



KHA's Current Report
April 11, 2025

President's Perspective – KHA Members Attend District Meetings

For the past two weeks, the Kansas Hospital Association has been convening meetings across the state as part of our 2025 KHA spring district tour. The gatherings have been a wonderful opportunity to connect with KHA members and discuss current and emerging issues facing Kansas hospitals. The ability to converse with our colleagues achieves several purposes, including the opportunity to learn from each other and to share experiences. Thank you again to all of our members who were able to join us.

The agenda for the latest round of district meetings followed the strategic priorities of the 2025-2027 KHA Strategic Plan. Each meeting started with a thoughtful and engaging dialogue on potential strategies to address the finance and reimbursement issues facing the KHA membership. Among the tactics considered were exploring the opportunities to create clinically integrated networks, developing resources to assist in payor relations and increasing the public awareness on the financial headwinds facing Kansas hospitals. If you haven't seen the latest financial infographics and communication tools, you can download them from the [Box.com folder](#).

In the areas of quality and safety, attendees leaned into the topics of maternal health, vaccine resources and other statewide initiatives such as the *Drive to Zero Campaign*. While members shared their latest experiences on maternal health difficulties that included staff recruitment challenges and insufficient reimbursement, several hospitals highlighted their involvement and success with programs like the Fourth Trimester Initiative and the Sunflower R-MOMS program.

Attendees also had the opportunity to hear the latest on KHA's advocacy and regulatory efforts on the state and federal levels. On the federal side, members heard about the recent budget deliberations and potential policy issues being considered, including those that deal with possible Medicaid cuts as well as enhanced premium tax credits. We also discussed the legislative actions that have occurred thus far in Topeka and the need to continue educating our policymakers on the importance of investing in the Kansas health care system and protecting the [340B program](#).

The final strategic priority focused on the health care workforce. Members received the hot-off-the-press [2025 Health Care Workforce Report](#) that features updated vacancy and turnover rates in Kansas, as well as data for each KHA district. Additional workforce resources were shared that highlighted the [HappyInHealthCare.org website](http://HappyInHealthCare.org), Kansas Health Care Preceptor Academy opportunities and the latest on Health Care Apprenticeship programs. KHA also facilitated an in-depth discussion on physician recruitment and retention efforts.

We also noted several important KHA events that will occur later this year, including the [2025 Kansas Hospital Association Annual Convention and Trade Show](#), *Mission: Possible*, on Sept. 4-5 in Wichita. We greatly appreciate our KHA sponsors at the Diamond-Level: APS, KAMMCO and KHSC; and our Platinum-Level Sponsor: Qualivis.

Thanks to all of you who attended our in-person district meetings. Your participation and involvement were much appreciated! If you missed our in-person meetings, resources are now [online](#). Don't hesitate to let us know if you have any questions or need additional assistance!
--Chad Austin

Mark Your Calendars: 2025 KHA Annual Convention and Trade Show

The Kansas Hospital Association invites you to attend the 2025 KHA Annual Convention and Trade Show, Sept. 4-5, in Wichita. This year's event, *Mission: Possible*, will celebrate the incredible impact of our health care community and focus on embracing change, innovation and growth.

The full [schedule of events](#) is now available, and we're excited to announce a key update: the HVK/KHA Luncheon and Allied Organizations Luncheons will take place on Thursday, Sept. 4, and the KHA Awards Luncheon is set for Friday, Sept. 5.

Convention Headquarters: [Hyatt Regency Wichita](#)

The Hyatt Regency Wichita will serve as the event's headquarters hotel. KHA's room block is now open, with a rate of \$141.00 per night. A deposit for the first night is required and becomes non-refundable for cancellations after Aug. 4, 2025. Please book under individual names rather than a generic hospital name to avoid reservation issues. For reservations, contact the hotel at (316) 293-1234.

We have provided a list of alternative hotels near the Hyatt Regency Wichita with which KHA has not negotiated special rates. [Wichita Hotels](#)

Convention Questions: Hayley Finch-Genschorck, hfinch@kha-net.org

Trade Show Questions: Melissa Willey, mwilley@kha-net.org

We look forward to seeing you in Wichita!

--Hayley Finch-Genschorck

Noon Briefing: Self-Funded Benefit Plans Simplified – May 1

Join Kansas Hospital Association staff on Thursday, May 1, for a Noon Briefing featuring Rural Hospital Insurance of America, powered by HealthSure, an Alera Group Company. This webinar will discuss the advantages of self-funded health plans and how they can help rural hospitals gain more control over their health care spending while customizing benefits for their workforce.

Discover how self-funding can lead to reduced premiums, enhanced cash flow and increased financial flexibility. Learn about critical components like stop-loss insurance, Pharmacy Benefit Managers and 340B program opportunities that can maximize your savings and impact.

Panelists:

- Jesse Garcia, Risk Advisor
- Brant Couch, CPA, CIC, Managing Partner

Webinar Objectives:

- Understand financial and cash flow benefits
- Explore plan customization and employee care improvements
- Learn best practices for implementation and risk management
- Maximize pharmacy spending and 340B opportunities



--Hayley Finch-Genschorck

Foundations of Leadership Training May 8 - 9 – Registration Open!

Register now for a Foundations of Leadership training for hospital leadership teams. This one-and-a-half day session, May 8 and 9 in Wichita, is an initiative developed with the guidance of the Kansas Hospital Association's Hospital Physician Leadership Committee in partnership with the Kansas Leadership Center. KLC faculty provides this excellent training. Send a team of clinical and/or non-clinical managers to this exceptional training.

KHA's Hospital Physician Leadership Committee, comprised of hospital CEOs and physician leaders across Kansas, was formed to identify resources and develop strategies to increase hospital leadership and physician/clinician alignment while working together to address increasingly complex challenges.

This collaborative workshop will focus on developing adaptive leadership skills and effective communication strategies to analyze and resolve challenges you and your teams face. This training is designed for a hospital team of an administrative leader, and a physician/clinical leader from the same hospital to attend together. Individual participants are also welcome.



--Karen Braman

Kansas Health Matters in Action: A Multipurpose Tool for Health, Policy and Community Change

Join the Kansas Hospital Association staff for an engaging and informative Kansas Health Matters webinar where we showcase the power of accessible data for effective planning, development and decision-making. This session will demonstrate how to effectively leverage the KHM website for your work.

Date: Monday, April 21, 2025

Time: Noon-1:00 p.m.

Location: Zoom virtual meeting – link will be sent with confirmation email

This webinar is designed for public health professionals, health care organizations, community organizations, researchers, students and anyone interested in using data to improve health outcomes.

Be a part of the conversation, and discover the power of data in action!



--Karen Braman

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

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Email: hkoch@girardmedicalcenter.com

Website: www.girardmedicalcenter.com



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

Court Vacates Nursing Home Staffing Rule

The American Health Care Association successfully defeated a Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services rule mandating nurse staffing levels for long-term care facilities. The challenged provisions required the presence of a registered nurse 24 hours per day, seven days a week, and mandated minimum staffing ratios for RNs and nurse's aides based on hours per resident day.

The court rejected the 24/7 requirement as exceeding the agency's authority, as federal statute requires an RN be present only eight hours per day. It also invalidated the minimum staffing ratios because they imposed a rigid staffing structure that was not based on any assessment of residents' needs or a facility's case mix, in contravention of federal law. Accordingly, the court vacated those provisions of the rule, found at 42 C.F.R. Section 483.35(b)(1) and 483.35(c). All remaining provisions of the rule remain in effect.

U.S. Senate Advances Amendment to House Budget Resolution

The U.S. Senate passed an amendment to the previously passed House Concurrent Resolution [that would establish](#) the congressional budget for the federal fiscal year 2025 while setting appropriate budget levels for FFYs 2026 through 2034. Although the Senate advanced an amendment, differences must be resolved before enactment.

Of note, the Senate amendment continues to include \$880 billion in funding reductions for programs under the jurisdiction of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

CMS Issues Contract Year 2026 Policy and Technical Changes to Medicare Advantage, Medicare Part D and PACE Programs

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services released a [final rule](#) for contract year 2026 that includes [policy](#) and technical changes to Medicare Advantage, the Medicare prescription drug benefit program, the Medicare Cost Plan Program and Programs for All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly. The rule includes the following:

- Restrictions to Medicare plans' ability to reopen and modify a previously approved inpatient hospital decision based on information gathering after the approval
- Codifying existing guidance that requires plans to give a provider notice of a coverage decision, including notices to the beneficiary
- Modifications to existing regulations to clarify that an enrollee's liability to pay for a service cannot be determined until a Medicare Advantage organization makes a decision on a contracted provider's claim for payment
- Medicare Advantage Risk Adjustment Updates
- Vaccine cost-sharing revisions that prohibit cost sharing for an adult vaccine recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices and under Medicare Part D
- Insulin cost-sharing revisions

Before You Go ...

The Food and Drug Administration is [warning](#) consumers about nitrous oxide — commonly used as an anesthetic for surgical and dental procedures that briefly disrupts oxygen flow to the brain — being sold in colorful canisters with different flavors in gas stations and convenience stores. The [FDA warning](#) states that inhaling the gas for its euphoric effects can cause dangerously low blood pressure, leading to loss of consciousness and injuries.