

View *MHA Today* [online](#).



January 27, 2012

MHA Today is provided as a service to members of the Missouri Hospital Association. Additional information is available online at [MHAnet](#).

Insights



Talk is cheap.

When someone says this, they usually mean that it is easier to carp about a problem than work to fix it. What if, however, talk led to action?

As an example, let me use the Hospital Licensure Rule Revision Task Force. After more than two years of work, 20 in-person meetings and more than 100 conference calls and webinars, the task force — which includes hospitals, state regulators and licensing boards, MHA staff and other state health care associations — recommended significant revisions to the state hospital licensure rules. The task force's review of 48 current rules resulted in recommendations to revise 33 rules, rescind 12 and retain one. It is continuing discussion on two more rules, for those who are doing the math.

Obviously, congratulations are in order for the 27 participants. They took the issues head-on and did the work necessary to create a better process and set of standards. And, better yet, state officials are now reviewing these recommendations with an eye toward putting them forward in regulations. However, this isn't the only example of how engagement with regulators and other members of the health care community can make a difference. Through our negotiations with the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, hospitals reporting infections to the National Healthcare Safety Network will no longer have to report this data to the state reporting system.

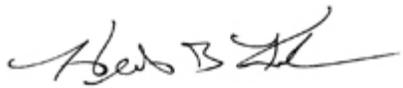
These efforts mark the beginning, not the end. We're also working with lawmakers to build a better licensure system — one that promotes efficiency, eliminates duplication and creates a more transparent process. This week, [House Bill 1123](#), which addresses many of hospitals' concerns about the often cumbersome and confusing licensure process, was presented to the Missouri House Health Care Policy Committee. Rep. Keith Frederick — a.k.a. Rep. Frederick, M.D. — deserves much recognition for championing the effort. He understands the importance of improving the process and has been a tireless advocate for these reforms since he was elected in 2010.

In aggregate, our efforts should result in a system that works better for hospitals and those who inspect and regulate them. That's good for everyone, especially the patients we serve.

Meeting around the table with the right group of people helps everyone understand what's broken, why it needs fixing and what we can do together to make it work.

As I said, talk is cheap. And, the truth is that it's a heck of a lot less expensive than a system that doesn't work efficiently. The best part is that it seems to be bringing exactly the results we need.

If you have thoughts or questions, send me an [email](#).



Herb B. Kuhn
MHA President and CEO

In This Issue

[MHA Testifies For Changing Hospital Licensure Rules](#)

[HHS Issues Guidance On Public Health Preparedness Plans](#)

[CDC Releases Reports On Health Access, Behaviors](#)



Advocate state and federal health policy developments

MHA Testifies For Changing Hospital Licensure Rules

MHA Staff Contacts: [Daniel Landon](#) and [David Hale](#)

MHA testified on proposed legislation seeking to change state laws on hospital licensure and inspection at a Missouri House committee hearing Wednesday. [House Bill 1123](#) would require the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services to review and revise its regulations governing hospital licensure and enforcement to promote efficiency and eliminate duplicate regulations and inspections by state and federal agencies. MHA provided the only testimony supporting the bill, and there was no opposition to the bill. The [Health Care Policy Committee](#) made minor changes to the legislation and will discuss it again Wednesday, Feb. 1. A [companion bill](#) in the Senate has been referred to the [Senate Financial, Government Organizations & Election Committee](#). This legislation is a high priority for MHA. Language similar to this bill passed both chambers last year and went into a conference report that died during the last week of the session.

[BACK TO TOP](#)



Regulatory News the latest actions of agencies monitoring health care

HHS Issues Guidance On Public Health Preparedness Plans

MHA Staff Contact: [Leslie Porth](#)

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response has issued [guidance](#) to help state and local health care and public health preparedness planners identify gaps in preparedness, determine specific priorities and develop plans for building and sustaining health care specific capabilities. This guidance will help determine MHA's emergency preparedness initiatives through the Hospital Preparedness Program beginning in fiscal year 2012.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

CDC Releases Reports On Health Access, Behaviors

MHA Staff Contact: [Steve Renne](#)

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released the following National Center for Health Statistics briefs and National Health Statistics report.

- [Health and Access to Care Among Employed and Unemployed Adults: United States, 2009-2010](#)
- [Prevalence of Obesity in the United States, 2009-2010](#)
- [HIV Risk-Related Behaviors in the United States Household Population Aged 15-44 Years: Data from the National Survey of Family Growth, 2002 and 2006-2010](#)

Did You Miss An Issue Of MHA Today?

The following articles were published in this week's issues of *MHA Today* and are available online.

[AHRO Releases Report On Hospital Patient Safety](#)
[Health Summit Focuses On Collaboration, Lower Costs](#)
[ONC Launches Privacy, Security Project For Mobile Devices](#)
[House Votes To Expedite Conference Work On Physician Fee Fix](#)
[Center For Medicare & Medicaid Innovations Issues Update](#)
[Ascension Health Announces New Leadership Team](#)
[Agency Notes Improvements In Adolescent Health](#)
[Gallup Survey Finds Another Increase In Uninsured Adults](#)
[PCORI Releases Draft For Comparative Effectiveness Research](#)
[Briefs Discuss Data Collection, Reporting Community Health Needs Assessment](#)
[MHA Distributes Reports On Hospital Financial Indicators](#)
[New York Governor Issues Executive Order On Nonprofit Executive Pay](#)
[State Reminds Medicaid Providers Of Timely Filing Guidelines](#)
[Missouri Health Connection Ends Negotiations With Cerner](#)
[Catholic Healthcare West Announces Governance Restructure](#)



Consider This ...

The percentage of U.S. citizens screened for cancer remains below national targets, with significant disparities among racial and ethnic populations.

Source: [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)

Missouri Hospital Association
P.O. Box 60 • Jefferson City, MO 65102
Phone: 573/893-3700 • Fax: 573/893-2809 • [MHAnet](#)
[Unsubscribe](#) • [Contact Us](#) • [Privacy Policy](#)