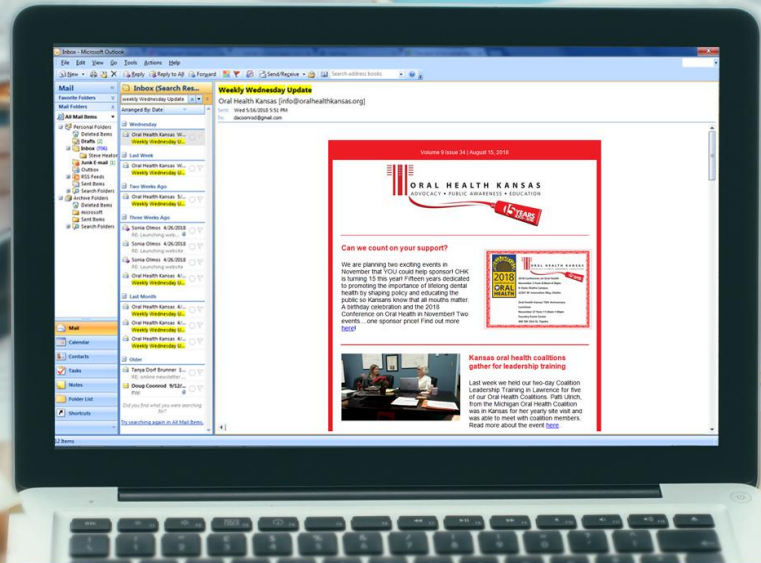




ORAL HEALTH KANSAS
ADVOCACY • PUBLIC AWARENESS • EDUCATION



WEEKLY WEDNESDAY UPDATE

The Weekly Wednesday Update is our newsletter which we email every Wednesday with oral health, health and policy updates from around the state and nationally.

To view past issues [click here](#).

Click here to sign up for our [Weekly Wednesday Update](#).

January 12, 2022

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Join Us in Advocating for Increased Medicaid Adult Dental

The 2022 Legislative Session kicked off on Monday and Oral Health Kansas staff have already been busy educating legislators on the importance of oral health through in-person conversations, hand-delivered pamphlets, and email follow-ups. We hope you, as an

individual or organization, will join us in advocating for increased adult dental benefits for Kansans utilizing the state Medicaid program.

[SB227](#) was introduced in 2021 by Oral Health Kansas to establish a comprehensive adult dental benefit in the Kansas Medicaid State Plan. In 2022, we are continuing to advocate for its passage.

How can you help?!

- Join our list of supporting organizations by signing on [here](#).
- Review our [one-pager](#) to learn more about the importance of adult dental benefits.
- Share our [one-pager](#) and action alerts throughout legislative session with your networks.
- Memorize the bill number, [SB227](#), so you can encourage legislators to support the bill.
- Visit our [Medicaid Adult Dental](#) webpage for additional information.



Select Medicaid Dental Rates Increase in 2022

Three KanCare dental codes have been approved for an increase effective January 1, 2022! The codes include D9420 (hospital call), D4341 (scaling and root planing), and D9230 (dental anesthesia – nitrous oxide). All three of these codes were important to Oral Health Kansas during the 2019 and 2020 Medicaid dental

reimbursement rate increase, but unfortunately, they did not make the final list at that time. Through continued advocacy and education to the Kansas Division of Health Care Finance, the agency overseeing the state's Medicaid program, these rates were successfully increased! Thank you to Medicaid Director, Sarah Fertig, for her leadership on this rate increase.

The rate increases for these codes can improve access to dental care for people with disabilities. People with disabilities often need access to sedation dentistry for both preventive and restorative dental care and the rate increases associated with these codes can make those procedures more cost-effective for dental providers.

Review Kansas Medicaid Dental Bulletin 21165 for more information [here](#).

Kansas Mission of Mercy Postponed

Last week, we shared that the 2022 Kansas Mission of Mercy, a free dental clinic hosted by the Kansas Dental Charitable Foundation (KDCF), would be held in Hays, KS. Due to the rising



cases in COVID-19 and the COVID-19 Omicron variant, the difficult decision has been made to postpone this year's Kansas Mission of Mercy. The event has been rescheduled for March 25 and 26, 2022. More information can be found on the KDCF [website](#) and [Facebook page](#).

If you need dental care in the meantime, we invite you to check out our webpage on how to find a dental provider regardless of your insurance status. Find out more [here](#).



National Day of Racial Healing

The fifth annual National Day of Racial Healing is Tuesday, January 18th. W.K. Kellogg Foundation launched National Day of Racial Healing to create a time for us all to contemplate our shared values and create the blueprint together for how we heal from the effects of racism. The [Kellogg Foundation website](#) has information, conversation guides, and action kits. Join AIDPH, AAPHD, OPEN, and the APHA Oral Health Section on January 18th from 11:00 - 12:00PM CST for a webinar focused on a day of racial healing in the oral health community. Speakers include Dr. Eleanor Fleming, a 2021 Kansas Conference on Oral Health speaker, and Dr. Julie Reynolds, a University of Iowa dentist and professor. [Register here](#).

How Dental Medicaid Works and How It Can Work for You



Dental Medicaid benefits can be a confusing process, but that doesn't mean your bottom line can't benefit from participation. Being a Medicaid provider – even for a few patients per week – can enhance your community stature, increase legislative effectiveness, and help the

dental profession. Learn more about how it works (and can work for you) from dentists who take Medicaid in their practices, with concrete tips based on their own personal experiences including appropriate documentation, patient management and a journey into cultural competence that will elevate your entire practice. Participants will be able to learn how being a Medicaid provider offers tangible practice benefits, including staff satisfaction; understand

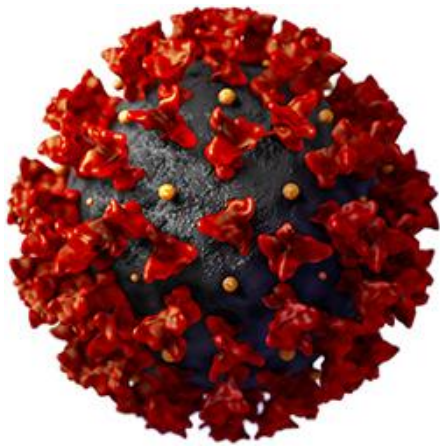
how dentists can control their participation levels within a Medicaid program and develop systems to participate in Medicaid from a business/marketing standpoint.

One of Oral Health Kansas' policy priorities is to support recruitment and retention efforts to increase KanCare dental providers and their compensation. In 2019 and 2020, OHK partnered with the Kansas Dental Association to advocate for higher rates for Medicaid dental services in Kansas. This marked the first major increase in dental rates since 2001.

Date: Thursday, January 20

Time: 12:00PM CST

[REGISTER HERE](#) for this webinar hosted by the American Dental Association.



KanCare Benefits and the COVID Public Health Emergency

The continuous coverage for Medicaid enrollees due to the ongoing COVID-19 public health emergency will be ending soon with that date still to be determined. Many KanCare enrollees may have moved since their last renewal/re-determination without updating their contact information with the state's KanCare clearinghouse. In order to prevent significant churn (disenrollment/re-enrollment in a short period of time), **enrollees need to update their contact**

information ASAP. The Kansas Division of Health Care Finance developed [this Frequently Asked Questions document](#) to address your questions during this period. KanCare enrollees can update their contact information or household circumstances with the KanCare Clearinghouse by calling 1-800-792-4884. This may help enrollees keep their coverage after the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency has ended. For more information, visit KanCare.ks.gov or the Oral Health Kansas [COVID-19 resources webpage](#).



In 2021, we said goodbye to five remarkable Oral Health Kansas board members. A big THANK YOU to Chip Blaser, Barb Conant, Krista Hahn, Robyne Goates, and Jonalan Smith for their leadership and contributions to the Oral Health Kansas organization over the last seven years. We look forward to our paths crossing again soon!



Sugary Drink Display Sanitation

Out of an abundance of caution, we are suspending use of the Sugary Drink Display until further notice.

During this time, hand washing and social distancing is on everyone's mind. We want everyone to have the comfort of knowing we sanitize our sugary drink displays. They are wiped down and cleaned off after they have been returned.



Follow Us



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