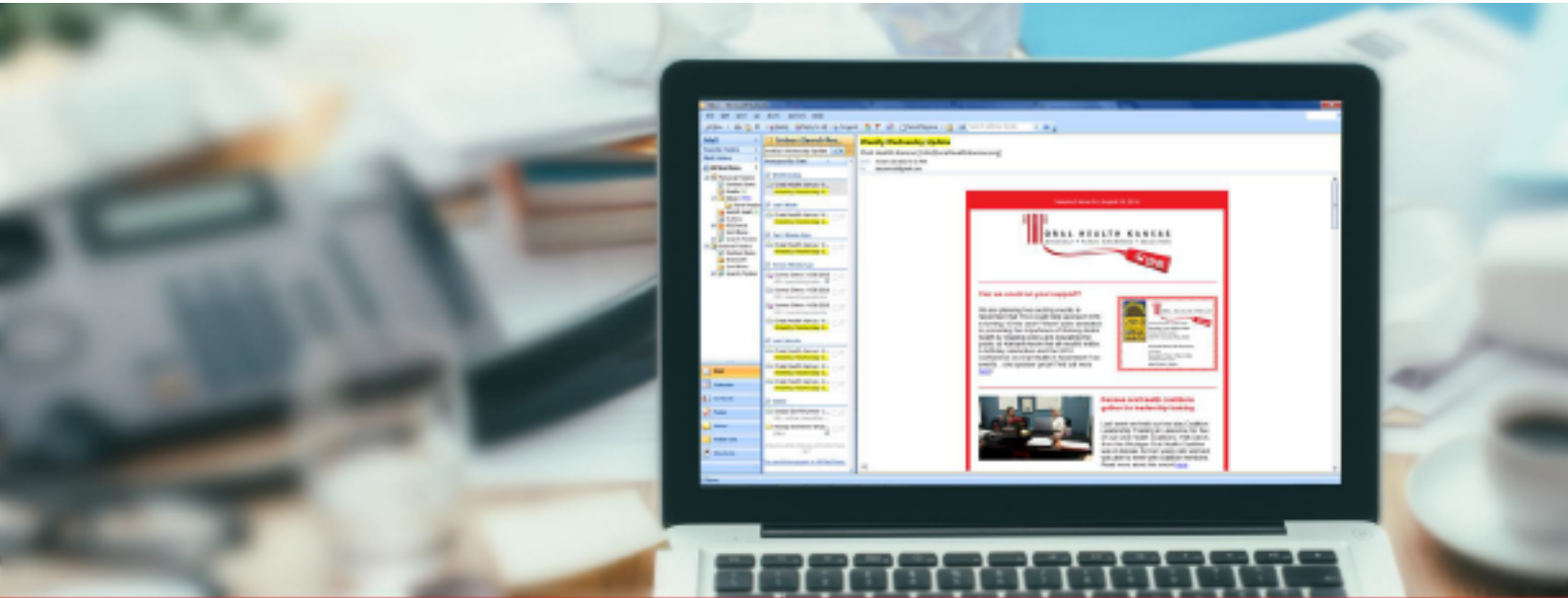




ORAL HEALTH KANSAS
ADVOCACY • PUBLIC AWARENESS • EDUCATION



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 26, 2022

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Kansas Needs Dental Coverage Now

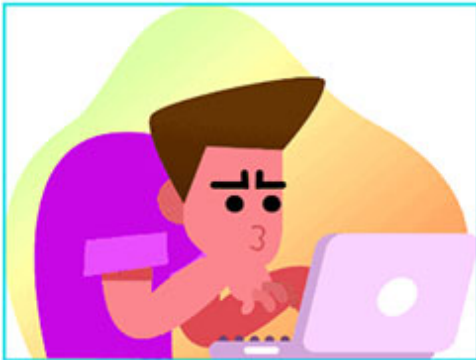
Legislators are preparing to consider the state's budget, and one issue they will consider is ensuring that everyone covered by Medicaid has access to dental care. Dental care is an integral part of health care, yet Kansas adults who are enrolled in Medicaid do not have access to services like fillings and crowns.

The American Dental Association's Health Policy Institute estimates that the Kansas Medicaid program will save money in medical costs when people are able manage their chronic diseases by taking care of their oral health. Medicaid will save money by helping people avoid emergency room visits for dental pain as well.

Including dental care for adults in the Kansas Medicaid program is cost effective and will help people stay healthy and seek employment. This year offers us the best opportunity yet to include dental benefits. There are several ways you can get help make this important change in Kansas Medicaid.

How can you involved?

- Add your organization's name to the list of groups that supports Medicaid adult dental services. **Sign on** [here](#).
- Learn more about the importance of adult dental benefits in this [one-page overview](#).
- Share our [one-pager](#) and **action alerts** throughout legislative session with your networks.
- Visit our [Medicaid Adult Dental webpage](#) for additional resources.
- Learn more about the legislative process by visiting our [Advocacy Toolkit webpage](#).
- Contact us at info@oralhealthkansas.org to **share your stories** about the problems people face when they do not have access to a way to pay for the dental care they need.



Tune In Tomorrow!

Oral Health Kansas has been busy working on something new! Check your inbox tomorrow and be the first to know!



Medicaid and CHIP: An analysis of Recent Trends in Kansas

Last year the Kansas Medicaid program covered over 460,000 Kansans. It's a complex program and an important part of the state's healthcare system. To help you understand how Medicaid works, the Kansas Health

Institute and the Kansas Legislative Research Department have released [Kansas Medicaid: A Primer 2022](#).

The Primer includes:

- An overview of Medicaid and CHIP
- Details on Medicaid and CHIP spending in Kansas
- Analysis of enrollment trends
- Information about covered services and populations
- A summary of the impact of COVID-19 policy on KanCare

Visit the [Kansas Health Institute](#) for more information.



Diverse Dental Society Announces President

Established in April 2020, the Diverse Dental Society is a unique entity comprised of three respected and culturally diverse organizations: the Hispanic Dental Association, National Dental Association, and the Society of American Indian Dentists. The groups have worked to address unmet needs in under-resourced communities in order to eliminate disparities and increase health and oral health equity. They recently announced their new President for 2022, LaVette C. Henderson. LaVette is the former Executive Director of the National Dental Association (NDA) and currently serves as their Director of Finance. Read more about Lavette in the press release [here](#).



What Primary Care Innovation Teaches Us About Oral Health Integration

A new article from the [January 2022 Issue](#) of the American Medical Association Journal of Ethics, *What Primary Care Innovation Teaches Us About Oral Health Integration*, emphasizes the role of primary care and oral health integration in improving population health and addressing health inequities. This article offers 5 lessons from the patient-centered medical home (PCMH) movement to inform primary and oral health care integration. Click [here](#) to read and download *What Primary Care Innovation Teaches Us About Oral Health Integration*.



Upcoming Events

- Webinar: COVID Support through Care Coordination ECHO Series. This will be a webinar series beginning February 8. Click [here](#) to view the dates.
- Webinar: Improving Digital Health Literacy among Hispanic/Latino Populations, February 16, 12:00pm - 1:15pm CST. *The session will be in Spanish with live language interpretation to English.* Registration is available [here](#).
- Webinar: Supporting Smiles: Promoting Childhood Dental Benefits Covered Under Medicaid and CHIP, 1:00pm - 2:30pm CST. Register [here](#).
- Conference: Missouri Oral Health Coalition Conference, March 3 and 4, 2022. Find out more and register [here](#). For pre-conference sessions, you can view those [here](#).



Trina Morgan, Dental Champions Class 9 and member of the Conference Planning Committee, has joined the OHK Board of Directors. Trina is the West Region Assistant Director for Healthy Families. She has worked for Early Head

Start/Head Start for over 15 years. While working in this program she worked every day to improve the oral health of every child enrolled in the program. She was able to provide education to both staff and

parents on the importance of oral health within the home and having a dental home for everyone in the home. Welcome Trina!



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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