



KHA's Current Report **May 9, 2025**

President's Perspective – KHA Members Advocate in Washington

This week, the American Hospital Association hosted its Annual Membership Meeting in Washington, DC. AHA brings in numerous speakers from across the country to provide attendees with a wide variety of insights and perspectives on the current political landscape, effective advocacy and economic issues. In addition, there were sessions on rural and post-acute care and trustee sessions focused on quality, patient safety and strategic leadership.



Kansas hospitals were well represented by four Kansas Hospital Association board members, George Stover, CEO, Rice Community Health, Lyons; Val Gleason, president and CEO, NMC Health, Newton; Bobby Olm-Shipman, president, South and East Region, Saint Luke's South Hospital, Debb Bruner, administrator and CEO, Minneola Healthcare, Minneola, in addition to hospital leaders from AdventHealth, Children's Mercy, LMH Health and The University of Kansas Health System.

On Tuesday, our group went to Capitol Hill to visit with members and staff of our congressional delegation. It's a busy time as people from all over the country meet with their senators and representatives, looking to influence the direction of the forthcoming budget reconciliation bill. For our part, the AHA annual meeting couldn't have come at a better time, as we got the opportunity to discuss the effects that Medicaid cuts would have on Kansas' health care network at the very time the reconciliation bill is being negotiated.

Of primary concern is a rumored five percent cap on state provider tax rates. While no text has been leaked that includes such a cap, other Medicaid cuts, such as lowering Medicaid's Federal Medical Assistance Percentage rate for expansion populations, seem to be coming off the table. Inclusion of some work requirement provision is a near certainty, but that still leaves a yawning gap between the amount this might save and the substantial sum of \$880 billion over 10 years that must be cut to meet the bill's requirements. Now that CMS is currently adjudicating Kansas' six percent assessment, we spoke with our delegation about the negative impact such a cap would have on hospitals' budget projections.

We spoke with Senator Jerry Moran, who, on this point, and concerning 340B, agreed that hospitals have come to rely on these mechanisms to keep their budgets whole. He was also sympathetic to our concerns that the Trump Administration's "skinny" budget appeared to zero out important rural health programs like the Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility Program and the State Health Insurance Assistance Program. He agreed to work with his fellow appropriators to address this when they begin their fiscal year 2026 budget discussions. We also met with Representatives Tracey Mann, Sharice Davids and Derek Schmidt, and were able to reiterate our points on Medicaid while also discussing Medicare Advantage plans as an excellent place for cutting waste, fraud and abuse out of the federal budget. Despite President Trump's insistence that Medicare, including MA, is off the table for the reconciliation bill, we received positive feedback on our concerns about how MA plans continue to reap profits through denials while costing the taxpayer more than traditional Medicare.

We also met with staff from Senator Roger Marshall's and Representative Ron Estes' offices, and MA plans featured prominently in these conversations as well. Senator Marshall continues to lead the way on pushing back against MA plan abuses, most notably related to prior authorization denials. We also spoke with Senator Marshall's staff on our concerns regarding potential, so-called "price transparency" legislation that singles out hospitals while giving passes to insurance plans and drugmakers.

We greatly appreciate KHA members who advocate for these important federal issues, whether in Washington or as members of Congress, and reach out with questions on how their decisions impact your hospital and patients in your community. We encourage our members to continue to tell their stories. KHA staff will continue to keep you abreast on all these political decisions and how they may impact Kansas hospitals and patients.

--Chad Austin

Provider Tax Update

This week, the 2024 uncompensated care costs pool payments to Prospective Payment System hospitals, funded by the provider tax, were made by Aetna and UnitedHealthcare Community Plan of Kansas. We anticipate receiving payment from the Sunflower Health Plan next week. The payment represents the total UCC amount for 2024. PPS hospital CEOs and CFOs received an email update with payment amounts on Wednesday, May 7.

The approval for increasing the tax rate for the provider tax program to 6 percent is still under review by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. The Kansas Hospital Association is working closely with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, and our congressional delegation, to move the approval forward as quickly as possible.

--Audrey Dunkel

2024 American Hospital Association Annual Survey – Responses Due May 31

On March 12, the Kansas Hospital Association emailed hospital CEOs and CFOs materials necessary to complete the 2024 AHA Annual Survey. The survey deadline for completion is May 31. The survey results are relied on by the KHA Advocacy Team at the state and national levels to educate legislators, the public and membership through a number of publications. The data provides critical information to KHA when implementing tools and solutions for Kansas hospitals, to populate information for membership on [KHASTAT.org](https://www.khastat.org) and the KHA Economic Impact Report.

Survey materials include a [walkthrough](#) explaining how to complete the survey online and a [copy of the survey](#) as a reference. The survey is available [online](#) for completion. The web-based collection tool is efficient and secure. For assistance with survey log-in, if you need an extension to complete the survey or didn't receive the initial email, please contact [Dee Lewis](#) at KHA (785) 276-3110.

--Sally Othmer

KHA-PAC Needs You!

This past year, the Kansas Legislature passed a law that increased contribution limits for candidates running for the House of Representatives and Senate. This means the Kansas Hospital Association Political Action Committee has a lot of fundraising work to do to reach our goal of raising \$175,000 in two years. The KHA-PAC selected the theme "Grow Your Giving," and we hope it's an invitation to grow your individual giving, your hospital board giving, your hospital employees participation and find new people who will enjoy PAC activities and events, as we look to reach new and upcoming hospital leaders across the state and get them engaged in the vital work of the KHA-PAC.

Below are a few ways to plan to participate in the KHA-PAC.

- Behind the [Scenes at Allen Fieldhouse and Fields](#) and Ivy, July 31, Lawrence. Sign up as an individual or register as a pair.
- [KHA-PAC Golf Scramble](#), Aug. 11 in Salina. Sign up as an individual golfer or sponsor a hole to have a team.
- [Poker Run at Boot Hill Museum](#), Sept. 22 in Dodge City. Sign up as an individual or register as a pair.
- KHA-PAC at Convention, Sept. 3-5 in Wichita
 - Sept 4, KHA-PAC Breakfast – Bring someone who has never contributed to the PAC and hear speaker Pete Davis, author and director of the documentary, *Join or Die*
 - Wine and Bourbon Pull
 - Silent Auction
- Join the Bouquet a Month Club by donating \$20 for the rest of the year. [Join now](#).

For questions, please do not hesitate to contact Tara Mays at tmays@kha-net.org.

--Tara Mays

340B Day – June 12

The Kansas Hospital Association, Arkansas, Missouri and Oklahoma Hospital Associations and our 340B Partner SUNRX, are hosting a Regional 340B Day in Springfield, MO, on June 12.

Hear from industry experts in areas such as state and federal legislative/regulatory updates, contract pharmacy legislation and how to complete a checkup of your 340B program. There is no cost to attend this event.

The conference will be at the [DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Springfield](#), 2431 N. Glenstone Avenue, Springfield, MO 65803. A block of rooms has been reserved for June 11 at \$134 per night, plus tax, until May 12. After this date, reservations will be accepted based on availability.



--Steve Poage

Critical Marketing

Join Kansas Health Service Corporation at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, May 20, featuring Critical Marketing, a KHSC partner dedicated to helping Critical Access Hospitals stretch their marketing budgets, build community trust, and improve health education.

The Kansas Health Service Corporation is working with a new firm, [Critical Marketing](#), to maximize marketing budgets for Critical Access Hospitals. Participants will discover how Critical Marketing is an extension of your hospital's team, offering full-service, reimbursable marketing solutions tailored specifically for CAHs. Many hospitals miss out on marketing reimbursements simply because of a lack of awareness or uncertainty about what qualifies. Critical Marketing helps eliminate these barriers with compliant campaigns, simplified invoicing and support from trusted legal and accounting partners.

Do not miss this opportunity to learn how Critical Marketing can simplify your marketing process, strengthen your impact and help your hospital get more from every dollar.



To learn more or get started, contact Sara Gadeken at (402-371-0100) or sgadeken@criticalmarketing.com or Andy Ruback at (402-817-0665) or aruback@criticalmarketing.com.

--Steve Poage

Recognizing, Managing and Preventing Measles: A Clinical and Public Health Update Webinar – May 22

The Kansas Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment are hosting a case-based continuing medical education session to address the resurgence of measles. The webinar takes place at noon on Thursday, May 11. The webinar will equip health care professionals with the tools to recognize, report and manage measles cases effectively.

Robert Wittler, MD, will provide a medical overview to aid in diagnosis and treatment. Farah Ahmed, MPH, PhD, will provide insight into the current measles outbreaks in Kansas.

By the end of this webinar, participants will be able to:

- Identify clinical signs and complications of measles using case-based learning
- Choose appropriate diagnostic tests based on timing and presentation
- Follow KDHE reporting and isolation guidelines accurately
- Utilize tools for infection prevention, education, and measles case management

The intended audience is physicians, advanced practice providers, nurses, and other health care professionals involved in infectious disease management, pediatrics, emergency medicine, or public health.



--Karen Braman

Interested in Serving Kansas – Apply to Serve on a Board or Commission Today

In Kansas, there are more than 100 boards and commissions that require appointments of more than 1,000 individuals to serve. Professionals from various geographic areas and areas of expertise are needed. Board appointments require a variety of levels of professional and public at-large members. If you are interested in serving, you can learn more about the different boards and commissions by visiting the [Kansas Office of the Governor, Boards and Commissions](#). You can also apply to serve by visiting [Application to Serve](#).

Following your initial application, the Office of Appointments in the governor's office will contact you with further information and opportunities as they are available and match your interests and skill sets. Some appointments do require background checks, and when required, confirmation by the state Senate.

If the Kansas Hospital Association can provide further information, please contact [KHA staff](#) anytime.

--Tara Mays

Take the Survey: Help Shape the Future of KAMMCO

KAMMCO is committed to serving you—not just today, but well into the future. That's why they are asking for a few minutes of your time to complete their [2025 Member Survey](#).

Why This Survey Matters

As a member-driven company, your insights are essential to everything we do. Your feedback will help guide how KAMMCO evolves its services, improves communication and delivers even more value to you and your practice. Whether it's claims handling, risk management resources or how they communicate, your input will directly influence KAMMCO's decisions.

It Only Takes a Few Minutes

This short survey is quick to complete but has a lasting impact. Your responses will help us strengthen what's working—and fix what's not. The deadline to participate is Monday, May 12.

[Take the Survey](#)

Thank You for Your Partnership

You play a critical role in Kansas health care, and we're honored to stand alongside you. Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts—and for continuing to shape the future of KAMMCO with us.

--Hayley Finch-Genschorck

KHSC Endorsed Language Translation Provider Increases Footprint

KHSC has enjoyed a three-year partnership with Voyce as its preferred provider of language translation services. Recently, Voyce came together with Cloudbreak Health LLC and their [Martti™](#) system, the first-to-market video remote interpretation.

The acquisition was made in concert with the company's strategic rebrand to Equiti. Together, these initiatives further enhance Equiti's service offerings and solidify its position as a leading supplier of language interpretation solutions. Both Martti and Voyce will operate and innovate under the Equiti umbrella.

"Equiti is focused on empowering patients and providers for all things language access," said Maureen Huber, CEO of Equiti. "It begins by bringing together the industry's most talented minds — people who share a passion for supporting those whose lives and well-being depend on communicating quickly and effectively. Healthcare equity doesn't end with language services — this is just the beginning."

Bringing Martti and Voyce together under the Equiti umbrella greatly expands interpreter resources, meaning ever-faster connection times and even broader language coverage, enhancing the experience for providers and patients, and further improving patient outcomes.

"Today's announcements are a big step to improving equitable care for millions of patients across North America. They reflect our dedication to delivering technology-driven solutions that empower healthcare providers and improve patient outcomes," explained Andrew Royce, CEO of Voyce and the new President of Equiti. "As the teams behind Martti and Voyce come together, we will provide the best and most intuitive platforms for interpreters, while simultaneously addressing the diverse needs of hospitals, health systems and their communities."

--Steve Poage

Federal and National News

U.S. Supreme Court Rejects Hospital Challenge to DSH Calculation

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled against approximately 200 hospitals that contended the Department of Health and Human Services erred in calculating Medicare Disproportionate Share Hospital payments. DSH payments are calculated, in part, by counting the number of patient days attributable to low-income Medicare patients, as determined by their eligibility for Supplemental Security Income benefits.

Hospitals argued the enabling statute requires the agency to count all eligible patients for such benefits. The Supreme Court disagreed, finding that only those patients entitled to receive a Supplemental Security Income payment during their period of hospitalization should be counted. The ruling affirmed similar decisions by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and the lower courts in which the challenge was brought.

MLN Connects Provider eNews Available

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

- [Direct Graduate Medical Education: Get Annual Update Factors](#)