



## ***KHA's Current Report***

**June 13, 2025**

### **President's Perspective – AHA Regional Policy Board Convenes**

Late last week, I had the opportunity to join several Kansas hospital leaders and participate in the American Hospital Association's Regional Policy Board meeting for AHA Region 6. AHA Region 6 includes Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Iowa, South Dakota, North Dakota and Minnesota. The meeting consisted of several timely issues. The AHA staff always does a great job developing and facilitating the meeting.

The RPB meeting started with an update on the latest happenings in Washington, DC surrounding the budget reconciliation bill. Rick Pollack, AHA president and CEO, and Stacey Hughes, AHA executive vice president, provided an up-to-the-minute recap on the recent political activities, including offering insights on what to expect over the next several weeks. The Medicaid policies being considered in the "One Big Beautiful Bill Act" are estimated by the Congressional Budget Office to save more than \$800 billion over the next ten years. Policies that may have the most drastic impact on Kansas hospitals include limits on provider taxes and state-directed payments. It is speculated that freezing the provider taxes and state-directed payments at their current rate would create an estimated 10-year national savings of \$89.3 billion and \$72 billion, respectively. Recognizing the urgency and importance of the policy discussions being considered by the U.S. Senate, AHA has organized an advocacy fly-in for next week. KHA staff plan to be in DC next week to meet with several Kansas delegation offices to communicate the impact of potential Medicaid policy changes. Stay tuned ... we will share the updates from these meetings.

As part of the RPB meeting, a portion of the agenda was dedicated to gathering feedback on price transparency and guaranteed pricing models. To date, most transparency efforts on the national and state levels are focused on disclosing health care prices in various formats. Publishing the chargemaster and "shoppable services" are just a couple of the hospital requirements. Transparency requirements continue to evolve as further policies have been released that hospitals must follow. The RPB members engaged in an in-depth discussion on proposals that 1) guaranteed prices for self-pay and uninsured patients; 2) guaranteed prices for insured patients' cost-sharing amounts; and 3) guaranteed prices for all payers. For the most part, most hospitals are not currently offering guaranteed prices. Several RPB members have raised questions related to how this will be implemented. Much of the discussion focused on third-party tools and resources hospitals use to estimate patient pricing.

The other significant topic discussed revolved around the Make America Healthy Again initiative to combat chronic disease and improve childhood health. Last month, the MAHA Commission released four key drivers of childhood chronic disease that included poor diets comprised of ultra-processed foods, exposure to environmental chemicals, lack of physical activity and overmedication via overprescribing. A discussion ensued among the RPB members identifying and sharing best practices by hospitals to combat chronic disease. Several innovative approaches were shared, focusing on wellness and preventative practices.

Kansas hospitals were well-represented at this recent RPB meeting by Carrie Lutz, Holton Community Hospital, Holton; David McCorkle, Citizens Health, Colby; and Alan Verrill, MD, AdventHealth Shawnee Mission, Shawnee Mission. Thanks to these hospital leaders for participating and sharing their insightful perspectives!

--Chad Austin

### **KHA Board Nominations Requested**

The Kansas Hospital Association Board of Directors seeks qualified nominees, including hospital CEO/administrators, hospital trustees and physicians, to fill vacancies on the 2026 KHA Board of Directors.

If you know of someone who would be a good addition to the KHA Board, or if you would like to be considered for nomination, please contact George Stover, KHA Board chair, at [gstover@rch-lyons.com](mailto:gstover@rch-lyons.com) or me at [caustin@kha-net.org](mailto:caustin@kha-net.org) by Friday, June 27.

Voting to fill the vacant board positions will occur during the KHA Annual Business Meeting on Sept. 4 at the KHA Annual Convention in Wichita. A notification will be sent before the meeting.

If you have questions, please contact me at (785) 233-7436. I look forward to hearing from you.

--Chad Austin

### **Noon Briefing: Modernized Scheduling for VA Community Care Appointments**

Join us for a Noon Briefing on Tuesday, July 8, where KHA will explore how the Department of Veterans Affairs' new External Provider Scheduling program is transforming community care coordination. This session highlights how EPS allows VA schedulers to book directly into provider calendars using secure, cloud-based technology, eliminating the need for multiple calls, faxes, and follow-ups. Learn how EPS integrates with more than 150 EHR and scheduling systems, keeps patient data secure and offers a no-cost, no-hassle experience for providers.



--Hayley Finch-Genschorck

### **Rural Hospital Interventions in Specialty Care Access**

The University of Kansas School of Medicine is conducting a research project to better understand how rural hospitals in Kansas are addressing challenges related to specialty care access. They are asking hospital administrators and health care providers to complete a brief survey, which will share insights on strategies, barriers and interventions. Input will help guide future initiatives to strengthen rural health systems across Kansas. The survey should take no more than 10 minutes to complete. [Click here](#) to access the survey. For questions, comments or concerns, please contact: Libby Frost at [lfrost2@kumc.edu](mailto:lfrost2@kumc.edu) or (785) 743-8393.

--Jennifer Findley

### **Register Now for Advocacy All-Star Training**

The Kansas Hospital Association is committed to strengthening and promoting the engagement of hospital advocates throughout Kansas. The purpose of the KHA Advocacy All-Star Training is to help develop internal leaders who can effectively and comfortably advocate for their hospital. This program is designed to accommodate anyone who is passionate about hospitals and health care and wants to get trained in how to educate partners and elected officials at the federal, state and local levels. All-Star Training is for everyone – clinical, non-clinical, entry-level or veteran, trustees or employees. The training is expected to fill quickly, so you are encouraged to return the enrollment materials soon.

Participation is limited to 30 students to allow for networking and group interaction. Enrollment will be taken on a first-come, first-served basis. Initially, one student per hospital will be admitted. If space allows, additional students will be accepted. All registrations must include a nomination letter from the hospital CEO, payment and responses to all registration questions.



--Hayley Finch-Genschorck

### **EMTALA Educational Webinar – June 26**

Our Facilities and Licensing Bureau partners of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment have noticed increased reports of potential EMTALA violations. To educate hospitals about KDHE's survey experience and EMTALA compliance, please attend the KDHE Facilities and Licensing Quarterly Webinar at noon on Thursday, June 26. Please share this information, and go to [Webinar Registration – Zoom](#) to register.

--Larry Van Der Wege

### **Hospital Bed Capacity Project and Survey – Link Available**

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 makes 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

### **Rock Star Hospital Recognition**

The [Kansas Hospital Association Political Action Committee](#) wants to give a shout-out to the hospitals that have met their 2025 KHA-PAC hospital goals in the last few weeks:

- Greeley County Health Services
- Lindsborg Community Hospital
- Memorial Health System
- Morris County Hospital
- Neosho Memorial Regional Medical Center
- Providence Medical Center

Your hospital can join these rock stars anytime by visiting <https://kha-pac.square.site/>.

We encourage hospitals to make plans now to send staff to upcoming KHA PAC events:

- Join us on Thursday, July 31 in Lawrence for the *Behind the Scenes Tour of Allen Fieldhouse and Fields and Ivy Brewery*. ([Individual Ticket](#)) ([Pair of Tickets](#)).
- On Monday, Aug. 11 in Salina, participate in the KHA Golf Scramble as a hole sponsor and team, individual golfer or a fan that joins us for lunch. ([Hole Sponsor](#)) ([Individual Golfer](#)) ([Fan](#)).
- On Monday, Sept. 22, enjoy a Poker Run with elected officials at the Boot Hill Museum in Dodge City. ([Individual Ticket](#)) ([Pair of Tickets](#)).
- [Participate in the KHA-PAC Activities at the convention](#), Sept. 3-5, in Wichita:
  - Bringing someone to join you at the KHA-PAC Breakfast on Sept. 4 to hear Pete Davis, author and director of the documentary *Join or Die*
  - Donating to the Wine and Bourbon Pull
  - Donating a Silent Auction Item

For questions, please contact Tara Mays at [tmays@kha-net.org](mailto:tmays@kha-net.org).

--Tara Mays

### **2025 KHEA Summer Benefit Golf Tournament – Registration Deadline Today!**

*Swing for a Cause; Putt with Purpose ...* dust off those clubs and get ready to tee up for a great cause! The Kansas Healthcare Engineers Association invites you to join us for the 2025 Summer Benefit Golf Tournament on Wednesday, June 18, at the Salina Municipal Golf Course in Salina. This isn't just a day on the green. It's your chance to network, unwind and make a meaningful impact. All proceeds help fund scholarships for future health care engineering professionals, so every swing counts!

- Check-In: 8:00 a.m.
- Shotgun Start: 9:00 a.m.



The deadline to register is 5:00 p.m. today, Friday, June 13. Please contact Gregg Freelove, [gfreelove@swmedcenter.com](mailto:gfreelove@swmedcenter.com) or Shane Meier, [shane.meier@mynmchealth.org](mailto:shane.meier@mynmchealth.org), with any questions.

--Melissa Willey

### **Advance Your Career with the KSMGMA Mentorship Program!**

The Kansas Medical Group Management Association is excited to announce that applications are open for the Kansas MGMA Mentor Program – a unique opportunity to grow your leadership skills, share knowledge and expand your professional network.

Whether you're an emerging professional looking for guidance or an experienced leader ready to give back, this six-month mentorship program is designed to support your success.

#### **What to Expect:**

- One-on-one mentorship
- Flexible, goal-driven meetings (every four to six weeks)
- Professional growth, career advice and networking
- A structured, yet personalized experience

The July match cycle is coming up. Apply by June 15! Log in to your KSMGMA account and go to the [member center](#). Click on the mentorship program to sign up. If you aren't a member, become one today at [KMAGMA.com](http://KMAGMA.com).

--Cindy Samuelson

## **Federal and National News**

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

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

- [Final National Coverage Determination: Noninvasive Positive Pressure Ventilation in Home for Treatment of Chronic Respiratory Failure Consequent to COPD](#)
- [Skilled Nursing Facility Value-Based Purchasing Program: June 2025 Confidential Feedback Reports](#)