



## ***KHA's Current Report*** **August 29, 2025**

### **President's Perspective – Looking Forward to the KHA Annual Convention**

It is hard to believe Labor Day Weekend is upon us, and the [2025 KHA Annual Convention](#) and [Trade Show](#) is next week. We look forward to seeing all of you in Wichita. If you haven't registered yet, that's okay. We'll have on-site registration available. Join us! This year's theme, [Mission: Possible](#), promises to educate, energize and inspire attendees with dynamic speakers, invaluable networking opportunities and more than 175 exhibitors showcasing state-of-the-art products and services.

We will start the convention experience by bringing together friends and health care colleagues at the Registration and Welcome Reception from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 3. This pre-event gathering, sponsored by our friends at KAMMCO, offers a casual evening of conversation and cocktails. While there, I encourage you to stop by the registration desk to pick up your convention materials and beat the Thursday morning rush. Please note, there will not be exhibitor registration during the Welcome Reception.

The KHA Convention Planning Committee has assembled a tremendous line-up of speakers for Thursday and Friday. As a reminder, the KHA/HVK Luncheon and Allied Organizations Luncheons will take place at noon on Thursday, Sept. 4, and the KHA Awards Luncheon is now scheduled from 12:30-2:30 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 5.

The KHA Trade Show on Thursday and Friday provides attendees with the opportunity to explore the diverse range of exhibitors. And, you won't want to miss the KHA Party on Thursday evening, with food, drinks, games, prizes and plenty of spy-themed fun. Our generous hospitality agents, including APS, have made it possible to offer the convention party free of charge.

Be sure to download the 2025 KHA Convention and Trade Show App. The app provides details about sessions, speakers, exhibitors, a customizable calendar, attendee list, venue map and the trade show floor plan. The app is available for Android, iPhone and iPad. Search for "Kansas Hospital Association" in the Apple Store or Google Play.

Online registration for the KHA Annual Convention and Trade Show will close at 5:00 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 29. After this time, all registrations and ticket purchases, including those for individuals who have not yet registered and wish to attend, must be completed onsite during registration hours.

If you have any questions leading up to next week's event, please don't hesitate to contact us at the KHA office. Enjoy your Labor Day Weekend, and we hope to see you in Wichita!

--Chad Austin

### **Grow Your Giving: KHA-PAC Silent Auction Goes Virtual**

This year, the Kansas Hospital Association Political Action Committee is excited to be taking some of its most popular events online! As part of the KHA Annual Convention and Trade Show, the KHA-PAC Silent Auction will be completely virtual, making it easier than ever for participants from across the state—and beyond—to join in the fun while supporting advocacy for Kansas hospitals.

The online auction **opens at 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, Sept. 4, and closes at 11:30 a.m. on Friday, Sept. 5.** With just a few clicks, you can start viewing auction items and getting your bid buttons ready today by visiting the [KHA-PAC Silent Auction site](#).

### **How to Participate**

1. **Register Online** – Start by visiting the [Silent Auction site](#) to create your bidding account.
2. **Browse and Bid** – From your phone, tablet or computer, you can explore dozens of auction items and place bids anytime between 8:00 a.m. on Sept. 4 and 11:30 a.m. on Sept. 5
3. **Stay Engaged** – Keep an eye on your favorite items! Bidding updates will be sent straight to your device, so you'll never miss your chance to win that item you've been eyeing.
4. **Celebrate Your Impact** – Winners will be announced shortly after the auction closes, and every dollar raised will fuel the PAC's mission to advocate for Kansas hospitals.

Whether you're at the convention in person or participating from miles away, the virtual format means everyone can be part of the action. Invite colleagues, friends and family to join you in bidding for a great cause by sharing the [event link](#).

The KHA-PAC plays a vital role in ensuring Kansas hospitals and health care providers have a strong and unified voice in Topeka and Washington, D.C. Funds raised through events like the Silent Auction go directly toward supporting candidates who understand and champion hospital and health care priorities.

Your bids don't just win you great items; they help secure policies that strengthen hospital financial sustainability, address workforce challenges and expand access to quality care for communities across Kansas. [Learn more about the PAC's impact](#).

In addition to allowing more hospital advocates to participate in the KHA-PAC Silent Auction, this year, we are also adding to the fun and excitement of your convention experience by moving the KHA-PAC Wine and Bourbon Pull online. You will also be able to purchase tickets for the KHA-PAC wine and bourbon pull online at any time throughout the event.

1. Purchase your tickets online under the [Donate & Tickets tab](#) anytime throughout the KHA Annual Convention and Tradeshow.
2. Stop by the PAC Booth during the convention to make your pull and claim your prize bottle.

Together, we can grow our collective giving and strengthen our voice in the policy conversations that shape the future of health care in Kansas.

Mark your calendar: Bidding starts at 8:00 a.m. Sept. 4 — visit the [Silent Auction page](#) to register, browse and bid!

*--Tara Mays*

### **Rural Health Transformation Program Webinar – Sept. 9**

H.R.1 – the "One Big Beautiful Bill Act," signed into law on July 4, created a \$50 billion fund called the Rural Health Transformation Program to offset losses that rural health providers will experience because of other provisions in the legislation. The funding will be distributed to states over the fiscal years 2026-2030. We have been closely following this program and would like to provide an update to Kansas Hospital Association members.

Join Kansas Hospital Association staff for a webinar from noon to 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 9, when we will provide an overview of the program, review results from the survey of KHA members, updates on the Kansas approach and outline the steps ahead.

[Register in advance for this webinar](#). After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing connection information.

*--Jennifer Findley*

### **KSBHA and KMS to Host Professional Wellness Webinar Sept. 17**

In recognition of National Physician Suicide Awareness Day, the Kansas State Board of Healing Arts and Kansas Medical Society's Professionals Health Program are hosting a live webinar on Professional Wellness in Kansas. The webinar is at noon on Wednesday, Sept. 17 and includes a history of professional wellness, practical strategies to address signs of burnout and support well-being, the resources available to providers through the KMS-PHP program and the KSBHA's work on removing barriers to seeking care. To register, RSVP to [KSBHA\\_EducationOutreach@KS.gov](mailto:KSBHA_EducationOutreach@KS.gov) or contact [Cameron.Charity@ks.gov](mailto:Cameron.Charity@ks.gov) by Monday, Sept. 15.

*--Karen Brame*

### **Health Care Videos Made Easy, Impactful and Affordable – Sept. 30**

Join Kansas Hospital Association staff at noon on Sept. 30, for a lunch and learn: *Health Care Videos Made Easy, Impactful and Affordable*. This lunch and learn with Cyrano Video will provide participants with valuable insights into distributing and maximizing the impact of their video content. The presentation will include real-world results from hospitals using Cyrano Video, featuring Sam Pfannenstiel, director of communications and development at Rooks County Health Center in Plainville. This webinar is a must-attend for every hospital's communications, public relations and marketing staff. Regardless of your team's size or budget, you will discover scalable strategies to share your story with your community. Participants will learn how video drives appointments and community trust.



--Cindy Samuelson

### **KHA HIDI Advantage Optics Update**

[Advantage Optics](#), the online reporting tool accessed from the HIDI Advantage User Portal, is where your KHA hospital-level data resides. This week, the site was updated with the June 2025 data and now contains October 2019 – June 2025 inpatient, outpatient and emergency department discharges. This includes Executive Snapshot Dashboards located under Market Optics.

As a reminder, HIDI recently launched the HIDI Academy. This new service is designed to enhance the learning experience for users by providing access to HIDI-specific Market Optics training modules and resources through a user-friendly interface.

For assistance with accessing Advantage Optics or the HIDI Academy, please contact Dee Lewis ([dlewis@kha-net.org](mailto:dlewis@kha-net.org)) or Sally Othmer ([sothmer@kha-net.org](mailto:sothmer@kha-net.org)) at (785) 233-7436.

--Dee Lewis

### **KHA Submits Letter to Aetna and CMS Regarding New Policy Concerns**

Recent Aetna policy changes are causing major concern for providers and patients, particularly a new Medicare Advantage inpatient payment policy that may downgrade inpatient payments without formal denials, potentially impacting care access and provider revenue. Aetna's new "Level of severity inpatient payment policy" for Medicare Advantage, effective Nov. 15, 2025, will significantly reduce hospital reimbursement and effectively eliminate traditional appeal rights for many inpatient stays. By reclassifying coverage decisions as payment adjustments rather than denials, Aetna's policy circumvents existing appeal processes and may violate federal rules established by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. KHA submitted a [letter](#) to the CMS Regional Office and Aetna Management asking for the policy to be reversed.

--Shannan Flach

### **Kansas Open Records Act Requests**

Several of our members have inquired about an increase in Kansas Open Records Act requests. Kansas hospitals, which are often city, county or district hospitals, are the most frequent recipients of these requests. While public hospitals must comply with these requests, they can do the following:

- Request proof of identity from the requester, including name, address and, in the case of a business, articles of incorporation. ([KSA 45-220\(b\)](#)).
- Charge reasonable fees for accessing the information, including staff time ([KSA 45-219](#))
- Require advance payment of any fees for providing the information ([KSA 45-218\(f\)](#))

*--Audrey Dunkel*

### **KDHE Declares Measles Outbreak Over**

Last week, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment announced the official end of the measles outbreak in Southwest Kansas. The outbreak, which began in the spring, resulted in 87 total outbreak-associated cases of measles across 12 counties in Southwest and South Central Kansas. For detailed measles counts related to the outbreak, see [KDHE's Measles Dashboard](#). [KDHE's Kindergarten Immunization Data Dashboard](#) shows the measles mumps rubella immunization rates for Kansas kindergartners decreased from 94.47 percent in the 2019 – 2020 school year to 90.21 percent during the 2023 – 2024 school year. A few robust measles and MMR immunization resources include the [American Academy of Pediatrics](#), [Immunize Kansas Coalition](#) and [KDHE's Measles Resources](#).

*--Karen Braman*

### **CEO Staffing Changes**

The Kansas Hospital Association would like to inform you of the latest member hospital administrator changes since our last hospital list printout in July:

- Travis Battagler, chief executive officer, Girard Medical Center, Girard
- Sidni L. Durler, RHIT, interim chief executive officer, Hodgeman County Health Center, Jetmore
- Chip Holmes, interim chief executive officer, Wilson Medical Center, Neodesha
- Jeffrey B. Van Dyke, chief executive officer, Rooks County Health Center, Plainville (no longer interim)
- Garrett Colglazier, RHIA, chief executive officer, Sabetha Community Hospital, Sabetha
- Jessica Eckels, MA, LMAC, CPXP, HRS, president and chief executive officer, CKF Addiction Treatment, Salina
- Cynthia Meaux, chief executive officer, Kansas Spine & Specialty Hospital, LLC, Wichita
- Gigi Fergus, MBA, BSN, RN, interim chief executive officer, William Newton Hospital, Winfield

The [Kansas Hospitals and Health-Related Facilities list](#) is available on the KHA website in PDF format (Adobe Acrobat Reader) at [www.kha-net.org](http://www.kha-net.org). A username and password are required. Click on Kansas Hospitals, CEO Directories, Kansas Hospital List and Kansas Hospitals and Health-Related Facilities List. Please contact [Cheryl Carson](#) at (785) 233-7436 and provide the start date of the new administrator/chief executive officer, picture, birthday and press release/bio.

--Cheryl Carson

### **Health Observances and Recognition Days for September**

The Kansas Hospital Association and the Society for Healthcare Strategy and Market Development are pleased to bring you the [2025 Calendar of Health Observances & Recognition Days](#). Yet another example of our commitment to providing health care strategists with practical, timely resources, this calendar is designed to help you plan your community health events, internal and external communications, social media campaigns and more.

### **Month-Long Observances**

- Alzheimer's Month (World)
- Atrial Fibrillation Awareness Month (National)
- Baby Safety Month
- Blood Cancer Awareness Month
- Childhood Cancer Awareness Month
- Childhood Obesity Awareness Month (National)
- Cholesterol Education Month (National)
- Chronic Care Management and Specialty Pharmacy Awareness Month
- Craniofacial Acceptance Month
- Dental Implant Month
- Drug-Free Pain Management Awareness Month
- Fruits and Veggies Month (National)
- Food Safety Education Month (National)
- Gynecologic Cancer Awareness Month
- Healthy Aging® Month
- ITP (Platelet Disorder) Awareness Month (National)
- Newborn Screening Awareness Month
- Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month
- Pain Awareness Month
- Pediculosis Prevention Month | Head Lice Prevention Month (National)
- Peripheral Artery Disease Awareness Month
- Polycystic Ovary Syndrome Awareness Month
- Pulmonary Fibrosis Awareness Month
- Prostate Health Awareness Month
- Prostate Cancer Awareness Month
- Recovery Month (National)
- Reye's Syndrome Awareness Month
- Sepsis Awareness Month

- Sexual Health Awareness Month
- Sickle Cell Month (National)
- Sports Eye Safety Awareness Month
- Suicide Prevention Month (National)
- Thyroid Cancer Awareness Month
- Urology Awareness Month
- Vascular Disease Awareness Month (National)
- Yoga Awareness Month (National)

### **Week-Long Observances**

- Sept. 7-13 – Assisted Living Week (National) and Suicide Prevention Week (National)
- Sept. 8-12 – Malnutrition Awareness Week
- Sept. 8-14 – Folic Acid Awareness Week and Sexual Health Week
- Sept. 14-20 – Environmental Services Week, Neonatal Nurses Week, Rehabilitation Awareness Week (National) and Vascular Nurses Week
- Sept. 15-21 – Mitochondrial Disease Week (World)
- Sept. 16-20 – Fungal Disease Awareness Week
- Sept. 21-27 – Farm Safety and Health Week (National), Nursing Professional Development Week, Telehealth Awareness Week and Surgical Technologist Week
- Sept. 22-26 – Falls Prevention Awareness Week

### **Recognition Days and Events**

- Sept. 4 – Sexual Health Day (World)
- Sept. 7 – Duchenne's Awareness Day (World)
- Sept. 8 – Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Nurses Day and Physical Therapy Day (World)
- Sept. 9 – Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Awareness Day (International) and Health Environment Day
- Sept. 10 – Suicide Prevention Day (World)
- Sept. 13 – Celiac Disease Awareness Day (National) and Sepsis Day (World)
- Sept. 15 – Lymphoma Awareness Day (World)
- Sept. 16 – Get Ready for Flu Day
- Sept. 17 – Patient Safety Day (World) and Physician Suicide Awareness Day (National)
- Sept. 18 – HIV/AIDS and Aging Awareness Day (National)
- Sept. 19 – Aortic Dissection Awareness Day and Concussion Awareness Day (National)
- Sept. 20 – Usher Syndrome Awareness Day
- Sept. 21 – Alzheimer's Day (World)
- Sept. 22 – Falls Prevention Awareness Day
- Sept. 25 – Ataxia Awareness Day (International), Lung Day (World), Pharmacists Day (World) and Women's Health and Fitness Day (National)
- Sept. 26 – Contraception Day (World), Mesothelioma Awareness Day and Sport Purple for Platelets Day
- Sept. 28 – Rabies Day (World)
- Sept. 29 – Heart Day (World)

Stay ahead of the curve and plan ahead! The 2026 Calendar of Health Observances and Recognition Days is here! This complimentary calendar is your essential tool for planning community health events, campaigns and communications. With more than 240 observances and share-ready hashtags, you'll save time and maximize your impact. Navigate month by month with ease. Access more than 240 key health observances. Use direct links to the sponsoring organization's sites and emails and to share instantly with built-in hashtags and handles.

**Access the Free 2026  
Calendar Now »**

*--Jan Fenwick*

**Position Available**

**[Chief Financial Officer](#)**

**[Greenwood County Hospital](#)**

**100 W. 16th Street**

**Eureka, KS 67045**

**Phone: 620-583-7451**

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

**Equal Opportunity Employer | Drug Free Workplace**

**Position is open until filled.**

The CFO is responsible for the overall financial leadership of Greenwood County Hospital, including fiscal planning, revenue cycle management, budgeting, financial reporting and regulatory compliance.

**Key responsibilities:**

- Leading and managing all financial operations, including accounting, budgeting, forecasting and audits to include Critical Access Hospital cost reporting and Medicare/Medicaid reimbursement
- Overseeing key departments including Revenue Cycle, Patient Billing, Accounts Payable, Materials Management and Health Information Management
- Analyzing and presenting financial reports to the CEO and Board of Trustees to inform strategic planning and decision-making
- Monitoring cash flow, managing investments and supporting cost-saving initiatives



## Qualifications:

- A bachelor's degree in accounting, finance or business administration is required; a CPA and/or master's degree is strongly preferred
- Minimum of five years of progressive financial leadership experience in a health care setting, with experience in a Critical Access Hospital or rural health care environment, is highly desired
- Strong working knowledge of health care reimbursement, cost reporting, budgeting and regulatory compliance
- Proficiency with health care financial systems, accounting software and EHR integration

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@ksahealthcare.org). Also, don't forget to check out [www.kshealthjobs.net](http://www.kshealthjobs.net) for other health care openings in Kansas.

--Jan Fenwick

## **Current Report Will Not Be Published Next Week**

*Current Report* will not be published next week as Kansas Hospital Association staff will be at the [KHA Annual Convention](#) and [Trade Show](#), Sept. 4-5, at the Hyatt Regency Wichita/Century II Convention Center in Wichita. Our next issue will be distributed on Sept. 12. We look forward to seeing you at convention!

--Jan Fenwick

## **Federal and National News**

### **Medicare Announces Seasonal Flu Vaccine Pricing for 2025–2026 Season**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services has released [payment allowances and effective dates](#) for influenza vaccinations for the 2025–2026 influenza season. Medicare Part B covers flu vaccination. Refer to the [CMS Flu Shot webpage](#) for billing and coverage information.

### **FDA Approves Updated 2025 – 2026 COVID-19 Vaccines**

On Aug. 27, the Food and Drug Administration approved the updated 2025 – 2026 COVID-19 vaccine formulations for all individuals aged 65 and older and certain age groups under 65, but these age groups vary by vaccine. Secretary Kennedy shared this [announcement on X](#). The 2025-2026 COVID-19 vaccine formulation targets the SARS-CoV-2 sublineage LP.8.1. The approved vaccines and the corresponding ages for which each received FDA approval are as follows.

#### [Pfizer and BioNTech's COVID-19 vaccine, Comirnaty](#)

- Comirnaty was approved for individuals aged five through 64 at increased risk for severe COVID-19 and adults aged 65 and older.
- According to Pfizer's announcement, shipping of Comirnaty will begin immediately.
- Pfizer's emergency use authorization for its COVID-19 vaccine for children under five had been rescinded.

Moderna's [Spikevax](#) and [mNEXSPIKE](#)

- The updated formula for [Spikevax](#) is now approved for individuals aged six months through 64 years with at least one underlying condition that puts them at high risk for severe outcomes from COVID-19, and all adults 65 years of age and older.
- [mNEXSPIKE](#), Moderna's new COVID-19 vaccine, is approved for individuals aged 12 years through 64 years with at least one underlying condition that puts them at high risk for severe outcomes from COVID-19, and all adults aged 65 years and older.
- Moderna's updated vaccines are expected to be available in the coming days.

[Novavax's Nuvaxovid](#)

- Nuvaxovid was approved for use in individuals aged 12 years to 64 years with at least one underlying condition that puts them at high risk for severe outcomes from COVID-19, and aged 65 years and older.
- Nuvaxovi is the only protein-based, non-mRNA COVID-19 vaccine available in the U.S. for the 2025-2026 vaccination season.

The [American Academy of Pediatrics recommends COVID-19 vaccinations](#) for infants and young children. AAP recommends a COVID-19 vaccine for all children aged six months through 23 months to help protect against serious illness. In addition to the recommendation for children younger than two years, AAP recommends a single dose of age-appropriate COVID-19 vaccine for all children and adolescents two years through 18 years of age in the following risk groups:

- Persons at high risk of severe COVID-19
- Residents of long-term care facilities or other congregate settings
- People who have never been vaccinated against COVID-19
- Persons whose household contacts are at high risk for severe COVID-19

The AAP also recommends the vaccine be available for children aged two to 18 years who do not fall into these risk groups, but whose parent or guardian desires them to receive the vaccine's protection.

The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists continues to recommend that all pregnant and lactating individuals receive an updated COVID-19 vaccine or "booster." ACOG recommends all clinicians provide a strong recommendation for updated COVID-19 vaccination to their pregnant and lactating patients. See the [ACOG COVID-19 guidance](#).

### **HHS Announces Request for Nominations to Federal Healthcare Advisory Committee**

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services [announced](#) the establishment of a federal Healthcare Advisory Committee. According to HHS and CMS, the committee will be charged with making recommendations to HHS Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. and CMS Administrator Dr. Mehmet Oz to improve how care is financed and delivered across Medicare, Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program and the Health Insurance Marketplace. CMS is accepting nominations for the advisory committee, specifically individuals with expertise in chronic disease prevention and management, federally administered health care financing and delivery system reform. Individuals may self-nominate or be nominated by an organization. Nominations must be submitted by Sept. 22, 2025. Fifteen members will be appointed by HHS later this year. For more detailed information and to submit nominations, see the [Federal Register notice](#).

### **Applications Due Oct. 14 for the 2026 Dick Davidson NOVA Award**

The American Hospital Association is accepting applications through Oct. 14 for the 2026 AHA Dick Davidson NOVA Award. This award recognizes hospitals and health systems that demonstrate outstanding collaboration with community partners to improve health outcomes and community well-being. Eligible programs must be at least two years old, show clear evidence of impact and sustainability and be replicable in other communities. Up to five winners will be honored at the AHA Healthier Together Conference, May 12-14, 2026, in Dallas.

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