



KHA's Current Report
March 28, 2025

President's Perspective – KHA Board Convenes in Topeka

The Kansas Hospital Association Board of Directors met earlier this week in Topeka to discuss several timely and important topics affecting the association and its membership, including the latest advocacy issues at the state and federal levels.

Today marks the official end of the regular portion of the 2025 Kansas legislative session. Legislators are heading back to their respective districts and will return to Topeka for the veto session, which is anticipated to start on April 10. This legislative break is an opportune time for KHA members to connect with Kansas House and Senate members to discuss the most important issues to you and your community.

The KHA Board had the opportunity to hear first-hand from one of our state leaders, Senate President Ty Masterson. Senator Masterson provided a brief overview of the ongoing legislative budget discussions and the financial outlook for the next few years. He recognized the importance of the health care industry and touched upon his support for Kansas hospitals, especially as it relates to protecting our workforce against acts of violence and addressing the behavioral health challenges within our state. Senator Masterson also highlighted the recent approval by the Kansas Senate on the 340B legislation and acknowledged that Kansas hospitals need to engage and educate House members on this issue.

The KHA team will discuss how best to engage our state and federal officials during our upcoming KHA district meetings, which begin next week. We hope you can take some time out of your schedule to attend a meeting and network with your colleagues!

Additional highlights of the March board meeting are bulleted below:

- Recognized Robert Kenagy, MD, for his leadership and service on the KHA Board, as he is retiring in May 2025.
- Welcomed Carrie Lutz, CEO, Holton Community Hospital, to the KHA Board as the KHA representative serving on the American Hospital Association's Regional Policy Board.
- Carrie Lutz, CEO of Holton Community Hospital, and David McCorkle, CEO of Citizens Medical Center, gave a recap of the recent American Hospital Association's Regional Policy Board meeting.

- Approved the KHA associate membership applications for the following organizations:
 - Fusion Workforce Solutions, Elkhorn, NE
 - MedCurate, Prairie Village, KS
 - Roshal Health, Katy, TX
 - TRS Managed Services, Tontitown, AR
- Reviewed and adopted the KHA finance report.
- Received the latest status of the Health Care Access Improvement Program.
- Discussed activities related to health care finance, including hospital credentialing and the current public awareness campaign.
- Highlighted quality and safety initiatives, including vaccination awareness, Kansas Perinatal Quality Collaborative, survey activities and the Kansas Fights Addiction Grant Partnership.
- Presented information on the nominating process for the 2025 KHA Awards Program.
- Heard a recap on the 2025 Virtual Health Care Career Day and other workforce-related activities.
- Discussed the 2025 KHA Convention and Trade Show preparations, including the theme, "Mission Possible."
- Received an update on the KHA Political Action Committee fundraising status and upcoming activities.

Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or require assistance with matters affecting your hospital. We hope to see you at the upcoming KHA District Meetings!

--Chad Austin

Recruitment and Retention Strategies: Providing Real-Time Feedback Educational Webinar – April 3

In today's competitive job market, attracting and retaining top talent requires a dynamic and multifaceted approach. This webinar will equip health care leaders and human resources professionals with the tools and strategies to create a more engaging, supportive, and growth-focused work environment, leading to stronger retention and improved recruitment outcomes. Effective feedback is essential for employee development, but balancing the preferences of individual team members with business needs can be tricky. This session delves into strategies for providing real-time, constructive feedback that drives behavior change while fostering continuous growth. Explore how to implement bidirectional feedback, create opportunities for micro-mentoring and prioritize retention-focused initiatives with high impact and low time commitment.



--Hayley Finch-Genschorck

Update Regarding Terrorism Threat to Hospitals

Following up on the Kansas Hospital Association's email dated Friday, March 21, to CEOs and emergency preparedness contacts regarding the AHA and Health-ISAC Bulletin on a Threat to Hospitals, we have stayed in contact with state and federal partners. According to the [Federal Bureau of Investigation, as of March 26](#), there are **no** specific credible threats against hospitals in any U.S. city. The Kansas Intelligence Fusion Center also shared [Hospitals and Healthcare Facilities: Security Awareness for Soft Targets and Crowded Places](#) and [What to Do Bomb Threats](#) as resources from the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency for overall security preparations. Our recommendation, as well as that of the Kansas Intelligence Fusion Center, is to remain calm yet vigilant. Review emergency response plans and communications, and remind staff that if they see something, they should say something.

--Larry Van Der Wege

Register Now for the Complimentary Health Care Preceptor Academy

Join Kansas Hospital Association staff this spring/summer for one of our complimentary Health Care Preceptor Academies. These sessions support current and future preceptors by providing valuable educational tools and strategies to strengthen the preceptor/orientee relationship. This interactive program offers practical guidance and resources to enhance your preceptor skills.

Locations & Dates:

- Overland Park – April 25 – Saint Luke's South Hospital, 12300 Metcalf Ave., Overland Park, KS 66213
- Holton – June 19 – Holton Community Hospital, 1110 Columbine Drive, Holton, KS 66436
- Pittsburg – July 10 – Mercy Hospital Pittsburg, 1 Mount Carmel Way, Pittsburg, KS 66762
- Emporia – July 18 – Newman Regional Health, 1201 W 12th Ave., Emporia, KS 66801

Each session will cover the same valuable material. Registration is first come, first served, with only 30 spots available per session.



--Hayley Finch-Genschorck

Second Financial Awareness Campaign Release – New One-Page Resource on Medicare

The Kansas Hospital Association is working to tell the hospital finance story broadly this spring. KHA initiated these efforts with our annual campaign focused on the [economic impact of hospitals and the health care industry](#). We then updated our financial infographic highlighting Kansas hospitals' overall financial challenges and recently created a one-pager on Medicaid. We hope these tools will help hospitals have meaningful conversations about financial challenges and implement positive changes.

This week, KHA is sharing with members the next area of focus for our [Financial Awareness Campaign: Medicare](#). Our new one-page resource, available to help kick-start discussions about Medicare, explains how Medicare provides critical health coverage to various people in every community across Kansas. This coverage helps ensure that patients receive the necessary medical services to live healthier and more productive lives. It also projects Medicare cuts through 2030, and the number of Kansans on Medicare is expected to rise in the coming years.

We have a new toolkit link on Box.com that houses not only the print resources in this campaign but also template social media posts and other communications tools. KHA will boost messages on our social platforms to educate the public and policymakers about Medicare, explaining the program and highlighting its challenges. In a nutshell, supporting the Medicare program will enhance the financial viability of Kansas hospitals and ensure health care for an aging Kansas population.

If you have questions about this campaign, don't hesitate to contact Cindy Samuelson at csamuelson@kha-net.org. If you have questions about hospital finance, please contact Shannan Flach at sflach@kha-net.org.

--Cindy Samuelson

Measles Cases Increasing in Kansas

As of March 26, the number of measles cases in Kansas had increased to 23 across six counties, up from 10 cases in three counties on March 21. There are excellent measles and measles, mumps and rubella vaccination resources, including updates, symptoms and frequently asked questions for providers, clinical staff, parents and caregivers on the [Immunization Kansas Coalition Measles/MMR Vaccine Resource Hub](#). The [Kansas Department of Health and Environment's Reportable Infections Disease Dashboard](#) provides up-to-date information on reportable infectious diseases, including measles cases. For facilities or providers wishing to further understand the potential risk of transmission in their communities, KDHE's [Kindergarten Immunization Data Dashboard](#) shows vaccination rates at the state level and by school district, including for MMR. Many Kansas school districts are well below the recommended 95 percent MMR vaccination rate for herd immunity.

KHA is hosting a Measles Clinical Call April 11, noon – 1:00 p.m., in partnership with KDHE, The University of Kansas Health System, The University of Kansas Health System Care Collaborative and Children's Mercy Hospital. Speakers include Derek Totten, MD, family physician at Citizens Health and state health officer; Dana Hawkinson, MD, infectious disease physician, The University of Kansas Health System; and Brandan Kennedy, MD, pediatric hospitalist, Children's Mercy Hospital. For more information and to register for the April 11 clinical call, please contact Hayley Finch Genschorck, KHA director of education, at hfinch@kha-net.org.

--Karen Braman

Kansas Crisis Standards of Care Guidance for Long Term Care Facilities

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment Preparedness Program and the Bureau of Community Health Systems worked together with the Kansas Health Institute and other partners from around the state, including the Kansas Hospital Association and KHA member hospital representatives, to create the [Kansas Crisis Standards of Care Guidance for Long Term Care Facilities](#). The guidance for LTC facilities follows the Kansas Crisis Standards of Care Guidance document, revised in 2023, which was originally created for hospitals.

This document aims to assist hospitals and long-term care facilities in planning for events that may require contingencies when dealing with a surge event with limited resources.

--Larry Van Der Wege

Professional Nursing Simulation Classes Are Offered through *careLearning*

[careLearning](#) offers health care simulation courses for nurses that incorporate authentic virtual simulations and clinical experiences to engage learners in real-world scenarios, allowing nurses to obtain unparalleled clinical judgment and critical thinking experiences.

A complete description of classes can be found at [careLearning's website](#). Click "[Access Our Course Catalog](#)." Select your state and click "Nursing CE Credit Courses." Participants receive two continuing education credit hours upon successful completion of each course.

--Jennifer Findley

Kansas 4M Seeking Practice Sites to Attain Age-Friendly Health Systems Recognition

The Kansas 4M Geriatrics Workforce Education Program offers \$1,000 for up to 30 sites to participate in an Age-Friendly Action Community and achieve Level 1 and Level 2 Age-Friendly Health Systems Recognition between now and Dec. 31, 2025. The program utilizes the evidence-based 4M framework of What Matters, Medication, Mentation (Mind) and Mobility. Participating sites may include nursing homes, primary care sites and delivery systems, hospitals, ambulatory care, convenient care clinics, geriatric surgery and geriatric emergency departments serving older adults across Kansas. Eligible funded sites will be accepted on a first-come, first-registered basis. Additional sites that may not require funding are encouraged to apply and be recognized as a Kansas 4M Champion site. [CLICK HERE](#) for more information and to apply.

--Karen Braman

KONL Spring Conference – April 22-23

Register now for the Kansas Organization of Nurse Leaders 2025 Spring Conference – Empowering Leaders: Advancing Nurse Wellness and Professional Fulfillment. The conference will take place from 9:00 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. on April 22 and from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on April 23 at the Drury Plaza Hotel in Wichita. Payment is accepted via credit card or check.



--Lorri Dean

Mark Your Calendars Today for National Hospital Week – May 11-17

[National Hospital Week](#) is an opportunity to highlight our hospitals, health systems and health care workers and the innovative ways you support and connect to your community.

Why We Celebrate

- To recognize the 5,000 hospitals, health care systems, networks and others that provide care to their communities.
- Our caregivers have taken on unimaginable challenges and have repeatedly risen to the occasion.
- We believe it is essential that others recognize the impact hospitals have had on communities, particularly in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic.



[Visit AHA's website](#) for resources, such as [social media toolkit](#), [social graphics](#), [ads](#), videos, AHA engagement campaigns and much more, to help engage your community in celebrating [National Hospital Week](#).

Use the hashtag #wearehealthcare in your social posts. KHA staff look forward to seeing your photos and will highlight what your hospitals and health systems are doing to celebrate health care workers and the innovative ways you are supporting and connecting with the communities you serve.

--Jan Fenwick

Health Observances and Recognition Days for April

Month-Long Observances

- Alcohol Awareness Month
- Autism Awareness Month (National)
- Cancer Prevention and Early Detection Month (National)
- Child Abuse Prevention Month (National)
- Counseling Awareness Month
- Defeat Diabetes Month
- Donate Life Month (National)
- Facial Protection Month (National)
- Foot Health Awareness Month
- Head and Neck Cancer Awareness Month
- Healthcare Thought Leadership and Innovation Month
- Humor Month (National)
- Interprofessional Healthcare Month (National)
- Irritable Bowel Syndrome Awareness Month
- Limb Loss and Limb Difference Awareness Month (National)
- March for Babies
- Medicaid Awareness Month
- Minority Health Month (National)
- Occupational Therapy Month
- Oral Cancer Awareness Month
- Parkinson's Awareness Month
- Rosacea Awareness Month
- Sarcoidosis Awareness Month (National)
- Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month
- Sexually Transmitted Infections Awareness Month
- Sports Eye Safety Month
- Stress Awareness Month
- Testicular Cancer Awareness Month
- Women's Eye Health and Safety Month
- Workplace Violence Prevention Awareness Month

Week-Long Observances

- April 7-11 – Cancer Registrars Week (National)
- April 7-13 – Public Health Week (National)
- April 11-17 – Black Maternal Health Week
- April 13-19 – Oral, Head, and Neck Cancer Awareness Week
- April 20-26 – Immunization Week (World), Infertility Awareness Week (National), Medical Laboratory Professionals Week, Neurodiagnostic Week, Pediatric Sepsis Week, Pediatric Transplant Week (National)
- April 21-15 – Every Kid Healthy Week
- April 21-25 – Health Information Professionals Week, Medical Laboratory Professionals Week,
- April 21-28 – Infant Immunization Week (National)
- April 28-May 4 – Patient Experience Week

Recognition Days | Events

- April 2 – Autism Awareness Day (World)
- April 3 – Alcohol Screening Day (National)
- April 4 – Infection Preventionist Day (International)
- April 7 – Health Day (World)
- April 10 – Youth HIV and AIDS Awareness Day (National)
- April 16 – Healthcare Decisions Day Annual (National), Transplant Nurses Day
- April 17 – Hemophilia Day (World)
- April 25 – DNA Day, Malaria Day (World)
- April 26 – Prescription Drug Take Back Day (National)
- April 28 – Day for Safety and Health at Work (World)
- April 30 – APOL1-Mediated Kidney Disease (AMKD) Awareness Day

The Kansas Hospital Association and the Society for Healthcare Strategy and Market Development are pleased to present the [2025 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 community health events, internal and external communications, social media campaigns and more. The calendar is easy to navigate, interactive and features more than 230 health observances and recognition days. Don't miss out on receiving 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

[Chief Executive Officer](#)

[Girard Medical Center](#)

302 N. Hospital Dr.

Girard, KS 66743-2000

Contact: [Holly Koch, Chief Financial Officer](#)

Phone: (620)724-5136

Fax: (620) 724-4195

Email: hkoch@girardmedicalcenter.com

Website: www.girardmedicalcenter.com

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The Chief Executive Officer exercises management responsibility over Girard Medical Center, ensuring efficient services are designed to meet the needs of patients, physicians, the public and staff. The CEO is responsible for the smooth and efficient operation of Girard Medical Center and its clinics. The CEO works alongside the CFO in managing financial planning, budgeting, cash flow and investment, as well as operational, clinical, staffing, community need and public relations matters. The CEO provides management oversight for the development and maintenance of high-quality, cost-effective and integrated clinical programs. This position is accountable for the overall success of operations, including program development, quality, fiscal management, compliance and clinical management measures, physician relationships, outreach and work culture enhancement. The CEO works collaboratively with the management and medical leadership to ensure the hospital's and its clinics' operational and strategic success. The CEO needs to maintain continuous lines of communication, keeping the board of trustees informed of all critical issues. Qualifications include a bachelor's degree and at least five years in a health care leadership role or equivalent. The salary and benefits are competitive and commensurate with experience.

Email [Jan Fenwick](#) if you have a management position available in your organization and would like it posted in *the Current Report*. Also, check out www.kshealthjobs.net for other health care openings in Kansas.

--Jan Fenwick

Federal and National News

AHA Report Discusses Impact of Medicare Advantage on Rural Hospitals

As essential care providers and major local employers, rural hospitals are vital to the health and economic well-being of their communities. However, they face significant financial pressure that threatens their ability to provide essential services.

A contributing factor is the increasing number of Medicare-eligible Kansans who are covered by Medicare Advantage vs. traditional Medicare — 54 percent in April 2024, up from 30 percent in 2016, with the trend expected to increase.

MA plans often pay less than traditional Medicare for equivalent services, reduce payments through routine denials, implement overly burdensome appeals processes, unilaterally impose site-of-service limitations and restrict inpatient transfers. MA plans also use tactics that delay patient discharges by refusing to authorize appropriate post-discharge services.

The Kansas Hospital Association continues to [advocate for clear legislation](#) that compels MA plans to follow basic benefit coverage policies and to [help hospitals inform consumers about the important differences between their coverage options](#).

Read more about the impact of MA on rural hospitals nationwide, along with detailed recommendations, in [AHA's most recent report](#).

Before You Go ...

- In recent years, tremendous strides have been made in providing resources for physicians to seek care for their own mental and behavioral health, and in making them feel safer about seeking that help. However, there's still work to be done to ensure that physicians, residents and medical students can take care of their well-being. [Learn more](#) about this topic from the American Medical Association.
- The Grayken Center for Addiction at Boston Medical Center will host a [free training](#) series focused on medications for stimulant use disorders. These 30-minute webinars are offered at the following times:
 - Medications for Overamping: 11 a.m. Friday, April 4
 - Medications for Pregnant People with Stimulant Use Disorder: 2:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 7, and 11:30 a.m. Thursday, June 5
 - Medications for Methamphetamine Use Disorder: 2:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 21, and 11 a.m. Friday, May 30
- A recent [research report](#) published in the journal *Addiction* explores retention rates among patients with opioid use disorder prescribed 16, 24, 32 and 40 mg doses of buprenorphine-naloxone. Treatment retention rates were higher among those with a daily buprenorphine dose of 24 mg when compared to those on 16 mg.