



**KHA's Current Report**  
**May 15, 2025**

**President's Perspective – Happy Hospital Week**



This week, the Kansas Hospital Association has enjoyed celebrating all of you during National Hospital Week. It has been refreshing to see and learn about the activities hospitals are doing with their teams this week. Your teams truly represent the theme We Are Health Care ... as it is the individuals in your hospitals that make Kansas health care great. I am glad we, along with Kansas industry leaders, could help highlight Kansas hospitals, health systems and most importantly, health care associates. It is your health care teams who are lifting up communities across Kansas.

Thank you for the valuable contributions you each make day in and day out so hospitals can be there to care for Kansans 24-hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. On behalf of the entire KHA staff, thank you for your commitment to improving the health of your community through compassionate care, constant innovation and unwavering dedication!

*--Chad Austin*

**Financial Awareness Campaign Focuses on Commercial Payers**

This year, the Kansas Hospital Association has been working broadly to tell the hospital finance story. KHA started these efforts with our annual campaign around [economic impact](#), followed by our updated [financial infographic](#) highlighting Kansas hospitals' overall financial challenges. We then launched a one page infographic on [Medicaid](#), followed by a one page infographic on [Medicare](#).

This week, KHA is sharing with our members the next area of focus for our [Financial Awareness Campaign: Commercial Payers](#). We hope this new infographic focusing on the impact of commercial payers will help our members kick-start education and conversation about commercial payers. According to a study conducted by PYA, a correlation can be formed between financial losses in Kansas hospitals compared to hospital payments received by Kansas' dominant commercial payers.

Next week, KHA will publicly release the full study in addition to pursuing interviews and earned media. KHA will follow up with public education through statewide social media. We encourage our members to have local conversations on the findings in this report as well as the impacts commercial payers, Medicare and Medicaid have on your hospital finances and the ability to provide care in your community.

Resources to help our members tell the story about health care finance are available in [Box.com](#). It includes print resources in this campaign, template social media posts and other communications tools. In a nutshell, ongoing trends with Kansas commercial payers have left Kansas hospitals with less money to fill the gap in what Medicare, Medicaid, underinsured and uninsured patients do not pay for the cost of their care.

We hope all these tools will help hospitals to have meaningful conversations about financial challenges and make positive changes. If you have questions about this campaign, please contact Cindy Samuelson at [csamuelson@kha-net.org](mailto:csamuelson@kha-net.org). If you have questions about hospital finance, please contact Shannan Flach at [sflach@kha-net.org](mailto:sflach@kha-net.org).

--Cindy Samuelson

### **Nominate Individuals Making a Difference by June 1**

We know many individuals in Kansas are instrumental in making a difference for hospitals in Kansas and the health care they provide in our communities. Whether these individuals work in a hospital or outside our ranks, the Kansas Hospital Association wants to recognize their efforts. To honor those who have gone above and beyond the call of duty, we need you to let us know who they are by nominating them by June 1. KHA members are encouraged to make nominations in our [online awards portal](#) for the following awards:

[Charles S. Billings Award](#) – The award recognizes a hospital leader for his or her lifetime of service and continuing contribution to the health care of Kansas. This is the top honor given by KHA. This award was established in 1971 to honor KHA's first president, Charles. S. Billings' dedication and years of service to Kansans.

[Distinguished Health Care Advocate Award](#) – The award honors individuals, organizations or groups that have demonstrated their commitment to health care through participation in the public domain. This award gives members of KHA the opportunity to recognize those who work on our behalf from outside our ranks.

[Donald A. Wilson Visionary Award](#) – The award recognizes hospital-related individuals who have made outstanding, innovative contributions to health care delivery, health care financing or initiatives that improve the health and clinical outcomes of their community. This award was established in 2007 to honor long-time KHA president and CEO Donald A. Wilson's dedication and years of service to Kansans.

[Trustee of the Year Award](#) – The award recognizes and honors a hospital board member from each facility who is a leader, gives back to the community and routinely goes beyond the call of duty. KHA members are encouraged to recognize a trustee who has served with distinction and made significant contributions to the betterment of their hospital and community.

[Heart of Health Care Award](#) – The award recognizes and honors the excellence of health care workers statewide. Previously, this award was called the Health Care Worker of the Year Award. All nominated employees (one employee from every hospital) will be recognized by KHA for making a significant contribution to the betterment of their hospital.

[Workforce Strategies Award](#) – The award recognizes a team of employees, providers or volunteers who worked collaboratively to make a significant contribution to the well-being, retention or recruitment of health care workers at their facility(s) or in Kansas.

Nominations are due June 1. Nominations can be made in our [online awards portal](#). Learn more about KHA awards [online](#).

--Cindy Samuelson

### **AHA Recognizes Dr. Melinda Estes with Highest Honor**

Last week, the American Hospital Association [presented its highest honor](#), the Distinguished Service Award, to Melinda Estes, MD, the former president and CEO of Saint Luke's Health System based in Kansas City, MO. Estes received the 2025 award during a ceremony held May 5 at the AHA Annual Membership Meeting in Washington, DC.

Estes retired at the end of 2023 as president and CEO of Saint Luke's Health System, wrapping up a nearly 35-year career in health care leadership. She was the AHA board chair in 2020 and served on several AHA committees.

The Kansas Hospital Association congratulates her on receiving this prestigious award.

--Cindy Samuelson

### **Measles Update and FAQs Issued by KDHE**

According to a Kansas Health Alert Network Alert issued May 12, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment is reporting 51 cases of measles across the state; 49 cases associated with the ongoing outbreak in eight counties in southwest Kansas and two cases thought to be related to international travel in Sedgwick and Reno counties. Most cases continue to present among unvaccinated children. KDHE advises in the HAN, because of the highly contagious nature of measles, additional cases are likely to occur in the outbreak area in Kansas and in surrounding counties, especially among those who are unvaccinated. For more information and KDHE's measles frequently asked questions, see the [KS-HAN](#) and [KDHE's Measles Dashboard](#), which as of May 15 is reporting 56 measles cases in 10 counties. For additional resources for hospitals, see KHA's [Measles Resources](#).

--Karen Braman

### **Kansas Health Impact Conference: Call for Speakers**

KFMC Health Improvement Partners is seeking speaker proposals for the 2025 Kansas Health Impact Conference on October 23, 2025, in Manhattan. In alignment with the theme of *Bridging Gaps for a Healthier Kansas*, health care providers, public health professionals, community leaders, nonprofit organizations and health advocates from across the state are invited to help lead the discussion about improving health in Kansas. Speaker proposals in the following areas are encouraged:

- Explore innovative ways to reduce health disparities
- Highlight community-based collaborations
- Share success stories and lessons learned from real-world efforts
- Demonstrate how to translate data into action
- Center voices from underrepresented populations

To submit a speaker proposal, [complete this form](#) or scan the QR code:



Forms must be submitted by June 6.

--Karen Braman

### **Kansas Age-Friendly Nursing Workforce Forum**

Registration is open for the June 9 Kansas Age-Friendly Nursing Workforce Forum. The forum, hosted by the University of Kansas Medical Center, the Kansas Nursing Workforce Center, Kansas 4M and Area Health Education Center, will take place from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Monday, June 9, at the Washburn Tech Conference Center-West Campus. A virtual option will also be available. This learning event will join leaders and educators from nursing programs with directors and administrators from nursing homes and long-term care facilities across Kansas to explore and plan for integrating age-friendly didactic and clinical education with the care of older adults who reside in care facilities. This collaborative partnership between education and employment is designed to increase the number of nurses who choose this practice after graduation. The target audience includes nurses, nursing home administrators, leaders and faculty of community colleges, colleges and universities educating nurses, and administrators and leaders of nursing homes and long-term care facilities. Registration is \$20. For questions, contact KUMC Area Health Education Center (620) 235-4040 or [CheckAHEC@kumc.edu](mailto:CheckAHEC@kumc.edu).



*--Karen Braman*

### **Trinisys Becomes Part of the Harmony Healthcare IT Family**

Harmony Healthcare IT, a first-to-market innovator of health data management and platform solutions, recently announced the acquisition of Trinisys, a leader in data management based in Nashville, Tennessee. The acquisition enables Harmony Healthcare IT to advance its delivery of enterprise solutions, supporting comprehensive data lifecycle management for health care.

Trinisys has been a long-time endorsed partner of the Kansas Health Service Corporation and has helped many Kansas hospitals with their legacy data and data migration needs when converting EHR systems.

Harmony Healthcare IT, founded in 2006, is known for its pioneering offering, including [HealthData Platform™](#), an enterprise-wide, cloud-hosted infrastructure that moves and secures patient, employee and business records for healthcare delivery organizations. Steadfast in its commitment to enhancing the lives of patients and providers, Harmony Healthcare IT continues to innovate and empower the health care industry.

"We are excited to unite the Harmony Healthcare IT and Trinisys organizations. This move accelerates our commitment to build the most efficient, high-quality lifecycle data management platform available," shared Tom Liddell, CEO of Harmony Healthcare IT. "Both teams share a strong culture and commitment to exceptional customer experience. This cultural alignment will ensure a successful integration as we drive to expand our solutions portfolio and deliver increased value for our customers."

Founded in 2004, Trinisys is respected for its market-leading technology solutions that support data management and workflow automation for healthcare, insurance, financial services and state agencies.

"Joining forces with Harmony Healthcare IT creates a powerhouse team in the industry," said William Bartholomew, CEO of Trinisys. "Coming together accelerates our ability to invest in innovative solutions that tackle, store and deliver data for customers. This is great news for our employees, as well as current and future customers."

Together, Harmony Healthcare IT and Trinisys will leverage their combined expertise and resources to deliver significant benefits for their customers. Harmony Healthcare IT continues its commitment to improving care delivery by offering accessible, interoperable, cost-effective and secure enterprise health data management solutions.

Patrick Regan ([pregan@harmonyhit.com](mailto:pregan@harmonyhit.com)) will continue as sales director in the Kansas market. You can reach him at (406) 853-3807.

--Steve Poage

## **Federal and National News**

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

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

- [CMS Releases Draft Guidance for the Third Cycle of Medicare Drug Price Negotiation Program to Lower Drug Prices for American Patients](#)
- [Opioid Treatment Programs: CY 2025 Updates](#)
- [Laboratories: Switch to Electronic Fee Coupons & CLIA Certificates](#)
- [National Mental Health Awareness Month](#)