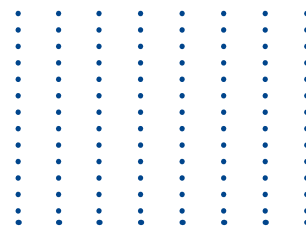




RURAL HEALTH SYMPOSIUM

Nov. 20, 2025

Hilton Garden Inn Hays
Hays, KS

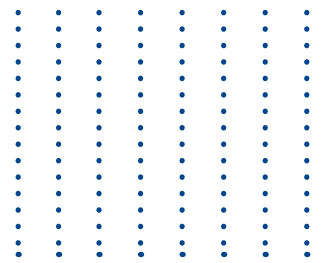


Wednesday, Nov. 19

- 7:00 p.m.** **KHA PAC Special Event with Local Band 80 Proof Alice**
Suggested KHA PAC Donation of \$50
Online Donation: <https://square.link/u/nHels56x>
Sponsored by American College of Healthcare Executives of Kansas and
Kansas Organization of Nurse Leaders

Thursday, Nov. 20

- 8:00 a.m.** Registration
- 8:30 a.m.** **Partnering for Community Health: Lessons from Coffey County**
Moderated panel discussion
- 9:30 a.m.** **KHA Productivity Study: Insights to Improve Rural Hospital Performance**
Nick Smith, partner, Wipfli LLP
- 10:30 a.m.** Break
- 10:45 a.m.** **Networking Roundtable Discussions**
- 12:15 p.m.** **Kansas Rural Health Association Sponsored Lunch**
- 1:00 p.m.** **Federal Policy and Advocacy Update**
Brock Slabach, chief operations officer, National Rural Health Association
- 1:45 p.m.** **Emergency Preparedness in Action**
Moderated panel discussion
- Jonathon Blackburn, NW KS regional resource coordinator, Kansas Healthcare Coalitions
 - Vickie Dennis, emergency department manager, Citizens Health
 - Trooper Tod Hileman, public resource officer, Kansas Highway Patrol
 - Brenda, Kopriva, MD, general surgeon, Citizens Health
 - Allison Mulch, chief nursing officer, Goodland Regional Medical Center and Rawlins County Health Center
 - Lucretia Stargell, chief executive officer, Goodland Regional Medical Center and Rawlins County Health Center
 - Captain James Wright, Kansas Highway Patrol
- 3:30 p.m.** Break
- 3:15 p.m.** **Keeping Your Best: Creating a Culture Employees Will Not Want to Leave**
Craig Deao, managing director, Huron
- 4:30 p.m.** **Adjourn**
- 6:00 p.m.** **KHA Legislative Dinner - Hilton Garden Inn Hays**
Separate Registration Process, Online: <https://registration.kha-net.org>



Partnering for Community Health: Lessons from Coffey County

Hospitals do not operate in a vacuum, strong partnerships with county leaders, public health, emergency services and other local agencies are essential to sustaining rural health care. This session highlights how Coffey County Hospital has built collaborative relationships with county partners to strengthen health care delivery and respond to evolving community needs. From aligning shared goals to navigating tough decisions, like the transition of OB services. This session will offer practical strategies for improving communication, fostering trust and building a united approach to rural health challenges.

KHA Productivity Study: Insights to Improve Rural Hospital Performance

How does your hospital compare when it comes to staffing and departmental efficiency? In this session funded by the Kansas Flex Grant, Wipfli will present key findings from the Productivity Study, offering a clear look at trends and benchmarks across Kansas hospitals. You will learn how to interpret your results, pinpoint areas for improvement and apply the data to strengthen workforce planning, budgeting and overall operations, while maintaining high-quality care.

Federal Policy and Advocacy Update

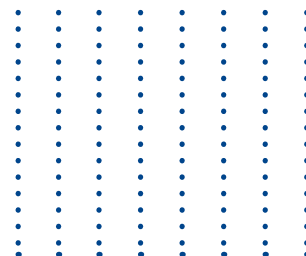
During this session, Brock Slabach will deliver an update on federal rural health policy and advocacy efforts. With decades of experience in rural health leadership, Slabach will provide expert insights into the current federal landscape, highlighting recent legislative developments, funding opportunities and key advocacy priorities impacting rural providers and communities.

Emergency Preparedness in Action

In March 2025, a major dust storm on I-70 led to a 71-vehicle crash in western Kansas, putting emergency preparedness to the test for hospitals and first responders in Goodland and Colby. This session highlights how rural professionals navigated a complex response and the insights gained from that experience. Panelists will discuss coordination across agencies, strategies for managing surge capacity and the importance of making swift decisions with limited resources. Hospital leaders will gain practical takeaways from this real-world case study to strengthen preparedness and resilience in rural communities.

Keeping Your Best: Creating a Culture Employees Will Not Want to Leave

Hospitals across the country continue to face staffing challenges that threaten long-term sustainability. In this session, Craig Deao, Huron will share practical, evidence-based strategies to improve employee retention in today's evolving health care workforce. From addressing burnout to fostering a culture of engagement and purpose, you'll gain insights into what's working—and what's next—for keeping top talent in your organization.



Overview

Rural health care providers are constantly being faced with new challenges and fewer resources. The purpose of this symposium is to provide attendees with the skills, ideas and information necessary to survive in the rapidly changing world of rural health care.

Who Should Attend

This symposium is designed for senior-level administrators, hospital trustees and others interested in rural health issues.

Location and Hotel Accommodations

This symposium will be at the Hilton Garden Inn Hays, 221 W 43rd St, Hays, KS, 67601. A block of rooms has been reserved for the night of Nov. 19 at the rate of \$147, plus tax. The room block is available until Monday, Oct. 20. After that, reservations will be taken on a space-available basis. To make your reservation and receive the special rate call (785) 727-7721 and ask for the KHARHS room block.

Attire

Business casual attire is suggested for this seminar. Temperatures in meeting rooms are difficult to control; therefore, we recommend you dress in layers.

National Rural Health Day

We are excited to celebrate the #PowerOfRural on #NationalRuralHealthDay, Nov 20! Join us in recognizing the spirit of #rural America and the efforts of health care providers and stakeholders addressing unique #healthcare challenges. Learn more at powerofrural.org.



THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2025

Luncheon Sponsor: Kansas Rural Health Association

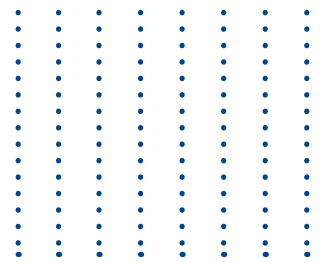
The Kansas Rural Health Association dedicated to promoting healthy rural communities across Kansas through advocacy, education, and collaboration, is sponsoring the Rural Health Symposium luncheon as part of its mission to bring awareness of rural health challenges and support local healthcare efforts.

Funding Acknowledgment

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UnitedHealthcare Community
Plan of Kansas

Registration Form

Rural Health Symposium
Thursday, November 20, 2025



Registration Fee

Fees include continental breakfast, lunch, refreshments and program materials.



Two Easy Ways to Register

Online: <https://registration.kha-net.org>

****KHA recommends using Google Chrome**

Fax: (785) 233-6955



Registration Fees:

\$150 KHA Members

\$300 Non-members



Click Here to Register

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Title: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____ City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone No.: _____

Email Address: _____

Refund Policy

A full refund will be given for cancellations received in writing by email, fax or mail to KHA prior to 5 p.m., Friday, Nov. 14. Refunds will not be issued for cancellations received after 5 p.m., Friday, Nov. 14.

**Questions: Contact KHA Education Department at
(785) 233-7436 or mwilley@kha-net.org.**