



KHA's Current Report
June 6, 2025



President's Perspective – KHA Board Retreat and Meeting Highlights

Last week, the Kansas Hospital Association's Board of Directors held its annual retreat and board meeting. This event allows the board to delve deeper into health care issues affecting Kansas hospitals and the health care industry. To begin the retreat, the board had the chance to hear from Michelle Mader, managing director, Ankura. Michelle provided an overview of the current state of health care in the U.S. and highlighted key trends and challenges that will shape our industry. In addition, the KHA Board received a briefing from Ashley Thompson, senior vice president, public policy analysis and development, American Hospital Association. Her comments regarding the future of the hospital industry and the current political landscape came on the heels of the U.S. House of Representatives passing the budget reconciliation bill. Ashley highlighted several pressing policy issues facing the hospital industry, including site-neutral payments, the 340B Drug Pricing Program, drug manufacturers' pricing and health insurer accountability. Like KHA, protecting the financial stability of rural and urban hospitals is also a major advocacy priority for AHA.

A significant portion of the KHA Board Retreat leaned into workforce and exploring opportunities for KHA to assist in building the health care pipeline and increasing retention among Kansas hospitals. A sustainable and skilled workforce is among Kansas organizations' most demanding challenges, including hospitals. Organizations must innovate and collaborate outside of traditional partnerships to meet current and future workforce needs.

KHA staff presented an overview of the workforce trends and statistics in Kansas. Ed O'Malley, president and CEO, Kansas Health Foundation, assisted in moderating a discussion on future opportunities to build the pipeline and increase retention. Presentations by Blake Flanders, president and CEO, Kansas Board of Regents and Craig Deao, managing director, Huron Consulting, provided additional workforce data and trends. A few themes that arose during the pipeline discussion focused on recruiting non-traditional students and foreign-trained health care professionals, as well as leveraging programs such as apprenticeships and career pathways.

Highlights from the retention conversation revolved around leadership training for hospital staff and exploring innovative staffing models and wellness programs. KHA staff will review all suggestions offered and summarize the recommendations for the KHA Board.

The KHA Board held its official board meeting to cap off the retreat to discuss several upcoming events and emerging issues. A few of the highlights are bulleted below:

- Reviewed the results of the 2025 KHA Board self-assessment.
- Appointed Sandy Dickerson, administrator and CEO, Greenwood County Hospital, Eureka, to the KHA Board of Directors.
- Recognized Ruth Duling, CEO, Girard Medical Center, Girard, for her service on the KHA Board and her upcoming retirement.
- Approved two new community hospital memberships for Kansas Medical Center, Andover, and Freeman Fort Scott Hospital, Inc., Fort Scott. In addition, four associate memberships were approved for: Cascade Health, Critical Marketing, Marting Law, LLC and RehabVisions.
- Noted the KHA Audit Reports conducted by Wendling Noe Nelson & Johnson.
- Received the latest updates on federal and state advocacy efforts. KHA staff highlighted the 2025 Kansas legislative session, including issues related to the 340B Drug Pricing Program, hospital provider assessment program, workforce initiatives and state budget allocations for the health care industry. On the federal level, KHA staff reported on the latest activities regarding the budget reconciliation discussions, Medicare Advantage, the 340B Drug Discount Program and the disproportionate share program.
- Adopted the KHA financial and investment report.
- Reviewed the latest activities involving health care finance and reimbursement that covered the Inpatient Prospective Payment System proposed rule, the all-payer scorecard and the rural wage index program.
- Discussed member and public communications, including the financial awareness campaign.

- Received information on the KHA Political Advocacy Committee fundraising activities, including the upcoming events involving golf, tours and several other activities.
- Heard an update from the KHA education department on the preparations for the 2025 KHA Convention and Trade Show.
- Received information on several quality and safety activities, including the Kansas Perinatal Quality Collaborative, Be the Light grant-funded program and Healthy Kansas Hospitals mini-grant program.

Thanks to KHA Board Chair George Stover, CEO, Rice Community Health, Lyons, for leading us through some important yet challenging discussions. And, thanks to the entire KHA Board for their excellent leadership.

--Chad Austin

New County Economic Impact Reports Released

Kansas Hospital Association members know a sound local health care system is part of the prescription for maintaining a healthy economy. However, we often forget to share this message with our local communities. KHA is pleased to release new county-level analysis of the economic contributions to the local health care sector on the economies of each of the state's 105 counties.

The Institute of Policy and Social Research at The University of Kansas completed these reports, in addition to our [2025 statewide report](#) released in February. A brochure, PowerPoint and media release using the statewide data are available on the [KHA website](#). Feel free to customize any of these templates with your county data. We also have a toolbox of customizable resources available in [our Box folder](#).

The purpose of these reports is to provide hospitals with data and information to communicate with community leaders, policymakers and concerned citizens on the importance of health care to the local economy. The Kansas Hospital Association shares the findings of these reports with legislators and the media.

According to the reports' authors, the health care sector in each county makes substantial contributions to the local economy with employment and income. In addition to providing direct employment and income, the health care sector creates multiplier effects as businesses purchase local goods and services, such as utilities, and employees spend their income at local businesses such as stores and restaurants. In many counties, hospitals, nursing and residential care facilities and outpatient care centers comprise the largest health care employers in the county. In addition to jobs and income, the health care sector provides economic development effects that are less easily quantified. A quality health care sector improves the population's well-being, which, in turn, enhances business productivity. In addition, quality health care aids in the recruitment and retention of businesses and attracts and retains retirees.

Hospitals and health services are economic anchors in Kansas. These reports document the importance of the health care sector to the Kansas economy. While the financial impact estimates are substantial, they are only a partial accounting of the benefits health care in general, and community hospitals in particular, provide to the state. Kansas community hospitals help stabilize the population base, invigorate their communities and contribute significantly to quality of life.

If you would like assistance in presenting this information to a board or community group or would like a template media release with your county data, or any additional materials, please email Cindy Samuelson at csamuelson@kha-net.org.

--Cindy Samuelson

CMS Implements Revised Hospital Price Transparency Requirements

On Thursday, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services began implementing [revised hospital price transparency requirements](#) as part of a February executive order enhancing oversight of price transparency requirements enacted in 2021. In its new guidance, CMS requires hospitals to include a 'standard charge dollar amount' in their machine-readable files whenever possible. This should include gross charges, cash prices, payer-specific negotiated rates and any minimum negotiated charges – the lowest charge a hospital can negotiate for products and services across all payers. In instances where hospitals cannot list charges in actual amounts, CMS says charges should be listed as percentages, with additional details provided elsewhere in the data file explaining the factors used to calculate them.

As more information becomes available, KHA will inform our members.

--Shannan Flach

Hospital Bed Capacity Project and Survey

An exciting project has become available to Kansas hospitals to automate hospital bed capacity data transfer. The goal of this project is to lighten the burden of data entry on staff and reduce redundancy.

As part of the National Healthcare Safety Network Connectivity Initiative, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment's Healthcare-Associated Infections and Antimicrobial Resistance Section and Preparedness Section request that hospitals complete an online survey. The person completing the survey should be the person who can make decisions about connecting an Application Programming Interface to your Electronic Health Record, (e.g., information technology manager, chief information officer).

KDHE is working with the EMResource vendor, Juvare, to make these connections available. The majority of Kansas Hospital Association member hospitals will be eligible, and the goal is to have at least 90 percent of eligible hospitals using this system and reaping the benefits from this project.

--Larry Van Der Wege

KHA Seeks Candidates for Director, Clinical Services

The Kansas Hospital Association is seeking candidates to fill the position of director, clinical services. This position will report to the senior vice president, clinical and strategic initiatives. The director, clinical services is responsible for serving KHA members by providing nursing and clinical expertise across KHA initiatives; and will work collaboratively with internal and external partners to develop, enhance and implement quality, safety and clinical workforce-related initiatives to support KHA member hospitals. Other facets of this position include assisting with coordinating nursing workforce initiatives and strategies. Additionally, the director, clinical services will serve as KHA liaison to nursing allied groups, regulatory agencies and stakeholders and support various KHA policy committees.

A Bachelor of Science degree in a health care-related field is required, and a nursing degree and/or graduate degree is preferred. At least five years of experience in the hospital setting, along with at least two years of leadership or management experience, is required. Candidates must be skilled communicators with coaching/teaching/facilitation experience. Additional qualifications are listed in the job description.

If you know of someone with skills to match this position and who has a desire to be a resource for Kansas hospitals, please direct them to the [HR Partners website](#) to learn more information on the application process. All questions and requests for information about this position should be directed to [Lisa Conaway](#) at (785) 276-3115.

--Lisa Conaway

Share #HAVHope Resources to Raise Awareness of Workplace Violence

[#HAVHope Friday](#) is a national day of awareness to highlight how America's hospitals and health systems combat violence in their workplaces and communities. June 6 marks the ninth annual Hospitals Against Violence #HAVhope Friday to highlight how hospitals and health systems continue working toward partnerships, innovations and creative thinking to build a safe workplace and community.

We invite you to use #HAVhope to share what policies, procedures or practices your organization employs in this effort. By operating as a united front and sharing these best practices, our hospitals and health systems can forge a path for all to have hope.

You can find the social media graphics and texts in the Kansas Hospital Association [Box folder](#). To learn more about the effect of violence on the health care industry, download the [Burden of Violence to U.S. Hospitals report](#).

--Shelby Stacy

Measles Cases Reach 71 in Kansas

There are 71 measles cases across 11 Kansas counties, according to the [Kansas Department of Health and Environment Measles Dashboard](#). Sixty-nine of the cases are associated with the measles outbreak in southwest Kansas. There are many resources available to hospitals/health systems, physicians and other practitioners, including the [Kansas Hospital Association's measles resources page](#), [KDHE's measles resources](#), [Immunize Kansas Coalition](#) and [Be Immune Kansas](#).

--Karen Braman

Addressing Intimate Partner Violence in Health Care Settings – Virtual Training June 12

The Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence is hosting a virtual training from noon to 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 12, on Addressing Intimate Partner Violence in Health Care Settings. Topics covered during the session include new strategies for addressing intimate partner violence, the evidence-based intervention CUES - Confidentiality, Universal Education, Empowerment and Support, the health impacts of violence, and the difference between intimate partner violence and domestic violence. Attendees will also learn about the location of their local KCSDV member program. Target audience for this training includes physicians, health care professionals, mental health professionals, KCSDV member program advocates and staff of any professionals who may work with victims of domestic and sexual violence.

[Click to Register](#)

--Karen Braman

FIFA World Cup Kansas City 2026 Planning Continues

FIFA World Cup soccer will come to Kansas City a year from now. It may be too early to buy tickets, but it's not too early to plan. It is estimated that 650,000 visitors will explore the Kansas City region in June and July 2026. The visitor impact for lodging is expected to extend in a 200-plus mile radius out from KC. Six total matches will be played at Arrowhead Stadium between June 16 and July 11, and three other sites in the area are possible base camps for teams and their fans in between matches. Also, Fanfest will be set up for 24 days at the WWI Memorial, near Union Station.

The Kansas Hospital Association is working with the KC2026 Committee, our partners at the Missouri Hospital Association and our joint association, the Kansas City Metropolitan Healthcare Council, and agencies, associations and stakeholders in Missouri and Kansas to aid in the planning of this major event. Information will continue to be developed and communicated as available. Go to [FIFA World Cup 26™ Kansas City](#) for general KC World Cup information. Any FIFA World Cup KC2026 questions for the KHA can be directed to Larry Van Der Wege at lvanderwege@kha-net.org.

--Larry Van Der Wege

90-Day Survival Guide for New Infection Prevention Specialists

Understanding the rules, guidelines and best practices for infection Prevention personnel can be daunting. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, through Project Firstline and the University of Nebraska Medical Center / Nebraska Medicine, has teamed up to develop a 90-Day Survival Guide for new infection prevention staff. Go to [90-Day Survival Guide | innovatelPC.org](https://innovatelPC.org) to order a copy.

--Larry Van Der Wege

Sunflower Chapter HFMA Medicare Cost Report Workshop

Join the Sunflower (Kansas) Chapter of the Healthcare Financial Management Association for a two-day, in-person Medicare Cost Report Workshop on July 17 and 18 at the Hilton Garden Inn, Manhattan. Gain valuable insights from expert presenters – Forvis Mazars and Wendling Noe Nelson & Johnson LLC.

Registration:

- \$120 for HFMA members
- \$220 for non-members

View the [agenda](#) and [event summary](#) for full details.



--Shannan Flach

The 2025 KHA Membership Directory Is Now Available

The *2025 Kansas Hospital Association Membership Directories* are being distributed to the CEOs of all members. If you want additional directories, please contact [Jan Fenwick](#) at (785) 233-7436. In addition, we also have a [digital version](#) of the 2025 KHA Membership Directory for your use. Both the hard copy and digital versions are current as of May 2.

As a reminder, the [online membership directory](#) is updated in real-time, so you always have the latest member organization executive staff information at your fingertips. The KHA Membership Directory is a benefit only members can access, so you must enter your KHA username and password to access both the online and digital directory. In addition, the online directory requires logging in with a secondary username and password. Username: KHAMember, Password: @KHA2021.

[Complete the requested information](#) if you haven't registered for your personal username and password. Your information must be verified by KHA staff (a confirmation email will be sent to you) before you can access members-only portions of the website. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact KHA at (785) 233-7436.

--Jan Fenwick

Federal and National News

HHS Releases FFY 2026 Budget in Brief

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services [released](#) the federal fiscal year 2026 budget in brief. According to the brief, HHS is seeking \$94.7 billion in discretionary budget authority for 2026, a decrease of 24.9 percent or \$31.4 billion from 2025. The brief contains details about "making Americans the healthiest in the world while achieving a goal of transforming the bureaucracy." Included in the proposal is moving oversight of the 340B Drug Pricing Program from the Health Resources and Services Administration to CMS.

CMS Releases Proposed FFY 2026 Medicare Inpatient PPS Correction Notice

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services released a [correction notice](#) for the federal fiscal year 2026 inpatient prospective payment system payment and policy updates. The corrections revise the estimated total Medicare Disproportionate Share Hospital payments from \$15.682 billion to \$15.791 billion for FFY 2026. This correction resulted in an increase of \$49.6 million in the Medicare DSH uncompensated care payment pool that would be distributed to eligible hospitals.

CDC Provides Updated Immunization Schedules, COVID-19 Vaccine Guidance

Last week, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released an [updated pediatric immunization schedule](#) and [adult immunization schedule](#) that reflect current COVID-19 vaccine guidance. The new guidance states that all children, unless directly contraindicated, may be vaccinated with shared decision-making. Despite previous announcements, this change would compel insurers to continue covering COVID-19 vaccines for children and adults.

MLN Connects Provider eNews Available

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

- [2023 Doctors and Clinicians Preview Period Open Until June 25](#)
- [Hospital Price Transparency: Respond to the Accuracy and Completeness Request for Information by July 21](#)
- [Medicare and Veterans Affairs: Adjustments for Duplicate Claims Start Next Month](#)
- [Join an Accountable Care Organization](#)