



**Kansas Hospital
ASSOCIATION**

***KHA'S Trustee Resource
February 2023***

Trustee Education and Recognition at the Critical Issues Summit for Hospital Boards

Register to attend the [Critical Issues Summit for Hospital Boards](#) on March 2-3, at the Hyatt Regency Wichita. The Critical Issues Summit, hosted by the Kansas Hospital Association, brings together hospital leadership and trustees to promote the importance of good governance practices. This event provides top-notch speakers, educational sessions and discussions on the critical topics facing hospitals today. Session topics will include the following:

- Hospital Governance in Challenging Times
- Legal Issues that Plague Hospital Boards
- The Disruptors: How Big Tech Will Change Health Care
- Physician Strategy & Governance — Moving Beyond Status Quo
- When Hospital Trustees Lead – In the Board Room and in the Community

The [Critical Issues Summit](#) is KHA's premier trustee education event. [Register today](#). As KHA attends board meetings across the state, it is obvious many governance best practices are being utilized. KHA encourages members to recognize board members for their dedication and service. KHA started the [Trustee Accountability and Recognition Program](#) in 2010 as a response for hospitals to be able to demonstrate their accountability to legislators, attorneys generals and their communities.

The program annually recognizes trustees at the KHA Critical Issues Summit. [The Trustee Accountability and Recognition Program](#) recognizes hospitals and trustees that:

- Understand and embrace the need for governance accountability
- Govern according to a standard of excellence
- Formally recognize their adherence to governance best practices
- Embrace community accountability
- Structure their community benefit and outreach programs to meet identified community needs

We encourage hospitals to recognize trustees at this year's [Critical Issues Summit](#) by completing a [recognition form](#) by Feb. 27. Email the form to [Cindy Samuelson](#) or fax it to (785) 233-6955. If trustees cannot attend this program but are interested in governance education on demand, please visit the [Trustee Resources](#) web page, which includes a link to member-only resources on [Kansas governWell](#).

Thank you to all hospital trustees who provide leadership and set the strategic direction for the hospitals and health systems they serve. We appreciate all that you do.

Kansas governWell - a Resource for Kansas Trustees

Kansas governWell is member benefit to all Kansas Hospital Association members. It is your single source for valuable educational programs, articles, templates and assessments that will enable your board to advance its knowledge, skills, structure, practices and capacity for success in today's increasingly challenging environment. Additionally, with the consults 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+.

KHA is 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 consults from our 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.

Trustees Are Essential in 2023 Advocacy Efforts

The 2023 Kansas legislative session is underway. KHA appreciates trustees 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 the list of [KHA's federal priorities](#) for the 118th Congress. Those include:

- Medicare reimbursement
- Limiting sequestration and cuts to Medicare
- Medicare Advantage
- REH program implementation
- Making the Medicare Low Volume Hospital and Medicare Dependent Hospital programs permanent in their current form after the end of their two-year extension.

For Kansas legislative issues we have the [2023 KHA Legislative Priorities brochure](#) depicting our priorities for this session. The core legislative areas highlighted include 1) retain health care talent, 2) promote pipeline, reform state programs, streamline processes and 3) maximize resources. 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. The KHA grassroots tool, [VoterVoice](#), 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. You can also print the [KHA VoterVoice App](#) flyer to learn more about downloading VoterVoice on your phone.

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 2023 legislative session.

Kansas Delegation Advocates for Rural Health

The Kansas Hospital Association recently had the opportunity, along with several KHA members and partners, to attend the National Rural Health Association's Policy Institute in Washington, DC. Over the event's three days, speakers included U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Denis McDonough, CMS Administrator Chiquita Brooks-LaSure, HRSA Administrator Carole Johnson and a host of congressional members. In addition, Michael Topchik, Chartis Center for Rural Health, presented their latest report, [Rural Health Safety Net Under Renewed Pressure as Pandemic Fades](#). The report looks at rural hospital closures and the potential impact of the new Rural Emergency Hospital designation in slowing the rate of closures post-pandemic.

The discussion of the feasibility of the REH model was robust, as was the debate on the interpretation of the rules that would apply to REHs around the necessary provider designation and the 340B program. We also highlighted the need for Medicare telehealth flexibility, protection of the 340B program, and included nursing education programs in the definition of STEM for work authorization that provides foreign nurses an additional two years to complete their work visas while continuing to provide care.

The Kansas group shared data on the Medicare margins for the state and each congressional district to help our delegation understand why maintaining Medicare rates is so important. Statewide, Medicare margins are negative, falling between six percent and 4.8 percent over the last five years. In addition, the hospitals shared the challenges they face with reimbursement, while our partners discussed the value of telehealth and the need to support health care in rural areas. Our delegation was supportive and noted a need to make Medicare financially viable through innovation.

Further, members of the Kansas Congressional Delegation shared their desire to carry legislation in the 118th Congress to help address some of our concerns. Notably, Sen. Roger Marshall, MD, is looking to carry both the Medicare and You Handbook Improvement Act, which would improve truth in advertising for Medicare Advantage plans, and the Improving Seniors' Timely Access to Care Act, which would streamline Medicare Advantage plans' prior authorizations processes. Sen. Jerry Moran's staff indicated their desire to help address the nursing STEM issue, while many members expressed interest in our work to ensure the viability of the REH program. We appreciate their continued partnership and support of Kansas hospitals and the people we all serve.

KanCare Expansion Will Benefit Behavioral Health - Show Your Support

The Kansas Health Institute recently published a [report](#) confirming the benefits of KanCare expansion on the behavioral health system and how expanding coverage could provide other benefits for Kansas families and communities.

This report was prepared for the Alliance for a Healthy Kansas through a contract with the Community Care Network of Kansas. The study confirms the direct financial impact expansion would have on the behavioral health system, as well as indirect benefits, including:

- A reduction in the number of children entering the Kansas foster care system each year
- Fewer arrests and re-arrests in the criminal justice system
- An increase in the number of mental health care providers serving Medicaid patients

KHI highlights the following key findings:

- Of the 108,800 adults expected to newly enroll in Medicaid if expanded, an estimated 24,154 are likely to use behavioral health services once enrolled
- Medicaid expansion is estimated to increase annual revenues for behavioral health providers from Medicaid claims by \$87.1 million, a net revenue increase of \$62.6 million
- Federally-qualified health centers in expansion states had average increases of 1,500 visits overall and 1,000 mental health visits per year as compared to non-expansion states
- Medicaid expansion has been associated with fewer arrests and reduced rates of rearrest. A reduction in arrests may lead to reduced spending at county jails in Kansas and reduced incarceration in the criminal justice system
- Medicaid expansion states experienced a 32.0 percent reduction in foster care admissions related to neglect as compared to non-expansion states. Applying the reduced rate experienced in expansion states to 2022 Kansas foster care data equates to an estimated 305 fewer children entering the foster care system in Kansas because of neglect.

The Kansas Hospital Association is one of more than 125 members of the Alliance for a Healthy Kansas coalition. New this year ... individuals in support of KanCare expansion can [sign the petition](#) and [reach out to legislators](#) to let them know how important expansion is to them.

Latest Podcast Highlights KHA Board Chair, Carrie Saia

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 hospital and industry representatives, legislators, and health care experts. New episodes go live each month. Get to know Carrie Saia, KHA's new board chair. Saia brings varied nursing experience to the administrative side as CEO of Holton Community Hospital. In this podcast episode, Saia and KHA President and CEO Chad Austin discuss the progress in meeting the current strategic goal priorities including addressing workforce, financial challenges and Kansas' overall health ranking. They also discuss the excitement around hosting the [2023 Kansas Health Care Virtual Career Fair](#) on April 19. [Listen now](#).

KHA Health Care Providers Honored

Since the early 20th century, the Native Sons and Daughters of Kansas has honored individuals who have contributed to Kansas, the nation and the world. Last month, this award (presented to distinguished Kansans for their dedication and service) was awarded to the entire Kansas health care industry. An excerpt from the announcement stated ...

"There is no way we can ever adequately thank our brave health care workers for their countless hours and sacrifice since the early spring of 2020. We take this moment to mark their work on behalf of a grateful state, and to recognize administrators, hospitals, clinics, physicians, physician assistants, pharmacists, nurses, technicians and many others in the health care industry who served on the front lines of the pandemic."

As part of the recognition, the Native Sons and Daughters of Kansas created a [video presentation](#) highlighting many health care professionals, including Larry Van Der Wege, administrator, Lindsborg Community Hospital, and Cindy Samuelson, KHA senior vice president, member and public relations. Besides the [video presentation](#), KHA also was presented with a Governor's Proclamation announcing the members of the Kansas Hospital Association as the recipient of the "2022 Kansan of the Year." KHA Board Chair Carrie Saia, CEO, Holton Community Hospital, accepted the Governor's Proclamation on behalf of Kansas hospitals.

The recognition by the Native Sons and Daughters of Kansas is much appreciated ... especially in today's tumultuous environment. The opportunity to have Kansas hospitals recognized for their dedication, compassionate service and outstanding care is heartening. Congratulations to KHA members on being named the "2022 Kansans of the Year!" Thank you for all you do for your community and the state of Kansas.

KHA Report Card Highlights Membership Satisfaction

Last fall, the Kansas Hospital Association Board of Directors asked KHA members for input and opinions about the association. The input obtained through this survey provides invaluable information to help guide KHA in our work. The 2022 survey gained insight from 113 member executives. It was conducted from mid-September through mid-October 2022 and reviewed by the KHA Board of Directors in November. A member satisfaction survey has been conducted by KHA every other year since 1998.

The biannual effort documents challenges facing members, provides insight into the needs of Kansas community hospitals and provides KHA with valuable information to use in our strategic planning. It is likely not a surprise that KHA members identified the following as their most challenging issues:

- Workforce – recruitment and retention
- Financial Viability – increased expenses and less reimbursement
- Declining Volumes – due to decreasing population

In addition to the areas above, KHA members would like the association to assist with addressing these areas:

- State and Federal Advocacy
- KanCare (Medicaid) Expansion
- Mental Health Access, Funding and Payment Parity
- Prior Authorization
- Trustee Education
- Medicare Advantage Plans
- Reporting/Regulation Compliance
- 340B Program
- Education and Leadership Training
- Rural Emergency Hospitals

KHA received an overall value of 9.3 from members using a 10-point scale where 1 equals "very poor" and 10 equals "excellent." KHA also received an overall performance score of 9.3 using the same 10-point scale. These are among some of the highest value and performance scores KHA has received. Check out our [KHA Report Card](#) with additional highlights from the survey.

KHA attributes the high marks on our 2022 survey to the fact that KHA members actively participate in the development of our policies and the design of our products. The KHA staff would like to express our appreciation for your continued guidance, support and participation to help us be most effective on your behalf. Please don't hesitate to contact us with any additional thoughts you may have to make KHA the best association it can be!