



Here is the *tentative* **48th Annual Kansas Association of Counties Annual Conference and Exposition Agenda** to assist you with conference registration and attendance plans.

● **Tuesday, December 5, 2023**

9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

**Registration Opens
Voting Delegates Credentials Pick-up**

10 – 11 a.m.

Concurrent Education Workshops (Block A)

LAVTR Advocacy Tools & Tips for Your County

Presenters : Jay Hall, Deputy Director & General Counsel, Kansas Association of Counties and Mike Taylor, Owner, StrategyConsultants/KCCA Lobbyist

The effort to restore Local Ad Valorem Tax Reduction payments is also an effort to restore the long-standing partnership between local governments and the Kansas Legislature. This seminar will give you a wealth of information about LAVTR and how to use the advocacy tools created by KAC and KCCA. The session will also engage participants in a discussion about the work to restore LAVTR and how it should continue as the 2024 session of the Kansas Legislature gets underway.

The Intersection of Behavioral Health and Criminal Justice: Strengthening Local Response

Presenters: TBD

Counties have unique responsibilities for the provision of behavioral health services as well as ensuring public safety. Over the past few years, several statewide initiatives have been implemented to strengthen the community mental health system and to address the needs of individuals with behavioral health needs who are also at risk of engagement with the criminal justice system. Successful implementation of these programs requires strong cross-system partnerships with community mental health, law enforcement, and the judicial system. In this session, we will highlight several of these programs, including the Certified Community Behavioral Health Model, mobile crisis response, and competency evaluation and restoration services.

Kansas Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) Program

Presenter: Jason Fizell, Housing Development Liaison, Kansas Housing Resources Corporation (KHRC)

The Kansas Legislature has created and allocated an initial \$20 million in funding to a new Kansas Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) program. The RLF program falls under KHRC's existing Moderate Income Housing (MIH) program serving renters and homeowners between 60-150% of area median income (AMI). A Request for Proposals (RFP) will soon be released with a rolling application deadline for this new loan program.

This session will start by highlighting two county-level success stories with the MIH program in Stafford and Lincoln Counties. It will then transition to an overview of the new RLF program and walk through a case study of the first successful RLF loan to be undertaken by the program.

11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Keynote Presentation: Courageous Leadership – *Living a Life of Influence*
Lunch buffet will be served.

Keynote Speaker: Dan Meers, aka KC Wolf, Mascot of the Kansas City Chiefs

On November 23, 2013, Dan Meers came within inches of losing his life while practicing a bungee jump and zip line stunt at Arrowhead Stadium... home of the Kansas City Chiefs. What Dan anticipated being the thrill of a lifetime ended up being the spill of a lifetime. The stunt went terribly wrong and Dan plummeted 75 feet before crashing into the stadium seats. Miraculously Dan survived. He spent 9 days in the hospital and got some really big scars. Dan smiles when he says, "Scars are just Tattoos that come with a Cool Story." During this powerful presentation Dan shares his incredible story and the important lessons that he learned during his long road to recovery about leadership and about life.

12:30 – 1:30 p.m. Concurrent Education Workshops (Block B)

Sovereign Citizen Extremism

Presenter: Sean M. Fitzgerald, Special Agent, Federal Bureau of Investigation

This presentation will provide a brief description of Domestic Terrorism and the current sub-categories of the current Domestic Terrorism threats, followed by an in-depth look at Sovereign Citizen Extremism: What they Believe; Who they Are; and Sovereign Citizen Indicators.

Revenue Neutral Rate (RNR)

Presenter: Stacy Jaramillo, Manager, Statewide Agency Audits and Municipal Services, Office of Accounts and Reports

Presentation: TBD

The Public Health Color Box – 105 Kansas Choices

Presenter: Shelly Schneider, BSN, RN, State Public Health Nurse Specialist, Kansas Department of Health & Environment

Kansas' Public Health System is a decentralized system and can often be seen in a color palette of 100 different shades. Every county is different and has different delivery systems of what different programs they decide to offer. This presentation will take you on a short little journey of what makes a health department go from black and white to technicolor and how you can boast on your role in the process.

1:45 – 2:45 p.m. Concurrent Education Workshops (Block C)

Thinking and Preparing for the Unthinkable

Presenter: Julie Stimson, Emergency Management Director, Sedgwick County

It is a bright sunny Kansas day with ideal temperatures in the mid-70s and very little wind. A rarity in Kansas. Natural disasters are the last thing on your mind on this very low risk day, but is it really a low-risk day? Have you thought about the unthinkable?

All of a sudden, your county is experiencing a radio blackout and multiple power outages. Your fire chief just came to your office to tell you their radio navigation system (GPS and GNSS) is down. What are you thinking? Who are you going to call? Oh wait, cell phone and landlines are also down...now what?

Child Care in Kansas – Where We’ve Been and Where We’re Going

Presenters: Derik Flerlage, Director Bureau of Family Health, Jarvis Doleman, Director of Licensing Operations, Child Care Licensing, and Melissa Schoenberger, Director of Systems and Field Services, Child Care Licensing -- Kansas Department of Health & Environment

KDHE's Child Care Licensing program will give a presentation on the background and history of child care licensing in Kansas, its purpose, current status, and how counties and local leadership can become part of the solution moving forward.

Wind Energy Presentation

Presenters: TBD

2:45 – 3:15 p.m. Refreshment Break

3:15 – 4:15 p.m. Concurrent Education Workshops (Block D)

Beyond the Hype: What is AI and What Does it Mean for Local County Government?

Presenter: Aaron Davis, Center for Public Health Initiatives, Wichita State University, and Tatiana Lin, Kansas Health Institute

This session provides a foundational understanding of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and its potential role in local county operations. Addressing prevalent concerns and future predictions, this presentation aims to demystify AI, showcasing its possibilities and emphasizing the importance of responsible implementation for the coming decade. The session will not only cover what can be done today with AI on a daily basis, but also look to the future for what might be coming next.

Broadband: Connecting Your Communities

Presenter: Jade Piros de Carvalho, Director, and Shelley Paasch, Broadband Partnerships Coordinator -- Kansas Office of Broadband Development

The Kansas Office of Broadband Development has the opportunity to support connection across Kansas. Join us as we share updates and information on the ways you can set your community up for connected success. We are committed to providing resources supporting counties during this process and we need your help as we allocate \$451 million across the state.

US DOT Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) Discretionary Grants 101

Presenter: Carmen Bakarich, Programs, Processes, and Grants Coordinator, Kansas Federal Highway Administration

This session will cover resources available to apply for and administer discretionary grants following award. We will review application processes and grant agreement requirements related to procurement, reporting, and reimbursement, among other items.

4:30 – 5:30 p.m. 2024 Legislative Policy Statement Review

This session includes a review of the draft 2024 KAC Legislative Policy Statement as recommended by the KAC’s Legislative Policy Committee. Jay Hall, KAC’s Deputy Director and General Counsel, will brief attendees on major changes to the draft policy statement, and there will be an opportunity for questions and answers. **All voting delegates are strongly urged to attend this session.**

5:30 – 7 p.m. KCAMP and KWORCC Business Meeting

7 – 8:30 p.m. Women of KAC Gathering

Light refreshments will be served. Photo opportunity. Prize drawings and lots more will take place during this fun and relaxing evening event.

United WE: Women of Legacy

Presenter: Wendy Doyle, President and CEO, United WE

● **Wednesday, December 6, 2023**

6:30 a.m. – 2 p.m. Registration Open | Final Voting Delegates Credentials Pick-up

6:30 – 7:30 a.m. Breakfast Buffet

7:30 – 8:30 a.m. KAC Annual Business Meeting

8:30 – 10 a.m. Keynote Presentation: Becoming an Employer of Choice in the New World of Work

Keynote Speaker: Bob Lavigna, Senior Fellow – Public Sector, Ultimate Kronos Group

The world of work has changed forever, including in local government. Job quits continue to be at an all-time high as employees across the nation continue to reconsider their job and career choices. Moreover, unprecedented demographic changes have made focusing on diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging not just the right thing to do, but a business imperative.

This session will focus on how local governments can succeed in this complicated and intensely competitive job market by becoming employers of choice. Highlighting current research, including from both the UKG Workforce Institute and Great Place to Work Institute, the session will focus specifically on:

- The characteristics of the new world of work, including the demand by employees for workplace flexibility and greater voice.
- National demographic trends that are driving the business imperative to focus on DEI & B.
- What it means to be an employer of choice.
- The business case for why an engaged workforce is the key to attracting and retaining a stable, high-performing, diverse and inclusive workforce.
- How to build engagement by creating a positive employee experience.
- How and why organizations can – and must – use data to evaluate the health of the workforce.

8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. County Counselors Association of Kansas Continuing Legal Education (CLE) Separate CCAK Registration required.

10 – 10:30 a.m. Refreshment Break

10:30 – 11:30 a.m. Concurrent Education Workshops (Block E)

What Powers Do They Have?

Presenter: Bradley R. Finkeldei, Attorney, Stevens & Brand, L.L.P.

This workshop session will focus on a variety of public health legal powers that exist in Kansas, oriented around local boards of health and local health officers. In addition, information will be provided isolation and quarantine orders, including the legal challenges people subjected to the orders can take.

Becoming an Employer of Choice in the New World of Work

Presenter: Bob Lavigna, Senior Fellow – Public Sector, Ultimate Kronos Group

In this follow-up breakout session, Bob will conduct a deeper dive into the challenges – and solutions – to attracting and retaining talent. This interactive session will allow attendees to drill down and discuss how to create a positive employee experience that will enable their organizations to become employers of choice and therefore recruit, hire, develop and retain the talent they need to deliver for their stakeholders.

Maximizing Federal Grants Through the Build Kansas Fund

Presenter: Vanessa Lamoreaux, Senior Director, Kansas Department of Transportation

Is your county struggling to prepare for the federal application process? Unsure what grants would align with your county's needs? Join us for a presentation on maximizing Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) funding, leveraging the Kansas infrastructure Hub for technical assistance and capacity building needs, and how to tap into the Build Kansas Fund to achieve the local match requirements.

The Ends Justify the Memes

Moderator: Mike Taylor, Owner, StrategyConsultants

Presenters: Ed Kirsch, Undersheriff, Wabaunsee County, Melissa McCoy, Public Information Officer, Saline County

You will hear firsthand from Kansas County government social media managers on effective tips for engaging with your citizens, promoting local campaigns, communicating during crises, and lots more.

11:45 a.m. – 1:15 p.m. Boxed Lunch. Breakout Sessions by County Populations.

The breakout sessions are set up for you to meet with those who have similar population sizes, regardless of location in the state. You can find a list of county populations in the back of the program to help you determine which breakout session you should attend. Groups will report out at the Thursday morning breakfast.

Urban 25K - 70K

10K - 24,999K

9,999 - 5K

4,999 – less

1:30 p.m. Dessert Bar

Join us in the Exposition Hall for an afternoon sweet treat.

1:30 – 7 p.m. Exposition Hall Open

At the 2023 KAC Annual Conference and Exposition, you'll learn a lot from our exceptional workshops, but don't let the information stop there. On Wednesday afternoon, you can visit over 90 vendor companies

showcasing their services, products and programs to assist you in serving your county residents. Many of these vendors are also conference sponsors, so be sure to find and visit with them during breakfast, breaks and workshop sessions.

4:30 – 7 p.m. **Bar Open**
5 – 6 p.m. **Dinner Served**
7 p.m. **Exposition Closes**

● **Thursday, December 7, 2023**

7 – 9 a.m. **Registration Open**

7 – 8 a.m. **Breakfast Buffet. Breakout Sessions by County Populations Reports.**

All attendees of Affiliate and Associate meetings are invited to join us for breakfast before their scheduled meetings. Breakout sessions by county population reports will be presented.

8:15 – 9:15 a.m. **Concurrent Education Workshops (Block F)**

Understanding the Legislative Process

Presenter: Jay Hall, Deputy Director and General Counsel, Kansas Association of Counties

This session will cover the steps a bill goes through to become law. You will learn how an idea becomes a bill, how these bills are introduced and move through the committee process in the House or Senate, and ultimately become law. In addition, information provided during this session will help you to identify, analyze and follow legislation at the varying stages throughout the legislative process, as well as helpful tips for supporting or opposing a bill in the legislature.

Stump the Road Officials Panel Discussion

Moderator: Justin Mader, Saline County Engineer

Panelists: Darryl Lutz, Butler County Public Works Director; Brendan Mackay, Ellis County Public Works Director; Sandy Krider, Labette County Public Works Director; and Randy Blehm, Meade County Public Works Administrator

“Stump the Road Officials” session will be an open panel discussion. We are asking the audience to challenge our panel of experts with your toughest questions on road and bridge construction and maintenance. We will tackle pressing issues and provide innovative solutions. Bring your queries, share your experiences, and help us shape the future of Kansas county roads.

Property Insurance Market Update – Why County Rates Are Going Up and What Can Be Done to Reduce the Impact?

Presenter: David Luke, Administrator/CEO, KCAMP, and Mark Hessel, Senior Vice President, HCA Asset Management, LLC

Kansas counties are experiencing significant increases in the cost of property coverage. In this “hard” insurance market, deductibles are also increasing, and coverage terms are becoming more restrictive. This session will review factors driving these changes and steps counties can take to minimize the impact.

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9:30 a.m. – Noon

Affiliate & Associate Group Meetings

Administrators

Appraisers

Clerks and Election Officials

Commissioners

Highway Officials

Human Resource Directors

Local Health Departments

Noxious Weed Directors

Planning and Zoning Directors

Registrars of Deeds

Noon

CONFERENCE ADJOURNS