



***KHA's Current Report***  
**August 22, 2025**

**President's Perspective – KHSC Provides Quality Products and Services to KHA Members**

The Kansas Hospital Association family includes a number of subsidiary organizations that work in different ways to serve Kansas hospitals. The [Kansas Health Service Corporation's](#) primary objective is to partner with organizations that provide quality products and services to Kansas health care institutions at a reasonable price.

KHSC is a wholly-owned subsidiary of KHA that has been helping Kansas hospitals since 1984. A secondary objective of KHSC is to support KHA in meeting its mission to serve hospitals. Managed by a separate board of directors, KHSC endorses 18 different vendor partners. All of these vendors have undergone specific due diligence to ensure they are providing a service that is helpful to hospitals in meeting their operational needs.

One big focus for KHSC is insurance. This is where KHSC has its roots, and it is still the primary area in which hospitals interact with KHSC. KHSC, with the assistance of Conrade Insurance Group, has been able to secure special terms with property and directors and officers carriers. KHSC also offers workers' compensation coverage through the [KHA Workers' Compensation Fund](#) (The Fund).

The Fund is a self-funded group pool that was created in 1991 to provide reasonably-priced workers' compensation insurance for health care facilities. It is a unique insurance tool as it is owned by the members of the Fund. Profits from the Fund are returned to the members. In fact, during the past nine years, \$3.43 million has been returned to members in the form of dividends.

KHA benefits not only from the great services provided by KHSC to member hospitals but also because KHSC's profits are returned to the association, which helps keep member dues low. KHSC is also a major sponsor of KHA and helps to fund some of the strategic work of the association. KHSC provides more than \$300,000 annually in direct and indirect resources to KHA.

I ask for your help as KHA and KHSC continue to provide great services by reaching out to Steve Poage ([spoage@kha-net.org](mailto:spoage@kha-net.org) or (785) 233-7436) when you need a vendor or service. For those KHA members attending the [KHA Annual Convention](#) and [Trade Show](#) in September, please visit the Trade Show and the KHSC booth, as well as its other [endorsed vendor partners](#), to learn more about the services available. We hope to see you in a few weeks!

*--Chad Austin*

### **Welcome Reception and Registration**

Kansas Hospital Association staff look forward to seeing you at the [2025 KHA Annual Convention](#) and [Trade Show](#) in a couple of weeks. This year's theme, [Mission: Possible](#), promises to educate, enlighten and entertain you with award-winning speakers, networking opportunities and nearly 175 professional exhibitors displaying state-of-the-art products and services.

Start your convention experience off with a celebration by joining friends and associates at the Registration and Welcome Reception from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 3. Sponsored by our friends at KAMMCO, this pre-event gathering offers a casual evening of conversation and cocktails. While there, take a moment to stop by the registration desk to pick up your convention materials and beat the Thursday rush. Exhibitor registration is not available during the Welcome Reception.

Questions regarding the KHA Annual Convention and Trade Show can be directed to Hayley Finch-Genschorck at [hfinch@kha-net.org](mailto:hfinch@kha-net.org) or Melissa Willey at [mwilley@kha-net.org](mailto:mwilley@kha-net.org).

*--Hayley Finch-Genschorck*

### **Welcome, Terry Siek, to the KHA Staff Team**

This week, the Kansas Hospital Association welcomed Terry Siek, MSN, RN, NEA-BC, as our new director of clinical services. Before joining KHA, Terry was vice president of patient care and chief nursing officer at HaysMed in Hays. Terry has longstanding experience as a nurse leader, educator and clinical nurse. We are excited to tap into Terry's extensive knowledge, as he will provide nursing and clinical expertise across KHA initiatives. As part of his role, Terry will work collaboratively with internal and external partners to implement quality, safety and clinical workforce-related initiatives. Terry will also serve as KHA's nurse liaison to allied organizations, committees and external organizations.

Terry holds a Bachelor of Science in Nursing and a Master of Science in Nursing from Fort Hays State University. His extensive knowledge, spanning 34 years in nursing from the bedside to a nurse executive, will be invaluable to the KHA membership.

Please join us in welcoming Terry to the KHA team.

*--Chad Austin*

### **ACHE of Kansas Annual Meeting – Registration Open for Sept. 3**

The [American College of Healthcare Executives of Kansas](#) welcomes health care executives and leaders to explore how system-wide alignment, thoughtful design and collaborative leadership can reshape the way patients experience care. Themed *The Patient Experience: Reimagining Care through Connection, Compassion and Coordination*, ACHE has awarded 4.5 in-person education credits to this session. The program is scheduled the day before the [KHA Annual Convention](#) and [Trade Show](#), so attendees can enjoy both events.

Three expert-led panel discussions, *Expanding Primary Palliative Care*, *Strengthening Coordination Across the Care Continuum* and *Redefining the Emergency Department as the Front Door to Care*, will provide participants with insight to lead transformational change across teams, technologies and partnerships. Whether you're navigating value-based care, improving operational efficiency or seeking to build lasting patient trust, this event will equip you to lead with clarity and compassion in today's complex health care environment.

The day includes the ACHE of Kansas Annual Meeting and concludes with a joint networking reception with the Kansas Hospital Association. This year's philanthropic activity will support the Boys and Girls Club.

ACHE members pay only \$175; non-members pay \$225; and students pay \$25. Students interested in volunteering that day should contact [Lorri Dean](#) at (785) 233-7436.



--Jaron Caffrey

### **Help Your Community with Medicare Open Enrollment – Know Your Facts Campaign**

Medicare open enrollment is from Oct. 15 to Dec. 7. That's when seniors can switch coverage between original Medicare and Medicare Advantage or change a prescription drug plan. To assist members in educating the public about the differences in original Medicare and Medicare Advantage, the Kansas Hospital Association has created several tools, including resources for handouts, presentations, social media assets, videos and posters that can all be customized to meet your needs. These tools have all been updated for the 2025 Open Enrollment period. All these resources can be found in our [BOX folder](#). Assets include these core tools:

- [Know Your Facts Part 1 – Original Medicare vs. Medicare Advantage](#)
- [Know Your Facts Part 2 – Understanding Medicare Advantage](#)
- [Know Your Facts Part 3 – Steps Before Signing Up for a Medicare Advantage Plan](#)

We encourage members to brand these handouts (and the [PowerPoint presentation](#)) with your hospital logo and the contact information patients can use to learn more and ask their questions. Let us know if you have any questions or need additional resources or support.

--Cindy Samuelson

### **Provider Assessment Update**

We have not yet received the approval for the 2025 preprint from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. However, the updated calculations for the 2025 Q1 payment are currently being reviewed by the Kansas Hospital Association and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment in preparation for CMS's approval and subsequent distribution of funds. We anticipate sending out the 2025 Q1 impact sheets to hospitals in the next two weeks. Additionally, the data for Q2 2025 and the 2024 reconciliation calculation are currently being reviewed by KDHE. KHA will initiate the review process once we receive the data and provide impact reports to KHA members upon completion of this step.

KHA continues to work with KDHE and our congressional delegation to secure approval of the 2025 preprint and ensure efficient distribution of the funds once it is received.

*--Audrey Dunkel*

### **Broadband Informational Webinar – Sept. 16**

Federal Funding Group and the Health-e Broadband Consortium will host an informational webinar on Sept. 16. Healthworks created the consortium to enable members to access subsidies as a group and contracts with Federal Funding Group. FFG is a consulting firm out of Evergreen, CO, which has deep expertise in the Healthcare Connect Fund and is a tremendous asset in providing services to members. Join us from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. to learn more about the eligibility of sites and services. Information will be shared regarding timelines for the 2025 funding window and any program changes. Below are a few key highlights of the program:

- HCF provides a 65 percent discount on broadband services and equipment.
- A consortium may receive a funding commitment for three years. Individual applicants must be approved annually.
- Additional funds may become available for costs like construction that are not available to individual applicants.
- Urban hospitals are allowed to access the 65 percent discount if they are a part of the consortium. They cannot access the discounts as an individual applicant.

As a member of the consortium, our goal is to assist hospitals in maximizing their savings while enhancing services at their facility. This webinar will be a step toward achieving this goal!



*--Jennifer Findley*

## **Kansas Healthcare Engineers Association Fall Golf Tournament and Education Conference**

Registration is open at [Meeting/Event Information](#) for the Kansas Healthcare Engineers Association Fall Golf Tournament at Wamego Country Club on Sept. 16, followed by the Education Conference and Vendor Show on Sept. 17 and 18. The conference and vendor show will be at the Hilton Garden Inn in Manhattan. See the [agenda](#), as the lineup has a number of topics to help inform facilities and other personnel on facility compliance topics. KHEA members are people active in the field of engineering and maintenance in a hospital, nursing home or other licensed health care facility. [Sign up today.](#)

*--Larry Van Der Wege*

## **Administrative Professional Networking Roundtable Zoom Meeting – Sept. 17**

There's still time for administrative professionals and executive assistants to register for our next KHA Administrative Professional Networking Roundtable Zoom Meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 17, from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. 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

### **AAP Issues Evidence-Based Immunization Schedule and Statement on Policy on Exemptions**

This week, American Academy of Pediatrics published its 2025 [evidence-based immunization schedule](#) for children and adolescents ages 18 years and younger. AAP will also publish the schedule on [AAP.org](#), as well as a parent-friendly version on [HealthyChildren.org](#). Other immunization resources provided by AAP include [Patient Care Resources](#) and [Communications Resources](#) related to Immunizations.

Recently, AAP issued a [statement](#) reaffirming its position that state laws requiring certification of immunization as a condition of children's attendance at child care and school are critical tools to keep those environments safe for students and staff. In addition, AAP released an updated policy statement [Medical Versus Nonmedical Immunization Exemptions for Child Care and School Attendance](#) from its Committee on Practice and Ambulatory Medicine, Committee on Infectious Diseases, Committee on State Government Affairs and Council on School Health. AAP's updated policy statement recommends that medically indicated exemptions to specific immunizations be available to children when appropriate and only when medically justified. The statement encourages states, territories and the District of Columbia to eliminate acceptance of non-medical exemptions and to develop procedures to ensure any medical exemptions approved have a sound scientific basis.

--Karen Braman

### **Measuring Malnutrition Webinar – Sept. 17**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services is offering a webinar, *Measuring Malnutrition*, at 1:00 p.m. on Sept. 17. Malnutrition impacts overall health and affects millions of hospitalized patients. However, it is often undiagnosed and untreated. Participants will learn what malnutrition is and how it is diagnosed. The Malnutrition Care Score is a quality measure introduced in 2020. Learn new implementation strategies and hear success stories. Presenters include Avalere Health and the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.



--Karen Braman

**Position Available**

**Chief Nursing Officer/Director of Nursing**  
**Jewell County Hospital**

**100 Crestvue, P.O. Box 327**

**Mankato, KS 66956-0327**

**Phone: (785) 378-3137**

**Fax: (785) 378-3450**

**Email: [applications@jewellcohospital.org](mailto:applications@jewellcohospital.org)**

**Website: [www.jewellcohospital.org](http://www.jewellcohospital.org)**

**Application Deadline: Sept. 19**

**Equal Opportunity Employer | Drug Free Workplace**

The CNO/DON oversees all nursing operations, ensures the delivery of high-quality patient care while leading and mentoring the nursing staff. This role requires a leader who can balance planning with hands-on support, fostering a positive and efficient work environment.

Qualifications include a current registered nurse license (Kansas or compact state) in good standing, a minimum of two years of experience in nursing management, strong knowledge of nursing best practices to include regulatory compliance and quality improvement initiatives and excellent communication, organizational and team-building skills.

Responsibilities include directing and coordinating all nursing services across the hospital, developing and implementing nursing policies, procedures and quality standards, overseeing recruitment, training and professional development of nursing staff and ensuring compliance with all applicable health care regulations.

To apply, submit your resume and cover letter to DON Search at the address listed above.

If you have a management position available in your organization and would like it posted in *Current Report*, email the information to [Jan Fenwick](mailto:Jan.Fenwick@kshealthjobs.net). Also, don't forget to check out [www.kshealthjobs.net](http://www.kshealthjobs.net) for other health care openings in Kansas.

--Jan Fenwick

***MLN Connects Provider eNews Available***

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

- [Information for Critical Access Hospitals](#)
- [2023 Doctors & Clinicians Preview Period Closing Aug. 21](#)
- [Nursing Home Care Compare Updates: Temporary Pause](#)
- [Ambulance Fee Schedule Ground Ambulance Services: Updated List of Advanced Life Support, Level 2 Procedures](#)

**Before You Go ...**

A recent [study](#) published in *JAMA* highlights how stigma and licensing barriers prevent physicians from seeking mental health treatment, contributing to untreated conditions and rising suicide rates.