



***KHA'S Trustee Resource
February 2022***

Enhancements and Additions to Kansas governWell

Kansas governWell is a member benefit to all Kansas Hospital Association members. Kansas governWell is your single source for valuable educational programs, articles, templates and assessments enabling your board to advance its knowledge, skills, structure, practices and capacity for success in today's increasingly challenging environment. With the consultant option, members have access to leading governance experts to discuss unique governance issues facing their hospital and/or health system. There are no additional fees for accessing these services. Kansas hospital staff and trustees will need to login. There is a [hyperlink](#) on the KHA website, or members can go to [Kansas governWell](#) and enter username: kansastrustee, password: 1governWell+.

In advance of the [Critical Issues Summit for Hospital Boards](#), March 3-4 in Wichita, enhancements have been made to the trustee education (learnWell) module in Kansas governWell. The learnWell™ module contains more than 125 governance knowledge-building educational programs. Topics range from basic governance responsibilities to leading issues for health care boards. These trustee educational tools have just been updated to include:

- Short-format videos (34 videos; 10-15 minutes in length)
- On-demand webinars (14 webinars; 30 minutes or shorter)
- Expanded virtual in-boardroom education offerings
- Sessions to help KHA members develop annual board education calendars

Did you know that in 2021, more than 40 KHA member hospitals used Kansas governWell for governance services? The most frequently accessed tools were trustee education, governance best practices resources, setting strategy, governance vs. management responsibilities, the board's role in quality and patient safety, succession planning, health care terms and abbreviations and board orientation/fundamentals. The most frequently requested governWell consultant visits were: in-boardroom trustee education, governance excellence, board member vs management roles, strategy/strategic planning, workforce/employee engagement, board recruitment/orientation, boardroom conduct, conflict resolution, assessments, the board's role in quality and patient safety, and the Kansas governWell overview. If you haven't taken advantage of Kansas governWell, we encourage you to use this member resource today.

We are passionate about supporting hospital boards as they lead, serve and carry out their vital governance responsibilities. We believe these trusted resources and assessments, combined with the consultant option from governWell advisors will result in greater success in governance performance and leadership development. In addition to KHA, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, in partnership with Healthworks, is supporting [Kansas governWell](#). Federal funds were provided through KDHE-BCHS-FLEX Program. The FLEX program is managed by the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy, Health Resources and Services Administration, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Special thanks to governWell™ for their partnership.

Critical Issues Summit for Hospital Boards – March 3-4

The Kansas Hospital Association is optimistically moving forward with our in-person [Critical Issues Summit for Hospital Boards](#), March 3-4 in Wichita. KHA staff is closely monitoring the current environment as we determine how to have an in-person meeting. As always, the safety of members, sponsors and staff is our priority.

The Critical Issues Summit brings together hospital leadership and trustees from across the state and promotes the importance of good governance practices. The event provides top-notch speakers, educational sessions and discussions on the most critical topics facing hospitals today.

KHA Group Reservation Link:

<https://www.hyatt.com/en-US/group-booking/WICRW/G-KHCI>

The brochure for this program may be accessed by using the link below

<https://www.kha-net.org/EducationConventionTS/EducationEvents/d163527.aspx?type=view>

You may register for this program online by using the link below.

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

Trustees are Essential in Kansas Hospitals' Advocacy Efforts

The 2022 Kansas legislative session is underway. The most significant legislative accomplishment thus far has focused on the extension of the governor's emergency orders. The legislation continues many of the regulatory flexibilities for Kansas hospitals until January 2023. Other state legislative topics discussed included telehealth, violence against health care workers, medical marijuana and behavioral health. The 2022 legislative session is expected to involve many of these issues, as well as several unexpected topics.

On the federal advocacy front, Kansas Hospital Association staff have been working to include policy initiatives related to the vaccine requirements, 340B Drug Discount Program, Medicare sequestration, Medicaid disproportionate share hospital payments and the hospital provider assessment program.

KHA appreciates our members engaging with their elected officials to share why key legislation is essential for serving your community's health care needs. Hospital trustees are an important part of our advocacy team. KHA has developed several legislative resources and communication tools to assist advocacy efforts. On the federal level, we want to draw your attention to KHA's new [Federal Priorities brochure](#). For Kansas legislative issues we have the [2022 KHA Legislative Preview](#). This concise yet comprehensive publication provides a brief summary of issues considered last year and recent topics raised by legislators. KHA also produced the [2022 KHA Legislative Priorities brochure](#) depicting our priorities for the upcoming session. The core legislative areas highlighted include 1) addressing workforce issues, 2) ensuring better care, and 3) reducing the cost of care. Within each of these areas, we identify important policies for Kansas hospitals.

In addition, trustees and all KHA members have the opportunity to stay informed on legislative happenings through our frequent [Capitol Comments](#) newsletter and [Federal Advocate](#) newsletter. KHA has transitioned our grassroots tool to a new platform, VoterVoice. This platform allows all KHA members, including trustees, to sign up for alerts, find legislation and connect with their elected officials via the web or cell phone. If you have not yet registered to receive these updates, [click here](#) to sign up.

We hope you will join us in our advocacy efforts. We encourage you to reach out to KHA anytime you have questions. Thank you in advance for your assistance during the 2022 legislative session.

KHA Board Addresses Priorities for 2022

The Kansas Hospital Association Board of Directors met virtually for the first time in 2022 and touched upon many current topics impacting Kansas hospitals. Most notably, the board spent a portion of its attention on the latest happenings regarding hospital capacity issues. It is well understood the recent challenges are the result of many factors including staffing shortages, increases in COVID-19 cases and other respiratory illnesses. As part of the conversation, the board had the opportunity to hear from Janet Stanek, acting secretary for the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. Sec. Stanek highlighted the latest agency initiatives and answered questions related to Governor Laura Kelly's executive orders, COVID-19 testing, KDHE's guidance for isolation and quarantine, and the need to support workforce training for certified nursing assistants. Sec. Stanek expressed her appreciation for the partnership between her agency and Kansas hospitals. KHA will continue to build upon this relationship and identify areas of mutual interest to improve health care provided to our communities. As always, please don't hesitate to let KHA know if you have any questions or need assistance on matters affecting your hospital.

Exploring KHA Data Opportunities

In today's ever-changing environment, the need for reliable, accessible data to make important decisions is crucial. The Kansas Hospital Association appreciates this need and offers our member hospitals access to current, dependable data to support strategic and financial planning, quality improvement initiatives, and workforce issues. To support this demand, a variety of [products and services](#) are offered as part of membership. Member facilities submit data electronically, and KHA provides web-based reporting tools designed to turn that data into useful and actionable information.

The most powerful set of data compiled by KHA is the hospital patient discharge data submitted monthly. KHA partners with the Hospital Industry Data Institute, a data company within the Missouri Hospital Association, to manage this massive data-collection process. The data are uploaded quarterly to the [KHA HIDI Analytic Advantage Plus](#) reporting tool. Analytic Advantage Plus provides access to inpatient and outpatient market share, hospital-level reports for all participating hospitals. KHA authorized users have access to strategic planning tools including customized hospital discharge reports, hospital outpatient reports and pre-designed dashboards, all critical to successful strategic planning. This month, HIDI released a new Tableau-based reporting platform called Advantage Optics, providing enhanced data visualization.

For the past 18 years, Kansas hospitals and clinics have had access to [QHi](#), a KHA-developed, enterprise-wide, benchmarking tool where participants collect, trend and compare monthly quality, finance, workforce and patient satisfaction metrics in real-time. Developed in 2003 in partnership with the Kansas Office of Rural Health, Healthworks and KHA, QHi now supports many federal, state and local quality initiatives across the country. In the past year, QHi continued its mission to reduce the hospital-reporting burden by developing a number of data upload options and enhancing the scheduling of reports, bringing the data directly to stakeholders.

Another valuable data offering is the KHA compensation data. The annual report provides compensation data for 500 plus health care positions, including executive staff through Gallagher. The survey opens in January, and results are available to participating hospitals in April. The reports provide detailed information on management, staff and physician positions. In addition, each report is flexible to allow participants to break out the information by region, hospital size and operational budget.

An additional workforce data program offered by KHA is the KHA Annual Workforce Questionnaire. The survey collects valuable information on vacancies and turnover for key health care positions. Results are used to compile the annual [KHA Healthcare Vacancy and Turnover Report](#) and are published on the [KHA website](#).

Please never hesitate to call on KHA staff for assistance with access to programs or for interpretation of the myriad of reports now at your fingertips!

Financial Updates, Reporting and Analysis an Essential Member Benefit

As Kansas Hospital Association members know, hospital and health system finance and reimbursement are complex and affect access to care in communities across Kansas. KHA works diligently on behalf of our members in this important strategic area.

In December, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services began distributing approximately \$9 million in CARES Act Phase-4 funding. In Kansas, 721 providers will receive a total of \$111,482,742. KHA will continue to monitor the distribution and financial reporting. If you have questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to us.

KHA also provides a variety of financial analysis tools to help hospitals achieve budget and financial goals. Among those analysis reports, KHA releases a projection forecast on the impact of the Medicare proposed and final rules. The analysis not only provides our hospitals with a financial impact report but also a brief summary highlighting the changes to payment rates and regulations that come with the implementation of new policies. In correlation with the inpatient and outpatient prospective payment systems' financial impact reports, analysis reports are distributed showing financial gains and losses related to quality-based incentive programs such as hospital-acquired conditions, value-based purchasing and the Readmission Reduction Program.

To support our Critical Access and Small Rural Hospitals, operational and comparative report distribution focuses on possible Medicare regulatory cuts potentially impacting reimbursement, along with a yearly Critical Access and Small Rural Hospital Databook. The databook provides individual hospitals with comparative financial ratios/metrics compared to various state and U.S. benchmark groups.

Besides the 18 yearly financial analysis reports distributed to our members, KHA provides quick financial analysis for a variety of crucial regulatory proposals that may significantly impact hospitals' financial status. A variety of those analytic reports include oncology care models, organ acquisition analysis, and wage index and occupational mix analysis.

Health care finance and reimbursement will continue to be a top issue for KHA and its members. There continue to be ongoing opportunities for health reform and hospital engagement on these issues to help Kansans achieve better access, affordability and equity. Let our team at KHA know if you have questions or need additional resources.

New In-Depth Publication on 340B in Kansas

One of the most vital programs for Kansas hospitals is the 340B Drug Discount Program, a federal program created in 1992 to stretch scarce federal resources and allow participating entities to serve more vulnerable patients and provide more comprehensive services. Pharmaceutical manufacturers participating in Medicaid have agreed, as part of the 340B program, to provide outpatient drugs to covered entities at significantly reduced prices. Over the past few years, the Kansas Hospital Association has stepped up our advocacy efforts to protect the integrity of the program. To assist this initiative, KHA has been gathering [information](#) and data on the 340B crisis in Kansas and how Kansas hospitals use this program to treat uninsured patients with chronic and life-threatening conditions.

This new publication, soon to be shared with our state and federal elected officials, highlights the current situation and explains how vulnerable Kansans are at risk of losing access to life-saving prescriptions at an affordable price. As our members know, pharmaceutical manufacturers are attempting to undermine the program by declining to honor 340B pricing, refusing shipments to contracted pharmacies and imposing arbitrary reporting requirements. The Health Resources and Services Administration also has [expressed its concerns](#) with the actions of the pharmaceutical manufacturers.

We hope you will find this new in-depth look at the relationship Kansas residents and hospitals have with the 340B program as a helpful tool as we advocate on this issue. The publication illuminates how the pharmaceutical industry is attempting to handicap this program. It highlights legislation other states have passed to ensure affordable medications for their most vulnerable citizens. This resource also includes 340B key messaging, frequently asked questions, personal stories and more. As a reminder, 85 hospitals in Kansas benefit from the 340B Drug Discount Program and are listed in the publication.

Lasting harm may be endured by Kansas residents if the program is not protected. This may occur in the form of reduced access to affordable medications, primary care services and unreimbursed health care programs like diabetic education, behavioral health and transportation. There also may be a loss of services and less access to critical care in low-income areas that do not have the economic resources to sustain services made possible by the program.

While Kansas as a state cannot change the constructs of the federal program, Kansas lawmakers and regulators have the authority to set business practices for the industry in Kansas. Per a media release from Kansas Attorney General Derek Schmidt, "It is vitally important that states are not prevented from improving access to affordable prescription drugs – particularly in rural communities in states like ours."

KHA will be using this new in-depth [publication](#) as we advocate for Kansans. Please let us know if you need additional resources as we advocate this critical topic. Thank you for your involvement in helping us protect the 340B program!

Hospitals Continue to Make an Impact on Kansas Economies

The last couple of years have undoubtedly been challenging. New data is available depicting the early impacts of COVID-19 on the Kansas economy. The Kansas Hospital Association has again worked with the Office of Local Government, K-State Research and Extension, to produce [*The Importance of the Health Care Sector to the Kansas Economy*](#).

The report highlights something I have not seen since we started producing this report, a slight decline in health care employment in 2020 both in Kansas and nationally. As might be expected, everything took a hit in the second quarter of 2020 when the nation shut down due to COVID-19. By the end of 2020, some health care sectors still had not recovered to beginning-of-the-year status.

With that said, the health care sector continues to employ more than 240,000 people and remains the third largest aggregate employer in Kansas. Kansas hospitals alone still employ nearly 100,000 people or five percent of all jobholders in the state. These jobs are essential to serving our communities but also have a ripple effect on the Kansas economy. For every job in a Kansas hospital, nearly an additional job (.95) was created in other businesses and industries in the state. Kansas hospitals have a total impact of 192,578 jobs.

According to the report, hospitals generated approximately \$7.5 billion in total income. For every \$1 of income generated by hospitals, another \$.63 is generated in other businesses and industries in the state's economy. As a result, hospitals have an estimated total impact on income throughout all business and industry of nearly \$12.3 billion. Funds spent to buy goods and services flow from hospitals to businesses and ripple throughout the economy. The impact generates nearly \$4 billion on area retail sales in the Kansas economy each year. Additionally, the hospital sector generates more than \$262 million in state sales tax. The state uses these critical funds for important programs such as education and transportation.

Kansas hospitals continue to focus on their missions of providing quality care to their communities, but this study reminds us that hospitals are major employers and business partners throughout the state as well. Kansas community hospitals help to not only stabilize the population base but also invigorate their communities and contribute significantly to the quality of life. As we continue to look for opportunities to enhance our state's economy, a strong health care system, anchored by well-supported community hospitals, is essential.

Scholarship Application Window Open – Please Share

If you know someone who is planning to attend college for a new health care degree or seeking a health care license, share this announcement about the [*Healthworks Health Care Scholarships*](#) today. Individual scholarships of up to \$1,200 will be given in the following categories:

- **Undergraduate Health Care:** Undergraduate students in non-nursing health care fields. Sample degrees include physical therapy assistant, clinical lab scientist, phlebotomy, pharmacy technician, occupational therapy assistant and medical imaging.

- **Undergraduate Nursing:** Undergraduate students who have been accepted into a licensed or degreed nursing program. Sample degrees include licensed practical nurse, registered nurse and bachelor of science in nursing.
- **Advanced Clinical Practice:** Graduate-level students in any clinical health care discipline. Sample degrees include doctorate of nursing practice, master of social work, family nurse practitioner, doctorate of pharmacy and doctorate in physical therapy.
- **Health Care Administration:** Students in health care administration, whether under- or graduate level. Sample degrees include organizational leadership, healthcare administration, leadership, master of science management and healthcare management – sponsored by the Kansas Association of Health Care Executives.
- **Human Resources:** Students in health care human-resource-related field, whether under- or graduate level. Sample degrees include human resources or another degree with a concentration in human resources – sponsored by the Kansas Hospital Human Resources Association.

Priority will be given to hospital employees, particularly those who work in facilities licensed for 25 or fewer acute beds. Our thanks to the Kansas Association of Health Care Executives and the Kansas Healthcare Human Resources Association for partnering with Healthworks to administer their scholarship programs.

Apply Online Today!
CLICK HERE

Applications may be started and saved for completion at a later date. In addition, letters of recommendation may be added by either the applicant or their employer. All documents must be uploaded as a PDF. The submission deadline is March 4.

Additional information is available on the [Healthworks' website](#). If you have questions or need further information, contact [Susan Pattie](#) at (785) 233-7436.

Latest KHA Podcast Episode Covers White Bagging

Have you been listening to the Kansas Hospital Association's podcast [Plains Spoken](#)? If not, we encourage you to do so. We tackle timely issues with a variety of guests including legislators, hospital and industry representatives, and health care experts. New episodes go live every two weeks on Thursdays.

The latest episode features a conversation about white bagging and how it can delay critical care and jeopardize the integrity of life-saving medication. Three Kansas pharmacists explain how this practice negatively impacts care for the most at-risk patients. [Listen here](#).