

Exploring Medicaid in Kansas

AGENDA

Thursday, October 24, 2024

- 1:00 p.m. **Welcome**
Kari M. Bruffett, President and CEO, Kansas Health Institute
- 1:05 p.m. **Setting the Stage: *Medicaid in Kansas Overview***
Sheena L. Schmidt, M.P.P., Senior Analyst and Strategy Team Leader, Kansas Health Institute
- 1:20 p.m. **Meet the Team: *Access to Care and Medicaid Experts at KHI***
Wyatt Beckman, M.P.H., Senior Analyst, Kansas Health Institute
Valentina Blanchard, M.P.H., L.M.S.W., Analyst, Kansas Health Institute
Kari M. Bruffett, President and CEO, Kansas Health Institute
Kaci Cink, M.P.H., Analyst, Kansas Health Institute
Wen-Chieh Lin, Ph.D., Director of Research, Kansas Health Institute
Sheena L. Schmidt, M.P.P., Senior Analyst and Strategy Team Leader, Kansas Health Institute
Linda Sheppard, J.D., Senior Analyst and Strategy Team Leader, Kansas Health Institute
Cynthia Snyder, M.A., Senior Analyst, Kansas Health Institute
Emma Uridge, C.H.E.S., M.P.H., Analyst, Kansas Health Institute
- 1:35 p.m. **Shaping the Series: *Interactive Breakout to Identify and Prioritize 2025 Topics***
- 1:55 p.m. **Closing Remarks: *Reflecting on Our Path Forward***
- 2:00 p.m. **Adjourn**

ABOUT THE SPEAKERS

SETTING THE STAGE: *MEDICAID IN KANSAS OVERVIEW*



Sheena L. Schmidt, M.P.P., is a Senior Analyst & Strategy Team Leader at the Kansas Health Institute (KHI) and leads strategic planning and programmatic activities related to access to care, including Medicaid and other publicly funded programs, the health care workforce and rural health issues.

She has over 14 years of experience in public service at the federal, state and local levels. At the state level, Schmidt recently served as the Director of Administrative Services for the Kansas Department for Children and Families, where she oversaw grants and contracts for the agency, among other key operational areas. At the local level, Schmidt was the Senior Grants Program Administrator and a Grant Writer for the City of Topeka, where she developed strategic funding priorities which resulted in several million dollars for projects related to infrastructure and social services. She also worked at KHI as an Analyst from 2012-2016 and prior to that as an Analyst at the U.S. Government Accountability Office in Washington, D.C.

MEET THE TEAM: *ACCESS TO CARE AND MEDICAID EXPERTS AT KHI*



Wyatt J. Beckman, M.P.H., is a Senior Analyst at KHI and provides research and technical support related to work on population health.

Beckman has a leading role in KHI's activities and projects focused on rural health. He has contributed to KHI studies on social isolation, e-cigarettes, suicide prevention, telehealth, prescription drugs, and the response of local governments to COVID-19. Beckman also provided research support to the Center for Sharing Public Health Services, a national initiative formerly managed by KHI and funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation which focuses on resource sharing arrangements as a strategy to improve public health effectiveness and efficiency.



Valentina Blanchard, M.P.H., L.M.S.W., is an Analyst at KHI and conducts research and policy analysis related to our work on behavioral health, access to care, population health and other topics.

Before joining KHI, Blanchard was Discharge Planner at Muscogee County Jail in Columbus, Georgia, where she provided discharge planning services for patients receiving mental health services. She also was a Social Work and Public Health Fellow at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas, where she provided social work consultation services for adolescent and young adult patients.



Kari M. Bruffett became President and CEO of KHI in May 2022.

A proven leader with extensive experience in national and state health policy, at KHI she has advanced efforts to support effective policymaking through new and enhanced services while continuing to ensure high-quality, objective research, education and engagement.

She was previously KHI's Vice President for Policy and in that role led the organization's policy activities, business operations, and strategic planning. Prior to KHI, Bruffett held executive leadership roles in the health and human services sector of state government. She served as Secretary of the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services and as the Director of the Division of Health Care Finance at the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. She also served eight years in government affairs at The University of Kansas Hospital, and four years in Washington, D.C., as a congressional staffer.



Kaci Cink, M.P.H., is an Analyst at KHI and provides data management and statistical analysis on issues related to access to care, market innovation and population health.

Before joining KHI, Cink assisted the New Forests Company in Johannesburg, South Africa, as a pro-bono consultant, working on a sustainable community health clinics project in Uganda and helping to secure a grant with combined public and private funds to upgrade local clinics. She also served in the Peace Corps as a Community HIV Outreach Coordinator in Mpumalanga, South Africa, working on project monitoring and evaluation. While an undergraduate at the University of Kansas, she was a Peer Health Educators Outreach Coordinator at Watkins Health Services and a Community Health Intern for the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department.



Wen-Chieh Lin, Ph.D., is the Director of Research at KHI and manages the data assets of KHI, guides research methods and analytic skill development of staff, and oversees quality assurance process and research support functions.

He participates in the development and execution of a strategic vision for statewide data resources in partnership with key partners.

Lin focuses on improving health care access, delivery and outcomes for underserved and vulnerable populations. He applies advanced statistical analysis to information from large administrative data sets (Medicare and Medicaid claims data, all-payer claims databases and outcomes assessment data) to evaluate policies and programs. His work has been funded by state and federal agencies including the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, Massachusetts Department of Public Health and the Office of Medicaid.



Linda J. Sheppard, J.D., is a Senior Analyst & Strategy Team Leader at KHI and works on state and federal health policy, with a specific focus on health insurance coverage and the Kansas health insurance market, quality and cost of health care services, delivery and payment models, and the overall impact of federal and state legislation on health care in Kansas. Since 2016, Sheppard also has directed KHI's legislative monitoring portfolio that tracks the work of Congress, federal agencies and the Kansas Legislature, including monitoring introduced and enacted health-related legislation, as well as rules, regulations and guidance.



Cynthia Snyder, M.A., is a Senior Analyst at KHI and conducts research and policy analysis related to our work on behavioral health, access to care, population health and other topics.

Prior to joining KHI, Snyder provided consulting services including project development, grant writing, strategic planning and program evaluation. She also worked for the Kansas Department of Health and Environment in the Bureau of Community Health Systems and the Bureau of Health Promotion.



Emma Uridge, M.P.H., is an Analyst at KHI and conducts research and policy analysis related to work on population health, access to care, insurance coverage and other topics. Currently, Uridge facilitates the Age-Friendly Public Health Systems initiative in Kansas. She has contributed to research on holistic care coordination and Medicaid expansion and has co-facilitated state-level task forces focused on older adult care and crisis standards of care. Her research interests include sustainably built environments, environmental health, Health in All Policies, One Health, food and water systems security and energy insecurity.