securing insight and expertise from our members to guide the work of the association. This includes shaping our strategic priorities, advocacy positions and essential resources. I want to highlight a few upcoming opportunities our members have to guide the work of our association.

KHA's fall round of [district meetings](#) starts next week. These meetings provide KHA members an opportunity to learn about the most essential topics in our industry and to share best practices with each other. One of our focus areas during the fall district meetings will be payor and finance issues including the Medicaid request for proposal, centralized credentialing, Medicare Advantage and the new All Payor Scorecard. Another equally important area of focus will be workforce. We will discuss recruitment and retention best practices and share new resources for members to aid with workforce challenges. If you haven't had a chance to [register](#) for one of the seven district meetings, please do so today.

Another way to guide the work of the association is to join one of KHA's membership committees. Please consider volunteering yourself and/or staff to serve on a KHA committee in 2024. We are seeking nominations for the following committees in 2024:

- Behavioral Health
- Communications
- Convention
- Data
- Health Care Finance and Reimbursement
- Hospital Leadership and Governance
- Hospital Physician Leadership
- KHA-PAC
- Optimal Health
- Policy and Advocacy
- Quality and Patient Safety
- Rural Emergency Hospital
- Workforce

Please complete an [online nomination form](#) by Friday, Oct. 20. Nominations must be approved by the member CEO or administrator.

We are grateful to have such an engaged and thoughtful membership. Thank you to the more than 126 individuals who have already registered to attend our upcoming district meetings and the hundreds of individuals, from more than 132 organizations, who have served on a KHA membership committee and board this year. Member involvement is the single biggest indicator of the strength of an association, and your organization's participation in KHA makes a significant difference. Thank you for your time, energy and commitment!

--Chad Austin

Register Now for the Management and Leadership Training Three-Part Webinar Series

Register and plan to attend the three-part management development webinar series. This webinar series will provide new, and more experienced managers, with the "nuts and bolts" of management.

Management and Leadership Training Three-Part Webinar Series

- Top 10 Compliance Issues to Keep You Out of Hot Water - Oct. 18
- Health Care Finance 101 - Nov. 15
- *The Dreaded Employee Evaluation to A Productive Performance Review* - Dec. 13



--Hayley Finch-Genschorck

Save the Date: Rural Health Symposium – Nov. 16

Save the date, and plan to attend the Rural Health Symposium on Nov. 16, at the Hilton Garden Inn Hays in Hays.

Rural health care providers are constantly being faced with new challenges and fewer resources. The purpose of this symposium is to provide attendees with the skills, ideas and information necessary to survive in the rapidly changing world of rural health care. This symposium is designed for senior-level administrators, hospital trustees and others interested in rural health issues.

This symposium will be at the [Hilton Garden Inn Hays](#), 221 W 43rd St. in Hays. A block of rooms has been reserved for the night of Nov. 15 at the rate of \$126, plus tax. The room block is available until Tuesday, Oct. 17. After that, reservations will be taken on a space-available basis. To make your reservation, and receive the special rate, call (785) 727-7721, and ask for the Kansas Hospital Association room block.

Please contact the [KHA Education Department](#) at (785) 233-7436, if you have any questions.
--Hayley Finch Genschorck

QHi October Back to Basics Training Session

The October Back to Basics Session is from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 5. After a brief update, participants will walk through the site demonstrating the basics of selecting measures, adding users, entering data and running/scheduling reports.



--Sally Othmer

KHA Leadership Institute Graduates 30



The Kansas Hospital Association Leadership Institute graduated its 21st class of 30 students on Sept. 7 at the KHA Annual Convention and Trade Show in Wichita. Students were nominated by their hospital's CEO to be part of this select group. They represent the future leaders of Kansas hospitals.

The KHA Leadership Institute was established to help hospitals provide professional development opportunities that accentuate the personal skills and abilities needed to facilitate positive change and innovation in Kansas hospitals.

The 2023 Leadership Institute class was geographically diverse, representing hospitals from all parts of the state. Students had experience in health care from as little as a year to more than 20 years. Several students have been in management positions, while others were new managers. Some students also supervise other staff, from a few to more than 50 employees. Congratulations to our KHA Leadership Institute graduates. The [full media release](#) is available online.

--Jennifer Findley

Registration Is Open! KHA Workers' Compensation Fund and Safety Seminar – Oct. 19-20

The KHA Workers' Compensation Fund has been providing workers' compensation insurance to members of the Kansas Hospital Association since 1991. This seminar provides broad information to members on safety in health care, Occupational Safety and Health Administration reporting, changes and trends in workers' compensation and networking opportunities. This seminar is designed for personnel responsible for employee safety, risk management, implementing policies and reporting workers' compensation in your organization.

The seminar will be at the DoubleTree by Hilton Wichita Airport. The special room rate is \$119 per night. To reserve a room at this special rate, call (316) 945-5272 by Oct. 3, and ask for the KHA Workers' Comp Seminar room block.

Fund members attending the seminar will receive a one-time \$500 credit on their 2024 premiums. Seminar registrations are due by Oct. 16.



--Ronni Anderson

Registration Open for the Hospital Board Chair Leadership Program – Oct. 24 and Nov. 28

The Kansas Hospital Association and governWell are pleased to bring KHA members a new program designed for new board chairs and chair-elects. Learn about the board chair's leadership role; how to build purposeful agendas; facilitation and executive sessions; the Open Meetings Act; the board chair/CEO relationship; board conduct; board orientation, learning and development; and board self-assessment.

This virtual program will include two 90-minute sessions on Zoom and an optional individual coaching session. Attendance will be limited to 50 trustees. Trustees will have access to breakout rooms to connect with others in their location and similar facilities. This education is for trustees only. Trustees will need to have a video connection and be able to use the chat feature in Zoom. Session resources will be shared with attendees' CEOs in advance of the program.



--Hayley Finch-Genschorck

Register Now for the Health Care Preceptor Academy – Oct. 25

Register now, and plan to attend the Health Care Preceptor Academy on Oct. 25 in Salina. The Health Care Preceptor Academy is designed to engage and grow current and future preceptors with key education tools and strategies to foster a strong preceptor/orientee relationship. This interactive program provides information and practical tools to improve preceptor abilities.



--Hayley Finch-Genschorck

2023 Kansas Opioid and Stimulant Conference – Nov. 28

Registration is now open for the [2023 Kansas Opioid and Stimulant Conference](#), 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Nov. 28, at the Hyatt Regency in Wichita. Keynote speakers include Beth Macy, Virginia-based journalist and author of *Dopesick*, which was made into the Emmy-award-winning Hulu series; and author and speaker Jimmy McGill, whose book, *From Prison to Purpose*, provides a detailed account of his journey to sustained recovery.

There are five conference tracks:

- Emerging Trends
- Prevention
- Health Systems and Prescribers
- Public Safety
- Treatment and Recovery



--Karen Braman

CDC Recommends RSV Immunizations for Pregnant People, Infants and Older Adults

On Sept. 22, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [recommended](#) the first respiratory syncytial virus vaccine for pregnant persons to protect their newborns from severe RSV. RSV is the leading cause of hospitalization for infants in the US. In clinical trials, Pfizer's bivalent RSVpreF vaccine (Abrysvo), was shown to reduce the risk of RSV hospitalization for babies by 57 percent in the first six months after birth. To maximize protection for babies after birth, the CDC recommends seasonal administration of one dose of RSV vaccine for pregnant people during weeks 32 through 36 of pregnancy.

Last month, the CDC [recommended a new RSV immunization](#) for infants, shown to reduce the risk of both RSV-related hospitalizations and health care visits in infants by nearly 80 percent. Most infants will likely only need protection from either the maternal RSV vaccine or infant immunization, but not both. However, for example, if a baby is born less than two weeks after maternal immunization, then a doctor may recommend the baby also receive the infant immunization. Only Abrysvo is approved for use in pregnant persons. GSK's RSV vaccine, Arexvy, is not approved for use in pregnant persons.

Both [Abrysvo and Arexvy are approved for use to prevent RSV in adults aged 60 years and older](#) with shared clinical decision-making. For more detailed information on Abrysvo's approval for use in pregnant persons, see the [FDA approval announcement](#) and the [Abrysvo prescribing information](#).

The CDC is updating its [Recommendations for RSV Immunizations](#) to provide additional details. The Pediatric Pandemic Network compiled resources for the use of nirsevimab, including [FAQs for health care professionals](#) and a comprehensive [resource guide](#).

Additionally, as we enter respiratory virus season, updated [COVID-19](#) and [influenza vaccines](#) are [recommended](#) for everyone ages six months and older. Adults ages 60 and older are recommended to also get an RSV vaccine.

--Karen Braman

Showcase Hospital Accomplishments in Community Health – Apply for the NOVA Award

Has your hospital collaborated with local stakeholders to create a positive impact within the community? We invite you to [apply](#) for the American Hospital Association's [2024 Dick Davidson NOVA Award](#). It celebrates collaboration among hospitals, health systems and local partner organizations to improve community health through health care, economic or social initiatives. Award winners have successfully engaged community members to identify issues and worked together to develop solutions, like implementing a suicide prevention program in schools or helping seniors age in place with monthly screenings, meals and education.

This annual award will honor five AHA members who will be recognized at the 2024 AHA Leadership Summit in San Diego, CA. AHA is accepting applications now through Nov. 13. Learn about past honorees and [apply here](#). If you have questions, please email nova@aha.org.

--Cindy Samuelson

AHA Community Health Assessment Toolkit Updated

Check out the American Hospital Association's [Community Health Assessment Toolkit](#). This updated toolkit provides a nine-step guide for hospitals and health systems to collaborate with their communities and strategic partners to conduct a community health assessment and meet community health needs assessment requirements.

The toolkit was updated with input and guidance from a national panel of expert practitioners in community health assessment and collaboration. It reflects the understanding that while CHNA reporting may be required only for nonprofit hospitals and health systems, the CHA process is one that all hospitals can undertake. With a common commitment to health equity at the core, a well-executed CHA can be foundational to better health outcomes for individuals; stronger, more enduring relationships between hospitals and community groups; and healthier, more vibrant communities for all.

--Karen Braman

Health Observances and Recognition Days for October

Month-Long Observances

- ADHD Awareness Month
- Audiology Awareness Month
- Breast Cancer Awareness Month (National)
- Bullying Prevention Month (National)
- Dental Hygiene Month (National)
- Depression Awareness Month
- Depression and Mental Health Screening Month (National)
- Domestic Violence Awareness Month (National)
- Down Syndrome Awareness Month (National)
- Eczema Awareness Month (National)
- Emotional Awareness Month (National)
- Eye Injury Prevention Month
- Halloween Safety Month
- Health Literacy Month
- Hispanic Heritage Month (National)
- Pharmacist Month (American)
- Physical Therapy Month (National)
- Sudden Cardiac Arrest Month

Week-Long Observances

- Oct 1-7 – Mental Illness Awareness Week (National)
- Oct. 8-14 – OCD Awareness Week (International)
- Oct. 12-20 – Bone and Joint Health National Action Week
- Oct. 16-20 – Health Education Week (National)
- Oct. 15-21 – Healthcare Quality Week (National) and Infection Prevention Week (International)
- Oct. 23-31 – Red Ribbon Celebration Week (National)

Recognition Days | Events

- Oct. 1 – Vegetarian Day (World)
- Oct. 2 – Child Health Day (National)
- Oct. 5 – Depression Screening Day (National) and Meningitis Day (World)
- Oct. 10 – Day of Prayer for Mental Illness (National) and Mental Health Day (World)
- Oct. 11 – Coming Out Day (National) and Day of the Girl (International)
- Oct. 12 – Arthritis Day (World)
- Oct. 13 – Metastatic Breast Cancer Awareness Day
- Oct. 20 – Mammography Day (National) and Osteoporosis Day (World)
- Oct. 21 – Check Your Meds Day (National)
- Oct. 28 – Chocolate Day (National)
- Oct. 29 – Psoriasis Day (World) and Stroke Day (World)

The Kansas Hospital Association and Society for Healthcare Strategy and Market Development are pleased to bring you the [2024 Calendar of Health Observances & Recognition Days](#). Yet another example of our commitment to providing health care strategists with practical, timely resources, this calendar is designed to help you plan your 2024 community health events, internal and external communications, social media campaigns and more. The 2024 calendar is easy to navigate, interactive and features more than 230 health observances and recognition days. 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, but they also give access to healthy recipes, cooking videos, branded cookbooks, recipe calendars, wellness content and solutions.

Also access the [2023 Calendar of Health Observances & Recognition Days](#) to help you plan for the remainder of the year.

[Download the 2023 Calendar](#)

--Jan Fenwick

Position Available

[Director of Health Information Management/Privacy Officer/Medical Staff Coordinator
Greenwood County Hospital](#)

100 W. 16th St.

Eureka, KS 67045-1064

Contact: [Janel Palmer](#), HR director

Phone: (620) 583-0504

Fax: (620) 583-6702

Email: jpalmer@gwch.org

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

Apply Online Today!
CLICK HERE

Qualifications

- RHIT or RHIA credentials are preferred and may be reimbursable by the hospital
- Prior hospital electronic medical records experience is required
- Must be detail-oriented with excellent communication skills
- Have the ability to multitask, prioritize duties and maintain confidentiality

An excellent benefits package is offered. GWCH is a tobacco-free campus and drug-free workplace. Applicants will be asked to read the policy and sign a pre-employment offer and consent to a drug screening.

If you have a management position available in your organization and would like it posted in *Current Report*, email the information to [Jan Fenwick](mailto:Jan.Fenwick@kshealthjobs.net). Also, don't forget to check out www.kshealthjobs.net for other health care openings in Kansas.

--Jan Fenwick

Federal and National News

CMS Announces Medicare Advantage and Medicare Part D 2024 Premiums

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services [announced](#) the average monthly plan premium for all Medicare Advantage plans is projected to increase from \$17.86 in 2023 to \$18.50 in 2024. CMS stated, "If enrollees choose to stay in their plan, most will experience little or no premium increase for next year, with nearly 73 percent of beneficiaries not seeing any premium increase at all." CMS credits the Inflation Reduction Act for keeping prescription drug costs lower for those with Medicare Part D coverage.

CMS also [announced](#) the calendar year 2024 participants in the Medicare Advantage Value-Based Insurance Design Model. The VBID model is designed to test a "broad array of MA health plan innovations designed to enhance the quality of care for MA enrollees." The number of participants has increased from 52 percent in 2023 to 69 percent in 2024.

CMS Issues Interpretive Guidance for Nurse Midwives

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services [issued interpretive guidance](#) for nurse midwives, which is part of the agency's efforts to improve maternal care by addressing workforce and access to care issues. CMS notes hospital regulations permit licensed practitioners, including nurse midwives or advanced practice registered nurses, as allowed by the state, to admit patients to a hospital. CMS does not require these practitioners be employed by, under the supervision of, or associated with an MD/DO, unless required by state law, regulations or facility policy. Additionally, a hospital is not precluded from credentialing and granting privileges to practitioners, such as nurse midwives, or from making them a part of the medical staff.

The guidance is somewhat different for Critical Access Hospitals. CMS states physician oversight is required for inpatients in a CAH, and the physician oversight requirement for outpatients is applicable if required by state law.

Agencies Propose Independent Dispute Resolution Process Fees

The Departments of Treasury, Labor and Health and Human Services [released](#) proposals to update sections of the No Surprises Act regulations. The rule would increase the administrative fee and the refundable certified independent dispute resolution entity fee. The administrative fee would increase from \$50 to \$150 beginning Jan. 1, 2024. The refundable IDR entity fee would be \$200 to \$840 for a single determination and a range of \$268 to \$1,173 for small-batch claim determinations.

MACPAC Studies Medicaid Managed Care Plan Denials

[Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program Payment and Access Commission](#) discussed the issue of managed care plan [prior authorization denials](#) in its [meeting](#) on Sept. 21. The commission is considering actions ranging from more robust reporting to requiring states to exercise specific oversight activities. It is expected to adopt recommendations as early as its meeting in [November](#).

MLN Connects Provider eNews Available

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services issued the following updates to *MLN Connects Provider eNews*:

Before You Go ...

- Hospitals participating in the Hospital OQR Program are invited to participate in a webinar at 1:00 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 4, to review the CMS outpatient validation process, pertinent reports and common abstraction dilemmas. [Registration](#) is required.
- Now available on the Quality Reporting Center is an interactive [Facility Compare Tool](#), which displays facility and state-specific data published as part of the Hospital Outpatient and Ambulatory Surgical Center Quality Reporting Programs. This tool allows users to compare their hospital's specific rates to a single facility, group of facilities, city or state.