



KHA's Current Report
September 19, 2025

President's Perspective – Federal Advocacy Efforts

Last week, I traveled to Washington, DC, and made the rounds on Capitol Hill with different Kansas hospital executives. The conversations we had were enlightening, especially considering the tense, hurry-up-and-wait atmosphere regarding health care policy.

Everyone has now had a chance to exhale since the passage earlier this summer of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, but many policy items still need to be addressed either by the end of the federal fiscal year on Sept. 30, 2025, or by the end of the calendar year. It appears the House is preparing to consider a so-called "clean" continuing resolution that would extend the fiscal year 2025 budget to the week before Thanksgiving.

This bill would include all of the typical health care extenders like the Affordable Care Act Disproportionate Share Hospital cut delay, as well as telehealth, Medicare Dependent Hospital and Low-Volume Hospital program extensions. This would give time for Congress to pass individual funding bills for fiscal year 2026 or move them in packages that combine three or four of them at a time. Both Appropriations Committees have reported their Labor-HHS-Education bills, so there is some hope this might actually be achieved this year, but in years past, Congress often falls back on a long-term continuing resolution or an Omnibus bill.

Not included in the short-term continuing resolution being considered by the House is an extension of the ACA's enhanced premium tax credit. As such, this was the main topic of conversation between our groups and members of Congress last week. We feel our concerns were well-received in our Congressional meetings, particularly since they are now aware their constituents will start to see policy premium cost increase notices around about the same time they will be considering the FY 2026 budget endgame later this year. We discussed how 160,000 Kansans will be affected by these increases, and the hardest-hit age category will be 55-65. In order for us to be successful, we will need to continue our education efforts about the impact this policy has on Kansans.

Additionally, we asked our representatives to avoid using site-neutral payment schemes as an offset for any health care extenders. As always, we discussed how hospitals — including hospital outpatient departments (known as HOPDs) — are fundamentally different from rural health clinics and physician offices, since we are required to abide by EMTALA regulations.

Last week, we achieved a major 2025 federal policy goal: our 2025 provider tax pre-print was approved by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services! This could only have come about by countless hours of multiple individuals working to get it approved in Topeka and Washington. We cannot thank our Kansas Congressional Delegation enough for both working to get our provider tax changes grandfathered into the OBBBA and eventually approved by CMS Administrator Dr. Oz.

There is still much to do: we have our 2026 provider tax pre-print to work through the system, and we need to ensure good policy outcomes this fall for hospitals on the issues mentioned above, as well as on the 340B Program and Rural Emergency Hospitals. Our fall season is off to a good start; however, we will keep working to maintain this momentum!

--Chad Austin

Kansas Healthcare Collaborative Update

Throughout the past six months or more, the Kansas Healthcare Collaborative Board of Directors—both the Executive Committee and the full Board—has been closely monitoring changes in the health care landscape and evaluating its impact on our organization. Even in strong financial years, sustaining an organization primarily funded through grants is challenging. The KHC staff has done an exceptional job, and we fully recognize the significant impact they have made across Kansas health care organizations.

Unfortunately, the funding environment has shifted. The grants that have historically supported our work are no longer available. While the need for KHC's mission remains as vital as ever, the financial foundation to support that work has changed.

After thoughtful and careful consideration, the KHC Board has made the difficult decision to initiate a significant operational transition, which includes the layoff of all KHC staff, effective Oct. 3, 2025.

As you can imagine, this has not been an easy decision. Our deep respect for the staff and their many accomplishments remains unchanged. However, we must be realistic about the future sustainability of the organization under current circumstances.

Leaders from our founding organizations—the Kansas Medical Society and the Kansas Hospital Association—have been actively involved throughout this decision-making process. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to Rachelle Colombo, executive director, Kansas Medical Society at rcolombo@kmsonline.org or Chad Austin, president and CEO, Kansas Hospital Association at caustin@kha-net.org.

Future communication (after Oct. 1, 2025) to KHC should be addressed to either [Chad Austin](#) or [Rachelle Colombo](#).

Thank you for your support of the Kansas Healthcare Collaborative. Future opportunities for collaborative efforts such as this will come up. We look forward to building on the work that has been done by this dynamic organization.

--Chad Austin

CMS Clarification on Non-Medicare Swing Beds for Critical Access Hospitals – Oct. 1

Join the Kansas Hospital Association staff for a Noon Briefing with Shannan Flach, vice president of health care finance and reimbursement, and Cindy Samuelson, senior vice president of member and public relations. They will review a recent clarification from the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services and WPS regarding non-Medicare Swing Beds and the implications for Critical Access Hospitals. CAHs that provide Intermediate Swing Bed services on a larger scale will be more significantly impacted by the CMS clarification than CAHs that offer minimal non-Medicare swing bed services, because of the greater reliance on ISB-related reimbursement.

Who should attend: CEOs, CFOs, clinical leaders, swing bed coordinators and communications executives. This session will help hospital leaders anticipate the effects of the clarification and prepare their organizations and communities for the transition ahead.



--Hayley Finch-Genschorck

Hospital Board Chair Leadership Program - Oct. 23, Nov. 6 and Nov. 18

The Kansas Hospital Association and governWell are pleased to bring KHA members a program designed for board chairs, chair-elects, vice chairs and board members in line to be chair. Learn about the board chair's leadership role, including how to build purposeful agendas, facilitation and executive sessions, the Open Meetings Act, quality oversight, the board chair-CEO relationship, board conduct, board orientation, learning and development and board self-assessment.

This virtual program will consist of three, 90-minute Zoom sessions (4:00 - 5:30 p.m. on Oct. 23, Nov. 6 and Nov. 18) and an optional individual coaching session. Attendance will be limited to 50 trustees; one trustee per hospital is allowed, unless extra slots become available. Previous attendees are welcome to return if they would like a refresher on the covered content. Trustees will have access to breakout rooms to connect with other trustees. This education is for trustees only. Trustees will need to have a video connection and be able to use the chat feature in Zoom. Session resources will be shared with attendees' CEOs in advance of the program.



--Hayley Finch-Genschorck

Registration Open! KHA Workers' Compensation Fund & Safety Seminar – Oct. 16-17

The KHA Workers' Compensation Fund has been providing workers' compensation insurance to members of the Kansas Hospital Association since 1991. This seminar provides comprehensive information to members on health care safety, occupational safety and Health Administration reporting, changes and trends in Workers' Compensation and networking opportunities.

This seminar is designed for personnel responsible for employee safety, risk management, implementing policies and reporting Workers' Compensation in your organization.

The seminar will be at the DoubleTree by Hilton Wichita Airport. The special room rate is \$125 per night. To reserve a room at this special rate, call (316) 945-5272 by Sept. 29, and ask for the KHA Workers' Comp Seminar room block.

Fund members who attend the seminar will receive a one-time \$500 credit on their 2026 premiums. Seminar registrations are due by Oct. 13.



--Ronni Anderson

Kansas Society for Healthcare Central Service Professionals Seminar – Oct. 18

The Kansas Society for Healthcare Central Service Professionals is providing an educational workshop at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 18, at Mosier Hall, Kansas State University, Upson Conference Room: P223 (enter on the north door), 1800 Denison Ave., Manhattan.

Registration is \$40, which includes the workshop, lunch and your 2026 membership fee. A light breakfast, coffee, water and snacks will also be provided. CE hours will be available and presented at the end of the day. To register, email Joanna Berg at jberg@vet.k-state.edu or kshcspboard@gmail.com.



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

--Dennis George

Kansas State Board of Nursing Committee Opportunities

The Kansas State Board of Nursing has two vacant committee positions on the KSBN Practice Committee and is currently accepting applications. To be a member of the Practice Committee, you must be a nurse (registered nurse or licensed practical nurse), licensed in the state of Kansas, engaged in practice and/or IV Therapy. The committee's purposes are to review and recommend revisions in advanced practice registered nurse and restorative nursing assistant statutes and regulations, provide non-binding guidance on the scope of nursing and licensed mental health technician practice in response to written inquiries and make recommendations to amend the practice act that reflect current nursing and mental health technician practice. If anyone is interested in serving on the committee, please email Carol Moreland, executive administrator of the KSBN, at carol.moreland@ks.gov for more information and the application.

--Terry Siek

Region 7 Disaster Health Response Ecosystem Upcoming Events – Oct. 8

The Region 7 (Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa and Missouri) Disaster Health Response Ecosystem offers a variety of education and training opportunities for your emergency preparedness. One such virtual event, "*Bridging the Gap Between the FBI and Disaster Preparedness and Response Community: What Is Your Plan?*", is scheduled for 1:00 p.m. on Oct. 8. There is no charge to participate.



You can find this and many other events and offerings at [R7DHRE Events Calendar](#).

--Larry Van Der Wege

Sunflower Chapter HFMA Chagemaster Workshop – Oct. 22-23

The Sunflower (Kansas) Chapter of Healthcare Financial Management Association invites you to attend the October 22-23 workshop, at the Hilton Garden Inn & Convention Center in Salina. The Prospective Payment System session will be on Oct. 22 (full day). Joy Krush, with Eide Bailly, LLP, will be presenting. The Critical Access Hospitals session will be on Oct. 22 (full day) and Oct. 23 (half day AM). Laura Ashmore, with Great Plains Health Alliance will be presenting.

The registration fees are:

Critical Access Hospitals: \$300 for the first registrant and \$75 for each additional registrant from the same facility.

Prospective Payment System Facilities: \$250 for the first registrant and \$75 for each additional registrant from the same facility.

Click to
View Agenda



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Register

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--Dee Lewis

KU School of Nursing Partners with McPherson College to Increase Nursing Graduates

The University of Kansas School of Nursing and McPherson College [announced](#) plans for McPherson College students to earn a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree from KU, beginning in the 2026-27 academic year. The students will be able to take 60 hours of courses at McPherson College and complete the final 60 hours of the degree at the KU School of Nursing Salina Campus or online. This collaboration aims to increase the number of nurses available to work in rural Kansas communities.

--Terry Siek

Free MAT Consultation Service for Health Care Providers

Daniel Warren, MD, addiction medicine specialist, is offering [consultations on medication-assisted treatment](#) at no cost. Any health care provider, including physicians, nurses, physician assistants, pharmacists or behavioral health professionals in Kansas may contact Dr. Warren at (316) 302-5107 for a MAT consultation at no cost through Feb. 28, 2026.

--Karen Braman

KPQC Launches Blood Pressure Cuff Project for KanCare Patients

This week, the Kansas Perinatal Quality Collaborative launched a Cuff Project statewide for KanCare patients. The initiative provides self-monitoring blood pressure devices for KanCare patients. For more information about patient eligibility, how to obtain a device for eligible patients, coverage and reimbursement, see the [KDHE Perinatal Hypertension Patient Education Resource Package](#), and the fact sheet on [How to Obtain a SMBP Device through Medicaid](#).

--Karen Braman

KHA Membership Directory Advertising

The Kansas Hospital Association is partnering with E&M Consulting, Inc., to produce the KHA Membership Directory. The publication will be available in both print and digital formats. E&M will manage the project, including advertising sales and layout/graphic design. E&M will be contacting members about available advertising opportunities. They are extremely professional and produce a high-quality publication. Please take a moment of your time to consider their work. Review ad options, pricing and or sign up online at <https://reserveyourad.com/KSHA/>. The KHA Membership Directory is mailed to every member and is an excellent opportunity to promote your organization for additional exposure. If you have any questions or would like to advertise, please contact an E&M sales associate at (800) 572-0011, ext. 0104, or advertising@eandmsales.com. As always, your support is greatly appreciated!

--Jan Fenwick

KONL Logo Contest – Submissions Due Dec. 31

The Kansas Organization of Nurse Leaders is launching a logo design contest to create a new, modern, professional and recognizable logo that reflects KONL's mission to support nurse leaders across Kansas. KONL invites designers, students, health care professionals and members of the community to submit their creative ideas. Entries should be submitted to KONL-Logo@outlook.com by Dec. 31.

Contest timeline:

- Submission deadline: Dec. 31, 2025
- Judging period: Jan. 1 - Jan. 31, 2026
- Winner announcement: February 2026, with logo unveiling during the 2026 KONL Spring Conference in April 2026

For eligibility details, design requirements, criteria and prize information, see the detailed [KONL Logo Design Contest guidelines](#). For questions or more information, contact Robert Mangold, KONL president, at rmangold@lchoakley.com or (785) 672-8157.

Thank you for all you do.

--Terry Siek

Position Available

Medicaid Finance Director

Kansas Department of Health and Environment

1000 SW Jackson St.

Topeka, KS 66612-1311

Contact: [Melody Hazard](#)

Email: Melody.Hazard@ks.gov

Equal Opportunity Employer

The Director, Medicaid Finance, position (K0221730) of Kansas Medicaid serves as the senior executive responsible for the financial integrity, sustainability, and strategic fiscal direction of the Medicaid program. The director oversees a multi-billion-dollar budget, ensures compliance with federal and state reporting requirements, manages provider and vendor payments, oversees vendor relationships, identifies financial risks and informs major policy and program decisions through rigorous analysis. The director, Medicaid finance, will directly oversee four managers, a team of approximately 15-20 staff across budget, payments and fiscal reporting functions – and work with a range of external contractors. This position will work closely with the state Medicaid director and the Deputy Secretary of Fiscal Services. [Click here](#) to view the complete job description, including compensation, benefits, responsibilities, qualifications, post-Offer, pre-employment requirements and information on how to apply.

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 for other health care openings in Kansas.

--Jan Fenwick

2026 Calendar of Health Observances and Recognition Days Is Here!

The Kansas Hospital Association and the Society for Healthcare Strategy and Market Development are pleased to bring you the [2026 Calendar of Health Observances & Recognition Days](#). Stay ahead of the curve for 2026. This complimentary calendar is your essential tool for planning community health events, campaigns and communications. Navigate the calendar month by month with ease. With more than 240 observances and share-ready hashtags, you'll save time and maximize your impact.

Don't miss the chance to receive calendar updates from SHSMD sponsor [Baldwin Publishing](#). Not only do they provide you with a Health Observance Guide with ALL the content you need to post every day for the following month, but they also give access to healthy recipes, cooking videos, branded cookbooks, recipe calendars and wellness content and solutions. We hope you find the calendar useful.

**Access the Free 2026
Calendar Now »**

--Jan Fenwick

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.

Information for Critical Access Hospitals

The Critical Access Hospital bills for facility and professional outpatient services only when physicians or practitioners reassign their billing rights to the CAH.

Learn how CAHs can prevent Fiscal Intermediary Shared System reason codes 31006 and 31007 (indicating that providers don't have a reassignment on file in PECOS) claim denials:

- CAHs must submit the reassignment application through PECOS or the paper Form CMS-855I
- Starting in January 2026, we'll deny CAH claims for professional services if a reassignment isn't in PECOS

More Information:

- [Information for Critical Access Hospitals \(PDF\)](#) booklet
- [Editing for Duplicate Processing for Practitioner Professional Services and CAH Professional Services \(PDF\)](#) Medicare Administrative Contractor instruction
- [Medicare Part B Overpaid and Beneficiaries Incurred Cost-Share Overcharges of Over \\$1 Million for the Same Professional Services](#) Office of the Inspector General report

Prostate Cancer: Talk to Your Patients about Screening

Prostate cancer is the second leading cause of cancer deaths in men. Your patients' Medicare Summary Notices promote prostate cancer screenings. During Prostate Cancer Awareness Month, talk to your patients about screening.

Medicare helps pay for [prostate cancer screenings](#), once every 12 months for men over age 50. Find out when your patient is [eligible for screening \(PDF\)](#). If you need help, contact your eligibility service provider.

More Information:

- [Preventive Services webpage](#)
- [Prostate cancer screening information for your patients](#)

Before You Go ...

A recent Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [study](#) published in *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* found stimulant-related overdose deaths have surged since 2011, with nearly 60 percent of overdoses involving cocaine or psychostimulants.