



KHA's Current Report **September 12, 2025**

President's Perspective – Mission Accomplished: Board and Convention Take-Aways

Last week was the Kansas Hospital Association's 2025 Annual Convention and Trade Show in Wichita. KHA's 2025 Annual Convention and Trade Show was last week in Wichita. The event brought together nearly 1,150 attendees statewide and was filled with excitement, education and excellent networking. The convention theme was *Mission: Possible*. And based on the feedback we received from attendees, I would describe the event as a *Mission: Accomplished*. I want to reiterate my appreciation to the KHA Convention Planning Committee for their guidance, the entire KHA staff for their hard work and KHA's Hayley Finch-Genschorck for her outstanding leadership. Everyone worked together to ensure this year's convention was a success. Thank you to all attendees, trade show exhibitors and sponsors.

Before the convention kick-off, the KHA Board of Directors met in person to discuss several emerging and pertinent topics, including the latest information on the Rural Health Transformation Program. The KHA team provided background information regarding the RHTP, as well as the results of the KHA-initiated member survey to obtain recommendations and priorities. In addition, the KHA Board reviewed and adopted a series of guiding principles to assist KHA as ideas and recommendations are presented. The document [KHA Principles for a Sustainable Kansas Health Delivery System](#) is online. [More information](#) on the RHTP, including information shared during our Sept. 9 member webinar, is available online. Kansas Department of Health and Environment Secretary Janet Stanek joined last week's KHA Board meeting and our member webinar to share additional information on the RHTP and to gather feedback. It is anticipated the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services will be releasing the formal application in the near future. In addition, more information is expected to be provided by Governor Laura Kelly's office as additional guidance is made available.

Additional highlights of the September board meeting include:

- Welcomed Sandy Dickerson, administrator and CEO, Greenwood County Hospital, Eureka as a new director of the KHA Board
- Appointed Sarah Teaff, CEO, Patterson Health Center, Anthony, to fulfill a vacant position on the KHA Board of Directors
- Approved the KHA associate membership applications for Beeler Consulting and Amergis Healthcare Staffing
- Reviewed the KHA Governance Committee's recommendations for the slate of directors that was presented to the KHA membership during the annual meeting

- Adopted the KHA finance and investment report
- Highlighted the KHA state and federal advocacy efforts for the remainder of 2025
- Discussed the workforce strategies recommendations that were developed during the KHA Board retreat
- Reviewed the 2025-2027 KHA Strategic Plan dashboard and recent KHA initiatives
- Presented the latest initiatives surrounding health care finance and reimbursement, including a study on the area wage index
- Provided a status update on the fundraising progress of KHA's Political Advocacy Committee.

As always, please don't hesitate to let us know if you have any questions or need assistance with any matters affecting your hospital. Your team at KHA is readily available to assist you!

--Chad Austin

2025 Provider Tax Preprint Approval

Kansas Hospital Association staff are pleased to share we were notified late Tuesday, Sept. 9, that the 2025 provider tax preprint, which allows the state to draw down federal matching funds to match the provider tax at six percent, was approved!

As with any significant achievement, it took a team to reach this goal. Our congressional delegation, led by Senator Moran and his team, played a crucial role in the negotiations on HR 1 this summer, which maintained the viability of the 2025 provider tax plan and kept it moving forward in the approval process. At the state level, Governor Laura Kelly, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment leadership and the Medicaid finance team went above and beyond in working with KHA to ensure timely responses to CMS requests; thereby, keeping the 2025 provider tax changes moving forward in D.C. It is valued partnerships like these that will help Kansas hospitals achieve our vision of optimal health for Kansans and Kansas hospitals.

Last week, KHA sent an update to each of the hospitals with their 2025 Q1 Medicaid quarterly enhancement payment amount, based on the six percent tax rate. In that update, we provided a timeline that would begin once approval was received from CMS. Here is the updated timeline:

- The week of Sept. 8, KDHE will submit the request to the state treasurer to transfer the funds from the HCAIP account to the Medicaid managed care organization for distribution to the hospitals and send the payment amounts to the managed care organizations.
- The week of Sept. 15, the funds will be transferred to the MCOs on Thursday and should arrive in their bank accounts on Friday, Sept. 19.
- Beginning the week of Sept. 22, the MCOs will distribute the funds to the individual hospitals within the next two weeks.

Please note: This will be the first time Healthy Blue distributes the Medicaid quarterly enhancement payments. Please let us know if you have not received a distribution from Healthy Blue by Oct. 1, and we will assist you in tracking down the funds.

The tax payment that was due to the state on May 30, 2025, but was delayed pending approval of the 2025 waiver and preprint, will now be due on Oct. 31, 2025. Please note, this does not apply to CAH and REH hospitals, which will not begin paying the tax until May 2026, pending CMS approval.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us.

--Audrey Dunkel

Agenda Set for 2025 KHA Fall District Meetings

The Kansas Hospital Association District Meetings provide members with timely information essential in helping KHA learn about top issues. We encourage CEOs, CFOs, HR executives, trustees and senior staff to join us. We want to have interactive conversations, so invite key staff working or interested in the topic areas below.

- KHA Board Facilitated Strategic Discussion
- Health Care Workforce
- Advocacy and Regulations
- Quality and Safety
- Finance and Reimbursement
- KHSC and APS Spotlight Services
- Member Updates and District Discussions

Join us to network with your peers and KHA staff at 9:30 a.m. These meetings also feature an opportunity to participate in our advocacy efforts. Meeting times will be from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. with lunch provided. You are free to attend any location, so choose the one that best fits your schedule. These meetings are provided at no charge.

KHA District	Date	Location	Address	City
NC	Oct. 7	North Central Kansas Medical Center	155 W. College Dr.	Concordia
NW	Oct. 8	Lincoln Building	920 Lincoln St.	Quinter
SW	Oct. 9	Meade District Hospital/ Artesian Valley Health System	510 E. Carthage	Meade
SC	Oct. 10	McPherson Hospital	1000 Hospital Dr.	McPherson
SE	Oct. 14	Southeast Kansas Impact Center	1500 SW 7th St.	Chanute
NE	Oct. 15	The University of Kansas Health System – St. Francis Campus	1700 SW 7th St.	Topeka

[Click to
View Agenda](#)

[Click to
Register](#)

Thanks to our sponsors, these meetings are provided at no charge: Diamond-Level: APS, KAMMCO and KHSC; Platinum-Level: Qualivis. Please contact Melissa Willey (mwilley@kha-net.org) or Cindy Samuelson (csamuelson@kha-net.org) at (785) 233-7436 if you have any questions.

--Melissa Willey

Broadband Informational Webinar – Sept. 16

The [Federal Funding Group](#) and the Health-e Broadband Consortium are hosting an informational webinar on Sept. 16. [Healthworks](#) created the [consortium](#) to enable members to access subsidies collectively and to negotiate contracts with the Federal Funding Group. FFG is a consulting firm based in Evergreen, Colorado, with deep expertise in the Healthcare Connect Fund and is a valuable asset in providing services to its members. Join us 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:

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

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

[Click to Register](#)

--Jennifer Findley

Four Myths of Workplace Violence and Aggression Cycle You Can't Afford to Ignore – Sept. 17

Please join us at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 17, for a very informative webinar, [The Four Myths of Workplace Violence and the Aggression Cycle You Can't Afford to Ignore](#), with speaker Trista Simpson, M.Ed., CLC, senior training and development specialist at Tarian Group.

Workplace violence is one of the most pressing and misunderstood risks organizations face today. In this dynamic webinar, Trista Simpson will debunk the four most common myths of workplace violence and replace them with a clear, evidence-based understanding of the Aggression Cycle®, the predictable stages of how hostility builds, erupts and recovers. Participants will learn how to recognize the subtle cues at each stage of the cycle, why timing matters more than tactics and how leaders can shape cultures that act early instead of reacting late. This one-hour session will give you practical tools to spot warning signs before they spiral into crisis, challenge assumptions that put people at risk and guide your organization toward safer, more resilient outcomes.

If you have questions or need additional information, contact [Dennis George](#) at (913) 327-8730.
--Dennis George

A Strategic Approach to Locums During Challenging Financial Times – Sept. 19

Health care leaders are navigating unprecedented financial pressure as budget constraints, restructuring and looming federal reimbursement changes heighten the need for more strategic workforce decisions. With new policy proposals threatening to shift how care is valued and paid for, every staffing investment is under the microscope—especially locum tenens, which can be seen as costly despite its critical role in maintaining access and revenue.

Join Bob Wolf and Patrick Hinkle with Qualivis from 11:00 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. on Sept. 19 and explore:

- How to approach locums not as a short-term fix, but as a strategic tool for protecting both patient care and financial health
- How shifting market dynamics and financial pressures are reshaping physician and advanced practice staffing strategies
- The true return on investment of locums: mitigating service disruption, patient outmigration and lost revenue
- Tactical approaches to reduce unnecessary locum spend without sacrificing care
- Real-world use cases: health systems that are optimizing locums to stay mission-focused and financially agile



--Dennis George

Health Care Workforce Innovation Bi-State Summit – Oct. 2-3 in Kansas City, MO!

The Kansas Hospital Association and Missouri Hospital Association are proud to present the Health Care Workforce Innovation Bi-State Summit, Oct. 2 and 3, at Children's Mercy Research Institute, 2401 Gillham Rd, Kansas City, MO.

This groundbreaking summit will connect health care and education leaders to explore forward-thinking strategies around:

- Strengthening K–12 and early career pathways
- Transforming nursing and allied health education
- Supporting transitions into practice
- Addressing workforce shortages through partnerships
- Promoting workforce well-being and resilience
- Building a diverse, future-ready pipeline

Hear from dynamic speakers, including Paul Long, and top nursing and education leaders from across Kansas and Missouri. Network with peers at breakout sessions and the Thursday evening social event at the Sheraton Crown Center. Discover real solutions through innovative case studies, success stories and panel discussions.

The cost to attend is \$75 per attendee. Nursing leaders, HR professionals, educators, hospital executives, clinical instructors, allied health professionals, K–12 administrators and all advocates for workforce development are encouraged to attend.



We look forward to seeing you in Kansas City!
--Hayley Finch-Genschorck

Conditions of Participation and Interpretive Guidance Communication

With the rapid rate of change in Conditions of Participation and the resulting Interpretive Guidance for surveyors, it is challenging to keep pace for you and those responsible for survey readiness and compliance. To keep up with communications from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, go to [Policy & Memos to States and CMS Locations](#) on the CMS website. This is where CMS releases and archives Quality, Safety and Oversight memoranda, guidance, clarifications and instructions to State Survey Agencies and CMS locations. The site provides information and guidance on the Conditions of Participation for all hospital types, as well as nursing facilities and CLIA-regulated clinicians.

For example, on Sept. 5, they released [QSO-25-24-Hospitals](#) to provide revisions to the State Operations Manual – Appendix A for PPS hospitals. CMS states, "This will accomplish two objectives: The first is to issue new interpretive guidance and survey processes for Conditions of Participation (CoPs) that were finalized and established in 2019 and 2020. The publication of this guidance was delayed due to COVID-19 public health priorities. The second portion of this update is to incorporate previously issued guidance from QSO memos S&C-16-29, 19-13 (revised), QSO-20-04, 22-20, 23-09, and QSO-23-19 into the SOM."

This is great information to share with your leadership and survey readiness teams.
--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 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 you to share this information with your executive assistants and encourage them to register.



Let's make these discussions engaging and productive. We look forward to seeing you there.
--Tom Hagen

Register Now to Learn More about Integrated Care

Are you interested in learning more about integrated physical and behavioral health care services? If so, join the Center of Excellence for Integrated Health Solutions and the American Hospital Association from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 16, for [Advancing Integrated Care Via Collaborative Partnerships: Hospitals, Health Systems, CMHCs and CCBHCs](#). The free webinar will provide education on how hospitals and health systems are working with community behavioral health partners to integrate the care into their communities. Share with others in your organization, as well as with behavioral health partners in your community.



--Larry Van Der Wege

careLearning Informational Webinar – Sept. 16

The Kansas Hospital Association, along with 40 other state hospital associations, offers [careLearning](#), a web-based educational tool for member hospitals.

Hospitals all over the country utilize this cost-effective learning solution to ensure all employees have the required regulatory training, as well as access to hundreds of health care-related courses. Users can create an unlimited number of facility-specific courses and manage instructor-led meetings and automatically track and report upon them with a few quick clicks in the system.

KHA invites your hospital to learn more about the *careLearning* education management solution at 10 a.m. on Sept. 16.



--Jennifer Findley

National Voter Registration Day – Sept. 16

Sept. 16 is [National Voter Registration Day](#). National Voter Registration Day is more than just a civic holiday. It's a nationwide celebration of democracy powered by thousands of partners, and millions of voices, working together to ensure every eligible American is registered to vote. At the heart of this celebration is you! It's the perfect time to remind your community about the need to register or update voter registration if you have:

- Moved
- Changed your name
- Will be 18 on the next election day

In Kansas, registering to vote is simple and may be done by filing a paper document or online. You can register today by visiting: [Kansas Secretary of State | Elections | Voter Registration](#). This year, municipal elections will occur on Nov. 4, and voters must be registered with updated information by Oct. 14.

For questions about your local elections, your county election offices will have the latest information. Please visit the Kansas Secretary of State website for county-by-county information: [Kansas Secretary of State | Elections | All County Election Officers Information](#).

--Tara Mays

Register Today for Kansas Career Opportunities Career Fairs

Kansas Career Opportunities is hosted by The University of Kansas Medical Center, Rural Health Education and Services department. KCO is the [largest health care career fair](#) in the state. The annual event provides an opportunity for resident physicians, health care job seekers and students to network with rural and urban underserved health care employers from across Kansas.

2025 KCO Events:

- Oct. 2 – KCO-Wichita, The Vail by Hotel at Old Town
- Nov. 5 – KCO-Kansas City, Boulevard Brewing Company



For more information on KCO, call (316) 293-2649, or email rhealth@kumc.edu.

--Jaron Caffrey

APS Member | SCK Health Has Sizewize Behavioral Health Bed Standard Beds for Sale

APS member SCK Health is selling its Sizewize Behavioral Health Beds for \$5,000 each. There are 11 BHB standard beds, size 35" x 82", and one BHB standard bed, size 39" x 82." Click to review the [collateral](#) and [video](#). If you are interested, please contact Michelle Linn, materials manager at SCK Health, at michellel@sckrmc.org or (620) 441-5746.

If you have questions or need additional information, contact [Dennis George](#) at (913) 327-8730.
--Dennis George

Federal and National News

HRSA Accepting Applications for State Loan Repayment Program

The Health Resources and Services Administration is currently [accepting applications](#) for the State Loan Repayment Program, which provides cost-sharing grants to states to operate their own loan repayment programs for primary care providers to serve in Health Professional Shortage Areas.

In return for serving in these underserved communities, providers receive loan repayment awards. The application period runs through Jan. 12, 2026.

Clinical Laboratory Fee Schedule: Submit Comments and Reconsideration Requests by Oct. 9

Get the latest payment information on the [Clinical Laboratory Fee Schedule](#) and find out how to comment or request a reconsideration by Oct. 9:

- [CY 2026 preliminary payment determinations \(ZIP\)](#): Submit comments to CLFS_Annual_Public_Meeting@cms.hhs.gov
- [Final Medicare Administrative Contractor 2025 gapfill recommendations for CY 2026 \(ZIP\)](#):
 - Submit payment reconsideration requests to CLFS_Inquiries@cms.hhs.gov
 - Once CMS posts the final, complete CY 2026 CLFS fee schedule, the gap-filled payment amount is final

Visit the [CLFS Annual Public Meetings webpage](#) for more information on the annual rate-setting processes.

Before You Go ...

- The National Alliance on Mental Illness recognizes September as [Suicide Prevention Month](#) and created [this toolkit](#) for partners and advocates to help raise awareness about this urgent issue. By talking openly about suicide prevention, recognizing warning signs and encouraging help, NAMI hopes to spread hope and spark meaningful action.
- September is [National Recovery Month](#), an annual observance initiated by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration designed to increase awareness, reduce stigma and celebrate the successes of those who have embarked on the journey of recovery.
- A 2025 [study](#) published in the *Journal of the American College of Surgeons* found that patients who develop alcohol withdrawal during hospitalization are twice as likely to experience respiratory failure and face a 61 percent higher risk of sepsis. The findings underscore the importance of awareness, clinical consideration and improved screening to help prevent poor outcomes after surgery.