



KHA's Current Report
July 11, 2025

President's Perspective – Register Now for the KHA Convention and Trade Show

I hope you will be able to join us for the Kansas Hospital Association Annual Convention and Trade Show on Sept. 4-5 at the Hyatt Regency Wichita and Century II Convention Center. With support from the KHA Convention Planning Committee, we have developed an [agenda](#) featuring outstanding educational sessions and valuable networking opportunities.

We are pleased to share that the [full event schedule](#) is now available. An update to this year's schedule includes a switch for all the Allied Organizations Luncheons, including the Hospital Volunteers of Kansas luncheon co-hosted by KHA. These events are now all on Thursday, Sept. 4. And you won't want to miss the KHA Awards Luncheon, now featured on Friday, Sept. 5.

Kicking off Thursday, Sept. 4, is the KHA political advocacy and grassroots breakfast. During breakfast, attendees will hear from [Pete Davis](#) with *Purposeful Commitment in an Age of Infinite Browsing: How to Foster Real Civic Engagement for Stronger Communities and a Healthier Democracy*.

I'm especially looking forward to our keynote speaker, [Ryan Campbell](#), the youngest solo pilot to fly around the world, who shares his remarkable journey from record-breaking heights to surviving a devastating plane crash and paraplegic diagnosis. In *What's Your Pink Cadillac?*, he explores how joy, hobbies and simple pleasures can build resilience, boost mental health and enhance performance. Next, [Janine Stange](#) will present *How You Made Them Feel: A Daughter's Perspective*, a moving reminder of the vital role health care professionals play. You also will not want to miss [Kyle Scheele](#) with *Becoming an Idea Factory*, as he debunks the myth that creativity is rare and inspires us to unlock innovation through practical, learnable strategies.

On Friday, [Ryan Minton](#) will share *Thanks for Coming in Today! Creating a Culture Where Employees Thrive and Customer Service Is Alive*, offering practical, people-first strategies for creating an exceptional workplace culture and customer service. We'll close the convention with [Steve Bedwell, MD](#), who brings humor and insight to stress management and decision-making.

This is just a preview of what this year's convention has to offer. You can find the [full schedule, speaker details, and additional event information online](#). [Online registration](#) is now open, and [convention brochures](#) were mailed earlier this week. We encourage you to register early, as supply chain challenges require us to submit meal counts sooner than usual; early registration ensures you'll receive meal tickets.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me or any member of the KHA team. We look forward to seeing you in Wichita this September.

--Chad Austin

Financial Awareness Campaign Focuses on Financial Stability Solutions

This year, the Kansas Hospital Association has been working broadly to tell the hospital finance story with a financial awareness campaign. KHA initiated these efforts with our annual campaign focused on [economic impact](#), followed by an updated [financial infographic](#) that highlights Kansas hospitals' overall financial challenges. We then launched a one-page infographic on [Medicaid](#), followed by a one-page infographic on [Medicare](#), and then an infographic on [Commercial Payers](#).

This week, KHA is sharing with our members a final area of focus: [Financial Stability Solutions](#). We hope this new infographic, focusing on possible solutions to the multiple challenges facing hospitals, is a helpful resource. Providers (hospitals and physicians), payers (employers, government programs and individuals), processors (commercial insurers like Blue Cross Blue Shield, Aetna and United), policymakers (state and federal) and patients all have a role to play in stabilizing the financial challenges facing Kansas hospitals. Without change, hospitals' abilities to provide essential health care services are threatened.

Resources to help our members tell the story about health care finance are available in [Box.com](#). It includes print resources, template social media posts and other communications tools. 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. If you have questions about hospital finance, please contact Shannan Flach at sflach@kha-net.org.

--Shannan Flach

Tips for Registering Online for the KHA Convention

Many of you have already used our online registration for the Kansas Hospital Association Convention, and we thank you! Remember, your name badge is your admission ticket to all KHA sessions, the trade show and the KHA party. If you pay for any extra functions not included with your registration fee, the ticket codes will appear on the back of your name badge and admit you to those additional functions.

You can only register yourself and a guest (up to two tickets per event) at one time. For instance, if you only register yourself and mark 10 tickets for the Political Advocacy Breakfast, our system will not process the other tickets because it can't identify whose records to apply this information to in our database. For all 10 tickets to be purchased, you must register each person individually, including applicable registration fees. Also, please register for the convention and pay for your tickets simultaneously for a smoother process.

- To register online for KHA's convention, go to www.kha-net.org, click on '[Education](#)' and '[Register Online](#)' or go directly to <https://registration.kha-net.org>.
- From the 'Please select the event you wish to attend from below:' click on the down arrow and scroll down to KHA 2025 Convention and click 'Next.'
- Type in these required fields: first name, last name (do not include your title in this field) and email address (it will add your information exactly how you type it). You will receive a runtime error if you type in an inadequate email address (for instance, one that doesn't contain an @). Click 'Next.'
- Start typing your organization name in the drop-down window (if it doesn't appear, try the acronym or start typing the word 'The' first if you are, for example, with The University of Kansas Health System), select it and click 'Go.' All member organizations are listed. If you don't choose a member organization, our system will charge you the non-member rate.
- Check the box next to the event and then click 'Register.'
- Do not leave any required fields blank or you will receive a runtime error.
- Enter the credit card number without dashes or spaces and the expiration date on your credit card as mmyy (NO SLASH). For example, January 2026 expiration would be 0126. Click only once on the 'Process Card' button. Please note: double-clicking on 'Process Card' will duplicate the charge.
- If you receive an error message, please contact us immediately so we can identify the problem before your credit card is processed multiple times. KHA will refund you for any duplicate charges; however, we are working to minimize unnecessary processing.
- You will receive an automated email receipt shortly after registering online (or if our staff registers you in-house), provided your correct email address is in our system. If you are registering other people on your staff and need to track that information, please don't forget to ask them for a copy of their receipt.

If you have questions or if you are unable to register, please contact our [KHA Education Department](#) at (785) 233-7436. Thank you.

--Cheryl Carson

Noon Briefing: Healthcare Cybersecurity at a Crossroads – July 23

Join the Kansas Hospital Association staff for a Noon Briefing featuring ISG Technology as Chris Swartz, former director of information technology at the Hutchinson Clinic, breaks down what recent developments mean for your organization. With rising costs, limited budgets and escalating cyber threats, now is the time to prepare with practical strategies and real-world insight.



--Hayley Finch-Genschorck

New Statutes for Emergency Medical Services and Automated External Defibrillators

On July 1, [House Bill 2039](#) took effect following the 2025 legislative session. Sections 8(c) and (d) contain provisions that allow emergency medical service agencies in counties with a population of 30,000 or fewer to operate a ground ambulance with only one person certified or authorized to provide clinical care. The driver is required to be certified in cardiopulmonary resuscitation. Some hospitals had a desire for this change to be implemented to improve the transfer of patients between facilities. Ultimately, the legislation also allows this staffing for emergency services. The Board of EMS must be notified within 30 days if your local EMS agency is adopting this staffing policy.

Also effective in [House Bill 2039](#) is the requirement for all publicly available automated external defibrillators to be registered with the Board of Emergency Medical Services. Section 10 (4)(b) provides guidance. Go to the [Kansas BEMS website](#) and select the AED Placement Notification link. It should only take a few minutes to complete. According to BEMS, from 2020-2023, AEDs were used in only approximately 20 percent of witnessed cardiac arrests. The primary reason for the lack of use was the unknown location of an accessible AED. Work with others in your community so all available AEDs are known to 911 dispatchers, who in turn can direct potential life-saving efforts.

--Larry Van Der Wege

Register Now! Noon Briefing: Tell the Hospital Story on Your Economic Impact - July 30

The Kansas Hospital Association releases statewide economic impact reports annually and county economic impact reports every other year. These reports focus on Kansas hospitals and the health care sector in Kansas. Join KHA and researchers from the Institute for Policy & Social Research at the University of Kansas, from noon to 1:00 p.m. on July 30, to walk through the reports and the resources available to KHA members.



--Hayley Finch-Genschorck

Reserve Your Seat at a Complimentary Health Care Preceptor Academy!

Are you ready to sharpen your skills and take your role as a health care preceptor to the next level? This summer and fall, KHA is thrilled to offer a series of complimentary Health Care Preceptor Academies across the state, and seats are going quickly!

Whether you're an experienced preceptor or preparing to take on the role, these hands-on, interactive sessions are packed with practical strategies and tools to strengthen the preceptor-orientee relationship. You'll leave feeling more confident, connected and prepared to support the next generation of health care professionals.

Upcoming Academy Dates and Locations:

- Winfield – Aug. 1
- Plainville – Aug. 8
- Lakin – Sept. 19
- Salina – Sept. 25

Each academy features the same high-impact content, and with only 30 spots available per location, early registration is crucial. These events are completely free to attend, thanks to generous funding from the Health Resources and Services Administration.



--Hayley Finch-Genschorck

Immigration Rights Information for Employees

We know many of our member hospitals employ legal immigrants to fill vital roles necessary for caring for our communities. We have also heard that some of our immigrant employees may be fearful because of reported immigration enforcement activities. To date, KHA has not been aware of any hospital employees being detained or arrested in connection with immigrant enforcement activities in Kansas. However, the National Immigration Law Center has a resource, ["What to Do if You Are Arrested or Detained by Immigration,"](#) that could be shared with your employees to help develop a plan and hopefully reduce concerns. Contact Larry Van Der Wege at lvanderwege@kha-net.org if KHA can provide further assistance.

--Larry Van Der Wege

2024 MED PAR Reports Now Available

The 2024 Average Hospital Charges for Medicare Patients – DRG Report is now available. The comprehensive pricing report contains information taken from the federal fiscal year 2023 Medicare Provider Analysis and Review files from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. The reports include statistics for ALL diagnosis-related groups from Kansas and metropolitan Kansas City facilities with Medicare discharges. Each report lists adjusted average charges in an easy-to-read format. These reports are made available from the [KHA HIDI Advantage Analytics website](#) (in the Special Request folder), at no additional fee as a thank you to member hospitals participating in both the inpatient and outpatient data submission programs.

For assistance with access to HIDI Advantage Analytics, please contact [Dee Lewis](#) at KHA, (785) 233-7436, ext.110. [Access authorization forms](#) are available at the [KHA website](#).

--Dee Lewis

Registration Open! Foundations of Leadership Training – Sept. 18 and 19

Register now for a Foundations of Leadership training designed for hospital/health system teams. This one-and-a-half-day session, Sept. 18 and 19 in Wichita, is an initiative developed with the guidance of KHA's Hospital Physician Leadership Committee in partnership with the Kansas Leadership Center.

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



--Jennifer Findley

Kansas Measles Outbreak Update

Measles cases in Kansas have reached 87 cases across 11 counties, according to the [Kansas Department of Health and Environment's Measles Dashboard](#). Eighty-four of the cases are outbreak-related. The Kansas Department of Health and Environment and local health departments continue to respond to measles cases in Kansas. On July 7, KDHE informed the public of a measles exposure that occurred on a pediatric unit at a facility in Wichita, so individuals can take steps to protect their health and help prevent further spread. There is no risk of measles exposure outside of the specific unit, dates and times listed.

For the detailed notification, see [KDHE's July 7 measles exposure notice](#). Individuals who were not in the affected unit during that time, including those in other parts of the facility or its departments, are not considered exposed. For additional information and resources to respond to questions, address suspected or confirmed measles cases, as well as encouraging immunization, here are a few measles resources pages to consult: [American Academy Pediatrics Measles page](#), [KDHE Measles Resources](#), [KHA Measles Resources](#) and [Immunize Kansas Coalition](#), including the new [Ask a Doctor series](#) with pediatrician Gretchen Homan, MD, FAAP.

--Karen Braman

Fall 2025 Tobacco Treatment Specialist Training

The University of Kansas is sponsoring a fall 2025 Tobacco Treatment Specialist Training Aug. 4 to Oct. 20. The training course is designed to give providers skills and knowledge to integrate tobacco treatment into their practice and become tobacco prevention and treatment advocates. The training is online and requires approximately 14 to 18 hours to complete and will conclude with 8 hours of virtual skills training. The target audience for the training includes physicians and advanced practice providers, nurses, behavioral health counselors, social workers, respiratory therapists, peer support specialists and community health workers. [Apply HERE](#).

--Karen Braman

2025 Forvis Mazars' Mindsets Healthcare Executive Leadership Report

The 2025 edition of Forvis Mazars' Mindsets Healthcare Executive Leadership Report shares insights gleaned from a national survey of 180 executives across the continuum of care. They asked leaders about their most significant challenges and priorities, their outlook on the years ahead and their organization's performance across five core capabilities for Achieving Health: aligned growth, financial discipline, regulatory excellence, strategic agility and talent optimization. Read more and download the [full report here](#).

--Hayley Finch-Genschorck

Federal and National News

Congress Enacts the *One Big Beautiful Bill Act*

Congress enacted and the president signed the [One Big Beautiful Bill Act](#), which contains sections that affect Medicare, Medicaid and the pipeline of new health care professionals. According to the Congressional Budget Office, H.R. 1 will increase deficits over the 2025-2034 period by \$3.5 trillion. The CBO also estimates that the number of people without health insurance will increase by 16 million by 2034.

MLN Connects Provider eNews Available

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

- [Hospital Price Transparency: Respond to the Accuracy and Completeness RFI by July 21](#)
- [Alert: Medicare Fraud Scheme Involving Phishing Requests Via Fax and Other Means](#)
- [Transcatheter Edge-to-Edge Repair for Tricuspid Valve Regurgitation: Final National Coverage Determination](#)

Before You Go ...

- While chronic pain, or pain persisting for longer than three months, affects 20 percent to 30 percent of the U.S. population, current treatment approaches often fail to address psychological comorbidities adequately. A recent [clinical trial](#) published in JAMA Network Open found that patients receiving online dialectical behavior therapy experienced significant reductions in emotion dysregulation compared to those who received treatment as usual.