



KHA's Current Report
August 15, 2025

President's Perspective – KHA Distinguished Health Care Advocate – Rep. Derek Schmidt

The Kansas Hospital Association [Distinguished Health Care Advocate Award](#) honors those individuals, organizations or groups who provide an exemplary contribution to the health and well-being of the people of Kansas through their leadership in public, political or policy areas. This award provides KHA members the opportunity to recognize those who work on our behalf from outside our ranks. At any level of the public spectrum, these award recipients are unique, and their outstanding commitment to the health of Kansas is extraordinary, including this year's honoree, Rep. Derek Schmidt from Kansas's Second Congressional District.

Rep. Schmidt's commitment to health care advocacy spans more than two decades. Rep. Schmidt was Senate Majority Leader in the Kansas Legislature, where he consistently championed health care issues affecting Kansas communities. His understanding of how policy connects to access and outcomes has been a hallmark of his leadership. He is regarded as a pragmatic, solutions-oriented policymaker who values the role of hospitals in rural and urban communities alike.

Subsequent to his role as Senate Majority Leader, Rep. Schmidt was elected as Kansas Attorney General. During this time, Rep. Schmidt played a key role in several health care policies, notably the successful recovery of dollars through opioid lawsuits, which led to the establishment of the Kansas Fights Addiction Grant Review Board. Rep. Schmidt also collaborated with KHA to create an online toolkit to increase awareness within the health care community on human trafficking. Further, Rep. Schmidt was a staunch supporter of hospitals participating in the 340B Drug Pricing Program, defending the ability to stretch scarce resources and serve vulnerable patients. In that role, he regularly engaged with hospital leadership to understand their operational and legal needs, and he worked to ensure federal and state laws were interpreted and enforced in a way that protected care access.

At the national level, now as a member of Congress, Rep. Schmidt continues to support policies that ensure Kansas hospitals remain stable, sustainable and equipped to care for their communities. His actions during the budget reconciliation negotiations underscored he is willing to step up — even unexpectedly — to advocate for what's right for Kansas. Despite not serving on a health-related committee, Rep. Schmidt took the initiative to fully understand a critical Medicaid financing issue that would have harmed Kansas hospitals and patients under the proposed federal Budget Reconciliation bill. His leadership and personal advocacy led to the inclusion of a manager's amendment that improved the policy language and protected the financial integrity of the Kansas Medicaid program — a result that surprised and deeply impressed health care leaders across the state. He and his staff approached the issue not from a political angle, but from a "what's best for Kansas hospitals" perspective. That kind of relationship-building is rare — and deeply valued.

Whether in the legislature's Attorney General's Office or the halls of Congress, Rep. Schmidt has shown his support for health care is not tied to headlines or election cycles, but to a long-standing belief in the critical role hospitals and providers play in community well-being. He consistently shows up, listens to health care leaders and acts on their behalf — even when it's not politically required. His actions have contributed to the financial sustainability of Kansas hospitals, increased access to services and protected care for vulnerable Kansans across the state.

On behalf of the KHA membership, I would like to congratulate Rep. Derek Schmidt as the 2025 KHA Distinguished Health Care Advocate! He will be recognized, along with other health care advocates and leaders, at the [KHA Convention and Trade Show](#) Sept. 4-5, in Wichita.

--Chad Austin

KHA Annual Convention and Trade Show

We encourage you to register and join us for the [2025 KHA Annual Convention](#) and [Trade Show](#), where nearly 175 professional exhibitors will showcase state-of-the-art products and services. As you explore the trade show, please take a moment to thank the exhibitors; their support helps us keep registration fees affordable.

This year's convention, *Mission: Possible*, will be held Sept. 4-5 at the Hyatt Regency Wichita/Century II Convention Center in Wichita. [Registration materials](#) are available for download on the [KHA website](#) and [online registration](#) is available.

If you have any questions regarding the KHA Annual Convention or Trade Show, please contact Hayley Finch-Genschorck (hfinch@kha-net.org) or Melissa Willey (mwilley@kha-net.org) at (785) 233-7436.

--Hayley Finch-Genschorck

Provider Assessment Update

On Monday, Aug. 11, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment submitted the response to the latest round of questions on the 2025 provider assessment preprint to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. CMS had clarified their instructions about trending forward the Medicaid base payments, which required a recalculation of the payment information for the preprint. The recalculation resulted in a shifting of funds between inpatient and outpatient enhancement pools, which means that the 2025 Q1 payment calculation will need to be updated. That recalculation, as well as the collection of the 2025 Q2 data and reconciliation of payment for calendar year 2024, are currently in process.

CMS also sent a list of questions for the 2026 preprint, which was submitted on June 30, 2025, to meet the grandfathering requirements of HR 1 (One Big Beautiful Bill Act). This has required KDHE to pull additional data for our contractors at HMA to update the calculations for 2026 as well. Updates on the anticipated impact of 2026 will be provided as soon as they are available. KHA continues to work with our delegation to expedite the final decision on 2025. If you have any questions, please contact Audrey Dunkel at adunkel@kha-net.org or (785) 221-8789.

--Audrey Dunkel

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

Register now for a Foundations of Leadership training designed for hospital/health system teams. This day-and-a-half-long session, on Sept. 18 and 19 in Wichita, is an initiative developed with the guidance of the Kansas Hospital Association'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

5 Administrative Professional Networking Roundtable Zoom Meeting – Sept. 17

There's still time for administrative professionals and executive assistants to [register](#) for the next KHA Administrative Professional Networking Roundtable Zoom Meeting from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 17. This free, interactive session will focus on exchanging best practices, brainstorming and sharing valuable tips.

This isn't just another webinar—active participation is encouraged, so please have your cameras on and audio ready. Note that the session will not be recorded.

CEOs, we ask that you share this information with your executive assistants and encourage them to [register](#). After registration, you'll receive a survey to gather your ideas and topics for discussion. We're eager to hear what you'd like to share or ask!

For questions, reach out to [Tom Hagen](#) at (785) 233-7436. Let's make these discussions engaging and productive. We look forward to seeing you there.

--Tom Hagen

KHA-PAC Festivities at Convention

Do you have a fabulous silent auction item you would be willing to share with the [Kansas Hospital Association Political Action Committee](#) during the convention? The time is now to get your silent auction items ready for a big year for the KHA-PAC.

Whether it's related to a special team, activity, event, tickets or a stay at your getaway spot, we want your auction items today!

Our Auction will be going digital this year, so we are excited to have people in the room at convention, and those who are supporting online, join in our KHA-PAC Silent Auction activities.

Additionally, we will again be doing the Wine and Bourbon pull, so feel free to donate or stop by and pull a wine and bourbon at the KHA-PAC booth.

To sign up for silent auction items or wine and bourbon, along with a reminder e-mail for you while you are packing, please sign up here: [PAC Sign-Up Form](#).

For questions, please contact [Tara Mays](#).

--Tara Mays

AHA Releases Toolkits for Care Transitions of Patients with Opioid and Stimulant Use Disorder [Bridge to Care](#) includes three toolkits for transitioning patients with opioid use disorder and stimulant use disorder across the inpatient, primary care and pharmacy settings. Developed by the American Hospital Association's Health Research and Educational Trust with funding through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the toolkits offer detailed, evidence-based tools that can help link and retain OUD and StUD patients in care.

--Karen Braman

KSHIMSS Luncheon and Educational Session at KHA Convention

The Kansas Health Information Management Systems Society invites those attending the [KHA Annual Convention](#) in Sept. 4-5, to attend their luncheon and educational session on Sept. 4 in the Osage Room. David Mauro, vice president of strategic growth with NetGain Technologies, will present [AI – What We Think We Know](#). Mauro will cover AI uses, uncommon tactics, leveraging all AI models securely, the latest AI risks to health care and AI in Social Engineering. A ticket is required to attend this session.

--Sally Othmer

KAHPAM 2025 Fall Workshop– Sept. 19

[Register now!](#) The [Kansas Association of Healthcare Patient Access and Account Managers](#) is pleased to announce the 2025 KAHPAM Fall Workshop, Sept. 19, at the Hilton Garden Inn & Convention Center, 3320 South 9th St. in Salina. This workshop will be in-person and include presentations from CorroHealth, Pinnacle Healthcare Advisors, the Kansas Hospital Association, as well as a roundtable discussion.

Topics of discussion are as follows:

- Angela Sorbelli and Nikki Graves, CorroHealth
 - Price Transparency Updates
- Marci Mollman, Pinnacle Healthcare Advisors
 - Patient Access Compliance
- Roundtable Discussion
 - Overpayments, Medicare Advantage Plans and Process
- Shannan Flach, KHA
 - KHA Updates



See you on Sept. 19!

--Shannan Flach

Warning About Narcan Effectiveness in "Purple" Fentanyl

Our partners at the Kansas City Regional Fusion Center shared, ['Purple' Fentanyl Found in Omaha](#), from the Omaha Police Department, about a new type of street drug referred to as 'purple' fentanyl. The Omaha report states it originated from the Kansas City area, so it may be seen in Kansas hospitals. An additional concern is that this fentanyl is mixed with lidocaine. The lidocaine intensifies the side effects of the fentanyl, but since it isn't an opioid, Narcan does not reverse its effects. Share with your clinical teams as needed.

--Larry Van Der Wege

Agency for Healthcare Research and Safety Program for HAI Prevention

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality Safety Program for Healthcare-Associated Infection Prevention, led by NORC at the University of Chicago and Johns Hopkins University, is now recruiting hospitals for its next Catheter-Associated Urinary Tract Infection cohort. Eligible hospitals must have adult ICUs and non-ICUs, at least 50 total beds and five beds per unit.

Scheduled to begin in February 2026, this free, nine-month program provides participating units with technical assistance, expert coaching, interactive webinars and practical tools to strengthen infection prevention efforts. Continuing education credits are available at no cost.

AHRQ will host a series of informational webinars. Dates, times and registration links are posted [online](#).

--Sally Othmer

FDA Requires Major Changes to Opioid Pain Medication Labeling

Last week, the Food and Drug Administration [announced](#) the agency is requiring safety labeling changes for all opioid pain medications. The labeling changes follow a May [public advisory meeting](#) and are intended to explain and emphasize the risks associated with long-term use of opioids. The labeling changes are extensive and include clearer risk information, stronger warnings about higher doses, clarified use limits, treatment guidance and many more. For the full list, see the [FDA announcement](#). The FDA gave manufacturers thirty days to submit their labeling updates to the FDA for review.

--Karen Braman

Current Issues in Vaccines Webinar – Aluminum Adjuvants: Separating Fact from Fear

In this *Current Issues in Vaccines* webinar, Dr. Paul Offit will discuss [Aluminum Adjuvants: Separating Fact from Fear](#). The webinar is from 11:00 a.m. to noon on Wednesday, Sept. 10. Paul Offit, MD, is the director of the Vaccine Education Center and attending physician, Division of Infectious Diseases, The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. Free continuing education credits will be offered. CME and CEU will be processed through the University of Pittsburgh, and CPE will be processed through Wilkes University. Questions submitted during the event will be addressed and posted online within a week of the event. Slides will also be posted along with a link to the archived event. The webinar is supported through the Thomas F. McNair Scott Endowed Research and Lectureship Fund, which enables us to offer this program, and we would like to thank our co-sponsors, the Pennsylvania chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Nesbitt School of Pharmacy at Wilkes University.



--Karen Braman

August is National Immunization Awareness Month

[National Immunization Awareness Month](#) highlights the importance of routine vaccines to protect people of all ages from vaccine-preventable diseases. Trusted resources your facility can rely on for factual information to stay updated and help answer questions from your patients include: [Immunize Kansas Coalition](#), of which KHA is a member, [American Academy of Pediatrics](#), [Kansas Academy of Family Physicians](#), [American Medical Association](#) and [Voices for Vaccines](#). [Be Immune Kansas](#), developed in partnership with the Kansas Chapter of the AAP and KAFP, is also a trusted source and includes a toolkit for health care professionals.

Additionally, KDHE's Immunization Coverage Data provides current immunization data for kindergarten-age children, as well as influenza vaccine data. [KDHE's Measles Data Dashboard](#) shows there have been a total of 90 measles cases across 12 Southwest and South Central Kansas counties so far in 2025. Measles, mumps and rubella vaccination rates in Kansas kindergarteners have declined from 94.47 percent in the 2019 – 2020 academic year to 90.12 percent in the 2023 – 2024 academic year. According to the AAP, the [community immunity threshold for measles](#) (the percent of the population needed to be immune to measles through vaccination or previous infection) is 92-94 percent.

--Karen Braman

Federal and National News

MLN Connects Provider eNews Available

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

- [Fiscal Year 2026 Skilled Nursing Facility Value-Based Purchasing Program: Download Your August 2025 Performance Score Reports](#)