



KHA's Current Report
July 24, 2026

President's Perspective – Kansas Health Care Workforce Report

The Kansas Hospital Association is excited to announce the publication of our annual [Kansas Health Care Workforce Report](#), which provides an in-depth analysis of the current state of the health care workforce statewide. The report underscores ongoing staffing challenges and emphasizes the need for continued investment in workforce development.

The report draws on data from the 2026 KHA Annual Workforce Survey. This survey is a critical tool for tracking trends and measuring vacancy and turnover rates across 29 hospital-based and six clinic-based positions. The report also highlights the most in-demand positions statewide and regionally. With this information, hospital and health system leaders and policymakers gain a clearer understanding of the current workforce environment and what to expect in the future. The report also suggests recruitment and retention strategies to ensure Kansas hospitals have the capacity to support the health of their local communities.

This year, 107 Kansas hospitals participated in the survey. The statewide full-time equivalent vacancy rate declined again, from 11.8 percent to 11.0 percent. However, employee turnover rose to 19.2 percent, underscoring that hospitals continue to face challenges in filling open positions and retaining staff.

Registered nurse vacancy rates improved, declining from 14 percent to 12.6 percent, while licensed practical nurse vacancy rates fell from 13 percent to 8 percent. At the same time, nursing assistants remain a significant pressure point, with a 19.3 percent FTE vacancy rate and a 34.0 percent turnover rate.

Several specialized and technical roles continue to face notable staffing challenges, including MRI technologists, sterile processing technicians, surgical technicians, radiology technologists, CT technologists and respiratory therapists. Registered nurses continue to account for the largest share of open FTE positions, with more than 1,260 vacant FTEs reported statewide.

Turnover remains especially high in support and entry-level roles essential to hospital operations. Environmental services employees again had the highest turnover rate at 37.4 percent, followed closely by food service workers/dietary aides and nursing assistants. These trends underscore the need for continued attention to retention, career pathways and workplace supports across the entire hospital workforce.

While some vacancy rates have improved, Kansas' long-term workforce challenges remain top of mind for health care leaders. An aging population, growing demand for health care services and continued competition for workers across industries will require ongoing investment in education partnerships, training capacity, recruitment and retention strategies.

KHA has continued to work to combat these issues on a variety of fronts, including resiliency and retention education efforts, statewide preceptor/mentor training, events to promote health care careers, advancing health care apprenticeship opportunities to help hospitals to grow their own workforce, and workforce executive roundtables that bring together colleges and hospitals to collaboratively address these issues. These efforts continue to build on the progress we have made throughout the last few years as we partner with other organizations across the state and across business, industry and government to holistically address the workforce issue and ensure Kansas hospitals continue to deliver the best care to every patient every time.

--Chad Austin

Discover New Perspectives During Thursday's Allied Organization Luncheon Sessions

Thursday's luncheon sessions at the [Kansas Hospital Association's Convention](#) offer attendees the opportunity to connect with colleagues and explore timely health care issues. Each luncheon is either in partnership with or sponsored by one of [KHA's allied organizations](#), providing unique educational opportunities tailored to a range of professional interests. Please note that each luncheon requires a separate ticket.

KHA and the [American College of Healthcare Executives of Kansas](#) will host *The Future of Health Care*, a moderated panel discussion exploring the challenges and opportunities shaping the future of health care delivery. Attendees may earn up to 1.5 ACHE Qualifying Education credits toward initial certification or recertification as a fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives.

The [Healthcare Financial Management Association](#) luncheon will feature *Navigating the Health Care Affordability Maze: Impact on Providers, Patients and Patient Payments*, presented by Shelly Soupir of [AblePay](#), highlighting innovative approaches to improving affordability and the patient financial experience.

The [Kansas Association of Health Care Communicators](#) will sponsor *From Content to Claims: How Marketing Materials Can Drive CHI Reimbursement*, a moderated panel discussion exploring how strategic communications can support reimbursement efforts.

Sponsored by the [Kansas Healthcare Human Resources Association](#) and the [Kansas Organization of Nurse Leaders](#), *Holding the Moment: Leadership Reflections Following RaDonda Vaught's* session will offer an opportunity for thoughtful discussion of leadership, culture, accountability and the lessons organizations can apply after the morning presentation.

Finally, the [Kansas Health Information Management Systems Society](#) Chapter will present *From Principles to Practice: Operationalizing Ethical AI Through Governance*, featuring Lindsey Jarrett, PhD, of The Center for Practical Bioethics and Cindy Vogel of Right Triangle Consulting. This session will explore practical strategies for implementing responsible AI governance within health care organizations.

Whether your interests are in leadership, finance, communications, workforce, nursing or technology, these luncheon sessions offer valuable education and networking with colleagues from across Kansas.



Click to
Register



--Hayley Finch-Genschorck

Join Us Aug. 24 for the KHA-PAC Golf Scramble

Excitement is building for the Annual Kansas Hospital Association Political Action Committee [Golf Scramble](#), taking place Monday, Aug. 24, in Salina!

Register by Aug. 17:

- [Team of Four](#) – \$600
- [Hole Sponsorship](#) (includes four golfer registrations) – \$700
- [Individual Golfer](#) – \$150
- [Golf Supporter/Lunch Participant](#) – \$25

Interested in donating prizes or giveaways? Have questions? Please contact Audrey Dunkel at adunkel@kha-net.org.

A special thank you to APS and Kansas Health Service Corporation for generously sponsoring the lunch and beverage cart for this year's festivities!

--Audrey Dunkel

Building Confidence in International Nurse Staffing – Aug. 4

Internationally educated nurses can provide a sustainable, long-term solution to workforce challenges, but developing a successful program requires thoughtful planning and organizational support. Join Kansas Hospital Association staff for a complimentary Noon Briefing from noon to 1 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 4, to learn practical strategies for building and sustaining a successful international nursing program.

A panel featuring leaders from KHA, Salina Regional Health Center and Interstaff will share lessons learned and discuss how hospitals can navigate financial, regulatory and clinical considerations while ensuring a seamless onboarding experience for internationally educated nurses.

Participants will learn to evaluate agency partners, prepare clinical teams, support relocation and community integration and develop career pathways that promote long-term retention. Whether your organization is considering international recruitment for the first time or looking to strengthen an existing program, this session will provide actionable guidance to help ensure success for both your hospital and your nursing workforce.



Click to
Register



--Hayley Finch-Genschorck

HealthDox Educational Webinar – Aug. 20

The Kansas Health Service Corporation invites you to join a webinar from noon to 1 p.m. on Aug. 20 to learn how HealthDox can help you strengthen compliance and reduce risk.

Many health care organizations use multiple tools to meet their governance, risk management and compliance needs. HealthDox has created a customizable, integrated suite of products that lowers the costs of these services. AI features have also been added to many modules to improve efficiency. Organizations can implement individual modules à la carte or deploy the complete suite as a one-stop-shop solution.



Click to
Register



--Steve Poage

Register Now for CMS Region 7 Behavioral Health Strategy Webinar – Aug. 26

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Region 7 (Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa, and Missouri) office in Kansas City invites you to join a [behavioral health strategy webinar](#). The webinar will bring together CMS leadership, health care professionals and stakeholders to explore actionable strategies to transform behavioral health care across our communities. The webinar is from 1 to 2 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 26. For more information and to register, go to [CMS Region 7 Behavioral Health Strategy Webinar](#).

Following the presentation, CMS invites participants to join a virtual roundtable to share suggestions and perspectives and to engage directly with CMS leadership. Feel free to forward this invitation to other health care providers, practitioners and stakeholders who may be interested in this interactive event.

--Larry Van Der Wege

Seeking Hospitals to Profile Careers in the 2027 Virtual Health Care Career Day

The Kansas Hospital Association, the Kansas Department of Education and the Kansas Board of Regents are hosting the fifth annual [Virtual Health Care Career Day](#) on Feb. 17, 2027. During the past four years, this event has enabled hundreds of schools and thousands of Kansas students to learn about [32 health care careers](#) by watching videos from Kansas hospitals and engaging with health care professionals during live Q&A sessions.

We look forward to building on this success in 2027 and are soliciting applications from Kansas hospitals to profile one of the eight featured health careers at the event, which will run from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 17, 2027. See our [flyer](#) for the list of featured careers. Selected hospitals will profile a specific health care career in a prerecorded video ([see previous videos](#)). Team members in that career will join the event live to answer students' questions.

[Interest Form](#) – If you are interested in being one of the eight hospitals to profile a health care career and your team members who work in that field can attend both Feb. 17 and the rehearsal on the morning of Feb. 16, please complete this form to notify KHA of your interest by Aug. 21, 2026.

[Register Here](#) – In addition to submitting the interest form, please register for the required webinar from noon to 1 p.m. on Aug. 18, 2026. At least one person from your hospital must attend the webinar to receive additional information and be considered for selection. After the Aug. 18 webinar, selected hospitals will be notified.

--Erin Mayfield

Kansas Board of Pharmacy Shares Kansas AG Opinion on Prescriptions from PAs, APRNs

In their [newsletter](#) last week, the Kansas Board of Pharmacy shared a March 2026 [Kansas Attorney General opinion](#) on the validity of prescriptions issued by physician assistants and nurse practitioners. The opinion concludes that the Kansas Pharmacy Act requires PAs and APRNs to hold Kansas licenses from the Kansas Board of Healing Arts and the Kansas Board of Nursing, respectively, to prescribe medication in Kansas. The Board of Pharmacy noted this differs from the board's previous understanding and enforcement. The Kansas AG opinion states that "the Pharmacy Act requires PAs and APRNs to hold valid licenses from the KBHA and KBN, respectively, to obtain prescriptive authority in Kansas. As a result, Kansas pharmacists may only fill prescriptions issued by PAs and APRNs licensed in Kansas." The Board of Pharmacy instructs pharmacists to review the [opinion](#), consult with legal counsel if necessary and ensure dispensing practices under the Kansas Pharmacy Act are consistent with these requirements.

--Karen Braman

Building Healthier Futures: Securing Grant Funding for Maternal and Child Health Programs

As hospitals navigate mounting financial pressures and evolving policy landscapes, grant funding has become a critical lifeline for sustaining and expanding maternal and child health services. Drawing on insights from hospitals, funders and experts nationwide, this four-part webinar series, hosted by the American Hospital Association, equips health care leaders with the knowledge, strategies and connections to secure and leverage grant funding.

Through expert perspectives, real-world examples and direct engagement with funders, *Building Healthier Futures* will guide hospitals in understanding the grant-funding landscape, strengthening their development strategies and building lasting partnerships that support healthier outcomes for mothers and children.

Session 1: Understanding the Grant Funding Landscape

At noon on Thursday, July 30

Gain a comprehensive overview of today's grant-funding landscape and the emerging trends shaping opportunities in maternal and child health. This session offers practical, actionable insights to help hospitals identify funding opportunities and position themselves for success, regardless of prior grant experience.

This registration is for the first webinar in the series. Registration for the remaining sessions will be announced soon.



--Terry Siek

Water on Wheels Cart Emergency Response Demonstration – Sept. 18

The Environmental Protection Agency Region 7 and the Kansas Rural Water Association invite you to attend a water emergency response demonstration featuring on-site emergency water treatment using the Water on Wheels Cart. The KRWA reports the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the EPA and the Red Cross calculate that one gallon of water per person per day is needed for drinking, food preparation and hygiene when preparing emergency drinking water plans. Each hospital's emergency preparedness plan should include contingencies to provide water for their organization and the patients it serves.

The demonstration is on Sept. 18 in Lawrence. The plan for this event is to use WOW Carts to draw raw water from the river and lake, as well as from tanks for treatment, to produce potable water. This event will also include EPA Region 7's water mobile lab and mobile command center, along with equipment and resources from nongovernmental partners WaterStep and the Kansas Rural Water Association.

For more information and to attend, please email Elmer Ronnebaum at KRWA@KRWA.net. The KRWA also asks that, if the invitation is forwarded to others who might be interested, the contact information be included so they can send meeting updates and maintain a head count of participants. Please reach out to Larry Van Der Wege at lvanderwege@kha-net.org with any questions.

--Larry Van Der Wege

Prehospital Blood Landscape Survey

The Region VII Disaster Health Response Ecosystem invites hospital and EMS participation in an [EMS Blood Coalition Landscape Survey](#). The survey aims to inform the development of best practices for establishing a minimally viable prehospital EMS blood coalition model. It also seeks to identify challenges and the key functions and capabilities needed to successfully launch and sustain a program, drawing on real-world experience and subject-matter expertise. A roundtable discussion is planned for later this year.

Please forward the [EMS Blood Coalition Landscape Survey](#) to local EMS agencies and other stakeholders who may be interested in participating in the survey or the roundtable discussion. Please complete the survey by Aug. 10.

--Larry Van Der Wege

2026 K-TRACS Integration Funding Survey

The Kansas Board of Pharmacy invites health care professionals to help evaluate future funding options for integrating K-TRACS data into clinical workflows by completing a [brief survey](#). Your participation is important to their efforts. Please complete the survey only once. The survey will close at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 4, 2026. It is anonymous and should take less than five minutes. Thank you for your participation.

--Karen Braman

BioWound Solutions Added to APS Vendor Roster for Hospitals – Webinar Aug. 11

[BioWound Solutions](#) is an in-house wound care program, dedicated to partnering with Critical Access Hospitals nationwide as they strengthen and expand rural wound care. Every action they take is rooted in their core values and a steadfast commitment to the patients they serve.

Please join us for an introductory webinar, *Advanced Wound Care – Partnering to Keep Patients, Procedures, and Ancillary Services Local for Critical Access Hospitals*, at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 11, with speaker Patrick Atchity, national director of rural health at BioWound Solutions.



If you have questions or need additional information, contact Dennis George at (913) 327-8730.

--Dennis George

Positions Available

Care Collaborative – Hays

The University of Kansas Health System

1809 E. 27th St.

Hays, KS 67601

Email: CareCollaborativeGeneral@kumc.edu

The Care Collaborative is an accountable care organization consisting of doctors, hospitals and other health care providers who choose to come together to provide coordinated, high-quality care to Medicare patients and share in the savings generated by improving their outcomes. The goal of coordinated care is to ensure patients get the right care at the right time, avoiding unnecessary duplication of services and preventing medical errors. When an ACO succeeds in delivering high-quality care and spending health care dollars more wisely, Medicare shares the resulting savings with the ACOs.

The Care Collaborative in Hays is seeking individuals to fill the following positions:

- [Telehealth Outreach Coordinator](#)
- [Nurse Navigator](#)

Click on the job title above to view the complete job description, educational requirements and apply for the position. To learn more about the Care Collaborative, visit www.kansashealthsystem.com. For additional information or questions, please email CareCollaborativeGeneral@kumc.edu.

If your organization has a management position available and you'd like it posted in *Current Report*, email the details to Jan Fenwick. Also, remember to visit www.kshealthjobs.net for other health care job openings in Kansas.

--Jan Fenwick

Federal and National News

MLN Connects Provider eNews from the Medicare Learning Network

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services [issued](#) the following updates in the *MLN Connects Provider eNews*:

- [The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Modernizes Nursing Home Oversight with New Risk-Based Survey Approach Designed to Highlight High Performance, Encourage Improvement](#)
- [Clinical Diagnostic Laboratories: Act Now Before Reporting Period Ends](#)
- [Medicare Providers: Join an Accountable Care Organization for Performance Year 2027](#)
- [Clinical Laboratories: Submit Your Comments on CLIA Regulations by Sept. 14](#)
- [All Medicare Facility Types: Get Ready for the PEPPER Relaunch](#)
- [Medicare Beneficiary Date of Death: Manual Update](#)