



***KHA's Current Report***  
***October 27, 2023***

**President's Perspective – Legislative Dinners Focus on Hospital Finances**

It is hard to believe that November is right around the corner. With the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays in sight, it also means the 2024 Kansas legislative session is fast approaching. Each year, the Kansas Hospital Association team travels across the state meeting with elected officials and hospital leaders to discuss the upcoming legislative priorities of the KHA membership. This year is no different as we are in the midst of hosting the KHA fall legislative dinners. While the focus is always on educating policymakers on the latest health care issues confronting Kansas hospitals, it also is a tremendous opportunity to connect our hospital leaders with elected officials in their region.

This year's legislative dinner events center around an important topic challenging nearly every Kansas hospital: hospital finances. The KHA team developed an innovative and creative approach to discussing hospital finances and advocacy issues. Through a board game simulation named "Take Your Chance on Hospital Finance," attendees have the opportunity to pretend they are hospital leaders or board members wrestling with real-life examples of financial challenges facing Kansas hospitals. Each participant is assigned to a hospital representing either a Critical Access Hospital, a rural prospective payment system hospital or an urban tertiary hospital. Through a series of rounds, each hospital is presented with a variety of realistic financial challenges, such as delayed insurance payments or workforce labor shortages. After evaluating a series of options facing the hospital, attendees must decide which hospital services they believe are essential enough to maintain or risk losing the service line to the potential financial detriment of a neighboring hospital. Lastly, every hospital is presented with a variety of legislative policy proposals that would help hospitals offset financial challenges. These legislative solutions range from Medicaid expansion to streamlining the prior authorization process, to protecting the 340B Drug Discount Program.

While my brief description does not do the board game simulation justice, I would encourage you to consider attending one of the upcoming KHA legislative dinner events. Not only will you be able to test your board game skills, but you will have the opportunity to join KHA in our advocacy efforts and highlight the local impact of the various legislative policy proposals.

Please mark your calendar and join us to test your skills by playing "Take Your Chance on Hospital Finance!"

- Monday, Oct. 30, 5:30-8:00 p.m., Southwind Golf & Dining, 77 Grandview Dr., Garden City
- Tuesday, Nov. 7, 5:30-8:00 p.m., Crestwood County Club, 304 W. Crestview Ave., Pittsburg
- Thursday, Nov. 16, 5:30-8:00 p.m., Hilton Garden Inn & Convention Center, 221 West 43rd St., Hays
- Wednesday, Dec. 13, 5:30-8:00 p.m., Thompson Barn, 11184 Lackman Rd., Lenexa

[CLICK HERE  
TO REGISTER](#)

--Chad Austin

### **Register Today for the Kansas Physician Leader Forum – Nov. 3**

Network and hear a fantastic lineup of national and local speakers at the Kansas Physician Leader Forum, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Friday, Nov. 3, at the KAMMCO/KMS Office, Jimmie A. Gleason, MD, Conference Center in Topeka.

The statewide forum is cohosted by the Kansas Medical Society and Kansas Hospital Association to gather physician leaders from across the state and foster discussion regarding critical issues impacting health, and health care, in Kansas and across the country. There is no charge to participate. We encourage you to share this information with physician leaders in your hospital or health system.

Topics include:

- National Perspective from Physician Leaders
- Leveraging Technology to Improve Safety and Efficiency
- Creating and Sustaining a Culture of Performance Improvement
- Professional Wellness



Please register as soon as possible so appropriate accommodations can be made.

--Karen Braman

### **Kansas Rural Health Association Annual Conference – Nov. 9**

Sign up now to attend the 2023 Annual Conference for the Kansas Rural Health Association. The event is from 10:0 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 9, at the John U. Parolo Education Center in Pittsburg. [Registration details and sponsor opportunities](#) can be found on the conference webpage.

The Kansas Rural Health Association serves Kansas through interdisciplinary collaboration to provide innovative ways to promote healthy rural communities. They help these communities to survive and thrive in the future through education and advocacy. For questions, contact [kansasrha1@gmail.com](mailto:kansasrha1@gmail.com).

--Tara Mays

### **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 September:

- Jennifer Featherston, chief executive officer, Stevens County Hospital, Hugoton
- Camille Davidson, administrator/chief executive officer (had been interim), Stanton County Hospital, Johnson
- Tracy Duran, RN, BSN, MSN, interim administrator, Stormont Vail Health Flint Hills Campus, Junction City
- Billie Leonard, administrator/chief nursing officer, Saint John Hospital, Leavenworth
- Alex Haines, chief executive officer, St. Luke Hospital and Living Center, Marion
- R. Scott Chapman, FACHE, chief executive officer, Kansas Spine & Specialty Hospital, LLC, Wichita

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](http://www.kha-net.org). A username and password are 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 November**

#### **Month-Long Observances**

- Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month (National)
- Diabetes Month (American)
- Bladder Health Awareness Month
- COPD Awareness Month
- Diabetic Eye Disease Awareness Month
- Epilepsy Awareness Month (National)
- Family Caregivers Month (National)
- Gastric Cancer/Stomach Cancer Awareness Month
- Healthy Skin Month (National)
- Hospice and Palliative Care Month (National)
- Lung Cancer Awareness Month
- Marrow Awareness Month (National)

- Movember
- Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month (National)
- Prematurity Awareness Month
- Pulmonary Hypertension Awareness Month
- Sexual Health Month (National)
- Stomach Cancer Awareness Month

### **Week-Long Observances**

- Nov. 5-11 – Diabetes Education Week (National) and Radiologic Technology Week (National)
- Nov. 6-10 – The Society for the Advancement of Patient Blood Management Patient Blood Management Awareness Week
- Nov. 11-13 – Donor Sabbath (National)
- Nov. 12-18 – Mouth Cancer Awareness Week and Nurse Practitioner Week (National)
- Nov. 18-24 – U.S. Antibiotic Awareness Week
- Nov. 19-25 – Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease Awareness Week

### **Recognition Days | Events**

- Nov. 8 – Chronic Thromboembolic Pulmonary Hypertension Awareness Day and Day of Radiography (International)
- Nov. 9 – Diabetes Heart Connection Day (National)
- Nov. 10 – Keratoconus Day (World)
- Nov. 12 – Pneumonia Day (World)
- Nov. 14 – Diabetes Day (World)
- Nov. 16 – Great American Smokeout and Rural Health Day (National)
- Nov. 17 – Pancreatic Cancer Day (World) and Prematurity Day (World)
- Nov. 18 – COPD Awareness Day (World), and Survivors of Suicide Loss Day (International)
- Nov. 23 – Family Health History Day (National)
- Nov. 25 – Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women (International)

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

### **Federal and National News**

#### **CDC Issues Health Advisory on Limited Availability of Nirsevimab**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued a [health advisory](#) regarding the limited availability of nirsevimab, as well as interim recommendations for protecting infants during the 2023-24 respiratory virus season. These strategies are important tools to mitigate large patient surges that impact hospital operations.

The CDC recommends the following:

- Prioritize available nirsevimab 100 mg doses for infants at the highest risk for severe RSV disease, including infants under age 6 months and infants with underlying conditions.
- Recommendations for using 50 mg doses remain unchanged. Avoid using two 50 mg doses for infants weighing >5 kg to preserve supply for infants weighing <5 kg.
- Providers should suspend using nirsevimab in [palivizumab-eligible children](#) ages 8 to 19 months.
- Prenatal care providers should discuss potential nirsevimab supply concerns when counseling pregnant people about the RSVpreF vaccine. Maternal vaccination is effective and will reduce the number of infants requiring nirsevimab during the RSV season.

#### **Policy Brief Highlights CAH Hospice Services**

The Flex Monitoring Team released a [policy brief](#) highlighting hospice services provided by Critical Access Hospitals. The brief uses data derived from America Hospital Association's 2021 annual survey to identify the strengths and barriers they have faced in their journey. The information in this policy brief may be helpful for CAHs looking to improve their hospice services or add this service line and for State Flex Programs looking to support CAHs in doing so.

#### **CMS Releases January 2024 Public Reporting Hospital Data for Preview**

The preview period is now open for hospitals participating in the Inpatient Psychiatric Facility Quality Reporting, Inpatient Quality Reporting, Outpatient Quality Reporting and Prospective Payment System-Exempt Cancer Hospital Quality Reporting Programs to review data that will be publicly reported in January 2024. [Additional information](#) is available.

#### **MLN Connects Provider eNews Available**

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

- [Help CMS Improve Provider Resources — Respond by Nov. 9](#)
- [CMS Roundup \(Oct 20, 2023\)](#)
- [Nursing Facility Evaluation and Management Visits: Comparative Billing Report in October](#)

#### **Before You Go ...**

- The Joint Commission is hosting an [on-demand webinar](#) to provide an overview of the new and revised requirements effective Jan. 1, 2024, for each of the stroke certification programs.
- The American Society of Addiction Medicine is hosting a [live-virtual course](#) on Thursday, Nov. 9, focused on treating tobacco use disorder. Registration is required.