



KHA's Current Report
February 23, 2024

President's Perspective – Keeping Communities Healthy and Economically Strong

The health care sector in Kansas provides substantial contributions to the state's economy. Hospitals keep communities healthy, strong and vibrant; however, they also strengthen the infrastructure of local communities. Kansas hospitals contribute to the financial health of our state by serving as economic anchors for the communities they serve.

As with all industries, hospitals generate direct jobs and employee income; however, they also support additional businesses across many industries through supply chain linkages and employee spending on household goods and services. 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 quality health care improves business productivity, aids in the recruitment and retention of businesses and 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 the Institute for Policy and Social Research at the University of Kansas. The study found the Kansas health care sector contributes more than 300,000 jobs and nearly \$21 billion in labor income to the Kansas economy, including direct effects and multiplier effects. This labor income, when spent, generates more than \$700 million in sales tax revenue.

The study found hospitals alone employ nearly 73,000 Kansans and direct labor income of more than \$6 billion. The hospital sector has large multiplier effects. Every 100 hospital jobs support an additional 72 jobs in non-health care sectors. Every \$1,000 in current hospital wages and salaries sustains an additional \$458 in income for employees of grocery stores, restaurants, gas and electric utilities and 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](#) will be shared with our elected officials and the public in the coming weeks. We encourage you to use this information as you discuss the economic impact of hospitals with your staff, boards and communities. County-specific reports were published in October 2023 and are available [online](#). Additional resources, including a brochure, template PowerPoint presentation and media advisory, also are available [online](#).

--Chad Austin

One Week Left to Apply for a Scholarship – Apply Today

The scholarship application window is closing at midnight on Feb. 28, so apply today for a [Healthworks Health Care Scholarship](#). Individual scholarships of up to \$1,500 will be given in the following categories:

- **Undergraduate Health Care:** Undergraduate students in non-nursing health care fields. Sample degrees include physical therapy assistant, clinical lab scientist, phlebotomy, pharmacy technician, occupational therapy assistant and medical imaging.
- **Undergraduate Nursing:** Undergraduate students who have been accepted into a licensed or degreed nursing program. Sample degrees include licensed practical nurse, registered nurse and bachelor of science in nursing.
- **Faculty:** Graduate-level students in the final courses necessary to become health care faculty.
- **Advanced Clinical Practice:** Graduate-level students in any clinical health care discipline. Sample degrees include a doctorate of nursing practice, master of social work, family nurse practitioner, doctorate of pharmacy and doctorate in physical therapy.
- **Health Care Administration:** Students in health care administration, whether under- or graduate level. Sample degrees include organizational leadership, health care administration, leadership, master of science management and health care management – sponsored by the Kansas Association of Health Care Executives.
- **Human Resources:** Students in health care human-resource-related field, whether under- or graduate level. Human resources certifications are also eligible for scholarship support. Sample degrees include human resources or another degree with a concentration in human resources – sponsored by the Kansas Hospital Human Resources Association.

Priority will be given to hospital employees, particularly those working in facilities licensed for 25 or fewer acute beds. Our thanks to the Kansas Association of Health Care Executives and the Kansas Healthcare Human Resources Association for partnering with Healthworks to administer their scholarship programs.

The submission deadline is Feb. 28. [Applications](#) may be started and saved for completion at a later date. In addition, letters of recommendation may be added by either the applicant or their employer. All documents may be uploaded as a PDF or an MP3.

Please share this with anyone you know who is pursuing a health care degree or certification. If you have any questions, or need further information, contact [Susan Pattie](#) at (785) 233-7436.
--Susan Pattie

Hotel Cut-Off Extended: Infection Prevention Conference – Mar. 21-22

The Infection Prevention Conference helps prepare health care professionals to be facilitators and resources for the surveillance, prevention and control of infections. Attendees will discover proven strategies for implementing infection prevention programs. Time will be allotted during the conference for attendees to network and discuss issues with other infection prevention professionals. All participants will receive infection prevention reference materials.

Who Should Attend

This course is designed for infection prevention professionals in acute care, ambulatory care, long-term care, home health, mental health, correctional facilities and other interested professionals.

Location and Hotel Accommodations

This conference will be at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Wichita Airport, 42098 Airport Road, Wichita, KS 67209. A block of rooms has been reserved for the night of March 21, at the rate of \$119, plus tax. The hotel room block is available until March 1. After that date, reservations will be taken on a space-available basis. Request the KHA room block to receive the special rate.



--Hayley Finch-Genschorck

Healthy Kansas Hospitals – Toolkit # 3

Thank you for your continued commitment to establishing a healthier environment and being a leader in your community by establishing norms and influencing health decisions. Thank you for all you have done so far to provide the healthiest choices possible for patients, visitors and staff.

The Kansas Hospital Association is pleased to provide hospitals with a [third toolkit](#) that provides additional resources, shared knowledge and innovative approaches to improving and nurturing strategies for a healthy culture in your facility and community.

The toolkit was created to further assist and support you as you nurture strategies for a healthy culture in your hospital and beyond. The enclosed materials (as well as all the materials in the first and second toolkits) are available online at www.HealthyKansasHospitals.org.

Healthy Kansas Hospitals Toolkit #3:

- Nutritional Facts Label and MyPlate: [English](#) / [Spanish](#)
- [Tips for Adding More Color into Your Diet](#)
- [Fruits and Vegetables Flyer](#)
- MyPlate Flyer: [English](#) / [Spanish](#)
- Start Simple with MyPlate: [English](#) / [Spanish](#)
- [Eat More Color Infographic](#)
- [Recommendations for Healthy Soups and Salads](#)
- [When to Eat What Calendar](#)
- [Healthy Snacking](#)

If your hospital is interested in exploring and establishing a worksite wellness committee, please email [Hayley Finch-Genschorck](#) at (785) 233-7436. Thank you for your commitment to improving the health and well-being of Kansans.

--Hayley Finch-Genschorck

KAHCC Spring Conference and Emerald Awards

Health care marketing and communications professionals are encouraged to enter the Emerald Awards. Entries can be created by an individual, team or in collaboration with a vendor or agency. Categories include internal and external communications, special events, media relations, digital media projects, videos, websites, advertising, writing and more. KAHCC has a NEW [online entry submission platform](#) this year that should make entry submission much easier. Entries must be received by 5 p.m. on Friday, March 15, 2024. Awardees will be recognized at the [KAHCC Spring Conference](#), April 25-26, at the Cyrus Hotel in Topeka. KAHCC has reserved a block of rooms at the Cyrus Hotel for the night of April 25 for at the special rate of \$149+tax. The room block is available until April 3.

The [KAHCC Spring Conference](#) provides presentations from experts and peers, as well as entertainment and opportunities to network with others work in health care communications around the state. Up to four scholarships will be awarded to current KAHCC members and one new member based on a lottery drawing from members who complete and return the attached [scholarship application](#).

If you have not joined KAHCC, now is the time. [KAHCC membership](#) is only \$40. If you have any questions, reach out to KAHCC Board President [Sarah Hancock](#) at (785) 341-1583.

--Cindy Samuelson

Updates from the Kansas State Board of Nursing Nurse Licensure Compact New Rule

Last month, a new Nurse Licensure Compact rule went into effect stating nurses relocating to another compact state have 60 days from the time they move to apply for a new license by endorsement in a new primary state of residence. The new rule (effective beginning Jan. 2, 2024) reads: "402(2) A multistate licensee who changes primary state of residence to another party state shall apply for a multistate license in the new party state within 60 days." [FAQs](#) and a [brief video](#) about the new rule are available online. Forty-one states have enacted the NLC. For more information, visit <https://nursecompact.com/> or email nursecompact@ncsbn.org.

APRN FAQs

The latest edition of the Kansas Nursing Newsletter includes Advanced Practice FAQs. The FAQs include common questions asked of the KSBN regarding advanced practice licensure and practice. Check out the latest edition of the [Kansas Nursing Newsletter](#) (p. 5) for the FAQs list.

Nursys eNotify

The Kansas State Board of Nursing encourages nurses to enroll, at no cost, in Nursys eNotify to receive notifications related to license renewals at www.nursys.com. The National Council of State Boards of Nursing created Nursys, the only national database for licensure verification of registered nurses, licensed practical/vocational nurses and advanced practice registered nurses. There is no cost for Nursys e-Notify, which delivers real-time notifications to enrollees' inboxes and includes the following:

- Licensure status changes and expiration updates
- Create and manage multiple license expiration reminders
- Multistate and single-state changes within the Nurse Licensure Compact
- Live and dynamic updates sent securely from participating boards of nursing
- Any publicly available disciplinary action

Health care institutions also may obtain the NCSBN ID for each of your facility's nurses, allowing you to identify your nurses with a unique ID number on electronic health records and various databases for documentation, education, research and training purposes. To learn more, visit nursys.com/e-notify.

--Karen Braman

Registration Open for the Rural Kansas Health Workforce Conference

Registration is now open for the Rural Kansas Health Workforce Conference, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Mar. 27, at Colby Community College in Colby. This conference is being organized by the Health Resources and Services Administration Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs Region 7, in partnership with the University of Kansas Health System Care Collaborative and Kansas WorkforceONE.

The forum includes discussions on federal, state and local resources to support the development of programs and models addressing health care workforce training, recruitment and retention challenges in rural Kansas. Speakers will share how to improve retention and recruitment strategies, the benefits of apprenticeship and bridge programs, how to create rural residency programs and mobile integrated health care resources.

[Click to Register](#)

HRSA also is hosting a grants workshop pre-session at Colby Community College on Mar. 26. Attendees will learn about the federal grant application process, where to find funding opportunities, strategies for putting together a successful application and resources to support their grant writing efforts. This workshop is offered in person only.

[Click to Register](#)

If you have any questions, please contact [Myesha Kennedy](#).

--*Jaron Caffrey*

Increased Concentration of Hepatitis A in Douglas County Wastewater

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment issued an alert via the Kansas Health Alert Network this week on an increased concentration of hepatitis A virus detected at the Lawrence Kansas River Wastewater Treatment Facility indicating possible transmission within the Lawrence community.

Hepatitis A is a vaccine-preventable illness. Early identification of cases, post-exposure prophylaxis and vaccination of at-risk populations are key to preventing and controlling the spread of hepatitis A. Increasing hepatitis A vaccination coverage in Douglas County is necessary to minimize transmission. Vaccination of persons experiencing homelessness and persons who use drugs is recommended in health care settings such as emergency departments, federally qualified health care centers and any acute care settings.

Vaccination of persons at risk for HAV infection or at risk for severe disease from HAV infection is recommended. Additionally, there is an active HAV outbreak in Shawnee County among people experiencing homelessness and/or persons who use drugs (injection or noninjection). For more information on that outbreak, visit the [KDHE Hepatitis A Outbreak page](#).

--*Karen Braman*

Grant Proposals Currently Being Accepted for Nursing Workforce Strategies

Proposals are currently being requested for innovative solutions that strengthen and diversify the nursing workforce, expand recruitment and retention of nurses and create and sustain healthy work environments.

The AARP, American Association of Critical Care Nurses and the Future of Nursing Campaign for Action are granting awards up to \$25,000 per organization for one-year projects. Projects require 1:1 matching funds and must support the advancement of one or more of the recommendations in the National Academy of Medicine report, the Future of Nursing 2020-2030: Charting a Path to Achieve Health Equity.

Applications are due on Apr. 5. For more information and to apply, visit [2024 Nursing Innovations Fund | Campaign for Action](#).

--Jaron Caffrey

e-Prescribing Fraud Now Prevalent

Electronic prescribing, originally intended to deter prescription fraud and abuse, is now the target of bad actors sending fraudulent prescriptions to pharmacies. The [Drug Enforcement Administration](#) is sounding the alarm on the rise of e-prescribing fraud.

According to a DEA presentation during the Feb. 22, Kansas Board of Pharmacy meeting, criminals are stealing the identities of DEA registered providers, setting up fraudulent electronic health record accounts using the stolen identities and using the EHR account to issue fraudulent controlled substance prescriptions nationwide. The DEA stated in their presentation that currently the top three controlled substances fraudulent prescriptions are for are: promethazine with codeine, oxycodone and alprazolam. Mail theft and the dark web are common ways the identities of providers are stolen. The Kansas Board of Pharmacy detailed this growing problem in the [March 2023 Kansas Board of Pharmacy Newsletter](#). According to the Kansas Board of Pharmacy, three components are required to confirm the prescriber's identity: identity proofing, digital signature and two-factor authentication. However, because the e-prescribing software vendors are not highly regulated, identity proofing (confirming the prescriber's identity when setting up the software) has not proven to be as secure as necessary to avoid fraud.

If you discover fraudulent prescriptions, contact your law enforcement agency. They may request specific information such as whether the patient used an insurance card or discount card when picking up the medication, the SPI number on electronic prescriptions, the sender message ID on the prescription and whether a text message was sent when the prescription was ready for pickup. All of these items may help law enforcement identify bad actors. To help prevent identity theft, verify with your EHR vendor the quality and effectiveness of their identity proofing. Providers are also encouraged to utilize [K-TRACS](#), Kansas' prescription drug monitoring program, to check their own prescription profile to detect any fraudulent prescriptions.

--Karen Braman

Koch Filter – World-Class Manufacturer of Air Filtration Products – Mar. 21 Webinar

[Koch Filter is a world-class manufacturer of air filtration products](#) founded in 1966. Koch Filter is recognized globally for its premier brand of high-efficiency air filtration products and the industry's broadest range of air filters for any application. They service more than 50,000 commercial, medical and industrial accounts worldwide. Koch Filter has four regional manufacturing/distribution centers in the U.S. and is headquartered in Louisville, KY. Learn more about Koch Filter during a webinar at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, Mar. 21.

Click to
Register

If you have questions or need additional information, contact [Dennis George](#) at (913) 327-8730.
--Dennis George

APS Vendor Streamlines the Financial Aid Application and Management Process – May 8 Webinar

As a hospital CEO, CFO, CMO, RCM leader or board member, understanding and optimizing your financial assistance program isn't just about compliance. It's about protecting your institution and enhancing patient care. Discover invaluable insights from [Breez Health, LLC's](#) comprehensive survey as CEO and founder, Nick McLaughlin, dives deep into the current state of hospital financial assistance and presents strategies for improving the patient financial experience and protecting your hospital. [Register now](#) for a webinar at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, May 8, to learn how Breez Health can impact your organization.

If you have questions or need additional information, contact [Dennis George](#) at (913) 327-8730.
--Dennis George

Health Observances and Recognition Days for March Month-Long Observances

- Brain Injury Wellness Month
- Child Life Month
- Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month
- Kidney Month (National)
- MS Education and Awareness Month (National)
- Nutrition Month (National)
- Save Your Vision Month
- Workplace Eye Wellness Month

Week-Long Observances

- Mar. 10-16 – Pulmonary Rehabilitation Week
- Mar. 11- 15 – Healthcare HR Week
- Mar. 12-15 – Medical Awareness Genetics Week

Recognition Days | Events

- Mar. 24 – World Tuberculosis Day
- Mar. 30 – National Doctor's Day

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, they also give access to healthy recipes, cooking videos, branded cookbooks, recipe calendars, wellness content and solutions.

[Download the 2024 Calendar](#)

--Jan Fenwick

Federal and National News

CMS Releases IPFQR Specifications Manual Version 1.2a

Now available on [QualityNet](#) is version 1.2a of the IPF specifications manual, effective for discharges beginning Jan. 1, 2024. Updates are outlined in the associated release notes and include changes to the index table of data elements to reflect the removal of the HBIPS-5 and TOB 2/2a measures from the IPFQR program, clarification regarding the non-measure data population and the addition of the sex-related data elements.

Children's Mercy Compiles Resources to Help Families Navigate Tragedy

Acts of senseless violence are difficult to understand, especially for children. [Children's Mercy](#) compiled [resources](#) on the following topics to help families navigate the tragic events that took place in Kansas City this week.

- How parents can help navigate dialogue
- How to limit exposure to media
- What to watch for – signs of PTSD
- Where to go if help is needed
- Additional online resources

These resources are valuable for all children, and caregivers, who have faced tragedy and are on their journey to healing.

MLN Connects Provider eNews Available

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

- [CMS Issues Additional Guidance on Program to Allow People with Medicare to Pay Out-of-Pocket Prescription Drug Costs in Monthly Payments](#)