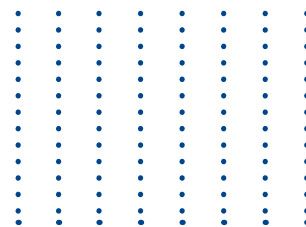




RURAL HEALTH SYMPOSIUM

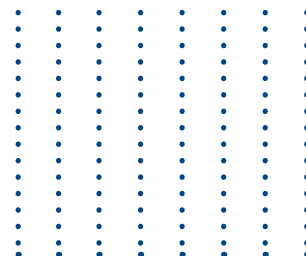
Nov. 19, 2026
Hilton Garden Inn Hays
Hays, KS



Thursday, Nov. 19

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| 8:00 a.m. | Registration |
| 8:30 a.m. | Cyber Ready: Preparing Rural Hospitals for Today's Threat Landscape
Scott Gee, Deputy National Advisor, Cybersecurity and Risk
American Hospital Association |
| 9:30 a.m. | From Preparedness to Practice:
A Rural Hospital Cybersecurity Conversation
<i>Moderated Panel Discussion</i> |
| 10:30 a.m. | Break |
| 10:45 a.m. | Networking Roundtable Discussions

<i>Roundtable Schedule</i>
10:45 – 11:10 a.m. Round One
11:10 – 11:35 a.m. Round Two
11:35 a.m. – Noon Round Three |
| Noon | Lunch |
| 12:30 p.m. | Federal Policy and Advocacy Update
Kansas Hospital Association Staff |
| 1:00 p.m. | When Wildfire Threatens:
Lessons in Rural Hospital Evacuation and Emergency Response
<i>Moderated Panel Discussion</i> |
| 2:15 p.m. | Break |
| 2:30 p.m. | What's Ahead for Rural Health:
Navigating Financial Change and Opportunity
Joe Watt, Partner, Regional Sector Leader - Healthcare, Forvis Mazars |
| 3:30 p.m. | Rural Health Transformation Program Update
Matt Lara, RHTP Project Director
Kansas Department of Health and Environment |
| 4:30 p.m. | Adjourn |



Cyber Ready: Preparing Rural Hospitals for Today's Threat Landscape

Cyberattacks continue to threaten hospitals and health systems, with rural hospitals facing unique challenges related to staffing, resources and maintaining clinical operations. Scott Gee will provide an update on the evolving cyber threat landscape, lessons learned from recent high-impact incidents and practical strategies for strengthening preparedness, response and recovery. The session will also explore the role of hospital leadership in building cyber resiliency and ensuring teams are ready to respond when an incident occurs.

From Preparedness to Practice: A Rural Hospital Cybersecurity Conversation

Following the cybersecurity update, Scott Gee will moderate a conversation with Kansas hospital leaders on cyber preparedness and resiliency in practice. Panelists will share experiences, challenges and lessons learned in preparing for cyber incidents, protecting critical systems and maintaining patient care when technology is disrupted.

Federal Policy and Advocacy Update

During this session, KHA staff will provide an update on federal rural health policy and advocacy efforts, including recent legislative developments, funding opportunities and key advocacy priorities affecting rural hospitals and the communities they serve.

When Wildfire Threatens:

Lessons in Rural Hospital Evacuation and Emergency Response

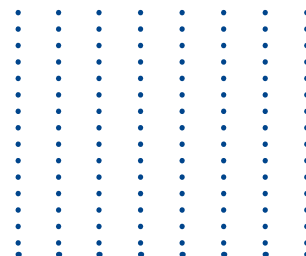
When wildfires threatened Southwest Kansas communities, rural hospitals faced the challenge of protecting patients and staff while preparing for or carrying out an evacuation with little warning. This moderated discussion will bring together hospital leaders and emergency preparedness professionals who experienced these events firsthand. They will share how their organizations responded, including evacuation planning and execution, patient movement, staffing, communication and continuity of care. Panelists will reflect on what worked, what they learned and what they would do differently, offering practical takeaways for rural hospitals preparing for emergencies when time and resources are limited.

What's Ahead for Rural Health: Navigating Financial Change and Opportunity

Rural hospitals continue to face a changing financial landscape shaped by federal policy, evolving reimbursement models and new funding opportunities. Joe Watt will explore key developments affecting the financial outlook for rural hospitals, including the Rural Health Transformation Program and other changes leaders should keep on their radar. With a focus on Kansas, this session will examine the financial implications of what's ahead and considerations for positioning rural hospitals for long-term sustainability.

Rural Health Transformation Program Update

This session will provide the latest update on Kansas' Rural Health Transformation Program, including progress to date, current funding and implementation activities and emerging opportunities for rural providers. Attendees will gain insight into how RHTP initiatives are taking shape statewide, what's ahead as Kansas moves into the next phase of this historic investment and what rural hospitals and communities should watch in the months ahead.



Overview

Rural health care providers are constantly 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. 18 at the rate of \$147, plus tax. The room block is available until Thursday, October 29. 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.

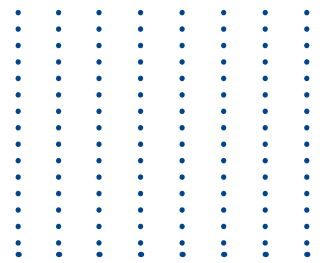
National Rural Health Day

We are excited to celebrate the #PowerOfRural on #NationalRuralHealthDay, Nov 19! 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.





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Registration Form

Rural Health Symposium

Thursday, Nov. 19, 2026



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



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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. 13. Refunds will not be issued for cancellations received after 5 p.m., Friday, Nov. 13.

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