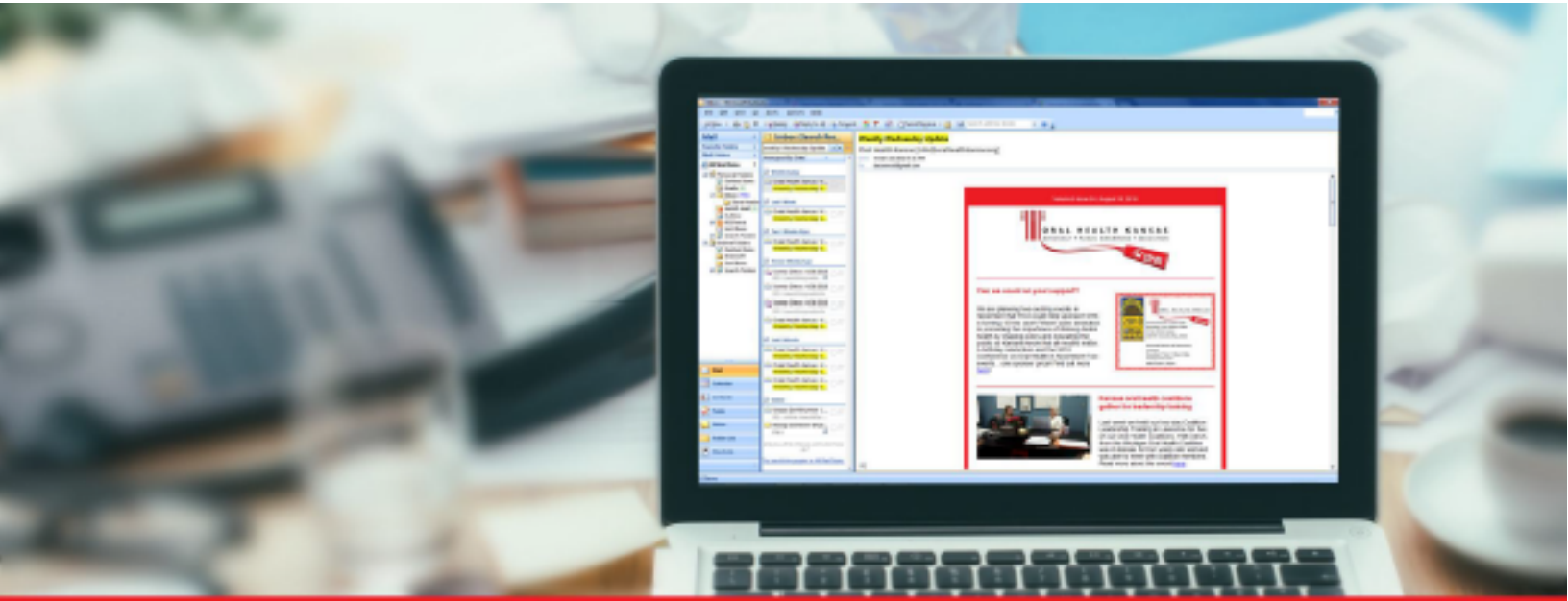




**ORAL HEALTH KANSAS**  
ADVOCACY • PUBLIC AWARENESS • EDUCATION



## 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](#).

### February 23, 2022

Volume 13, Issue 8



## Updates from the Capitol

Last week the House Appropriations Committee adopted a recommendation that funding be allocated for Medicaid dental coverage for adults. This means both the House Appropriations and Senate Ways and Means Committees have included funding for Medicaid dental coverage in the state budget. It's another huge step forward!

The next steps involve the budget being assembled and voted on in both chambers and then a conference committee will meet to iron out the differences between the House and Senate versions of the budget. The language and funding for Medicaid dental coverage are the same in both the House and Senate, so it should not be hard for both sides to agree on this budget recommendation. There are several steps ahead in the budget process and anything could happen. Oral Health Kansas will reach out to you when it is time to begin asking legislators for support again.

Thank you for your dedication to ensuring that all low-income Kansans have access to basic dental care. With your help, we will be able to make a historic change this year by extending Medicaid dental coverage to adults.



## Dental Champion Authors Children's Book

[Davette McCoy, Dental Champions Class 8](#), recently published her first children's book, *Goodnight Teeth: A Nighttime Brush Book*. This story is about a little girl who knows the importance of brushing her teeth every night and having her parents help her. The book also includes toothbrushing charts. This is a good read for you and your child to learn about oral health, diversity and bedtime routines.

Davette, a Wichita dental hygienist who has dedicated her career to public health dentistry said, "Start habits young! It is important to start oral care at an early age. Learning good oral hygiene habits at a young age is important for long-term oral health." Her new book is available on [Amazon](#).



## American Heart Month and Oral Health of Children

February is National Children's Dental Health Month as well as American Heart Month. A new study, ["Preventive Dental Care and Oral Health of Children with and without Heart Conditions - United States, 2016 - 2019,"](#) was recently published in Center Disease Control and Prevention's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR). Children living with heart

defects are more likely to develop infective endocarditis from oral bacteria spreading through the bloodstream. Authors found that about 1 in 10 children with a heart condition, such as a congenital heart defect, had teeth in fair/poor condition and about 1 in 6 had at least one indicator of poor oral health such as toothaches, bleeding gums, or cavities in the past year. [Learn more](#).



## Does Your Teenager Keep Up with Oral Health?

Brushing battles are not limited to young kids. Many parents know that teenagers avoid brushing too. Although teenagers are older and should understand the importance of their oral health, some may still skip brushing their teeth.

A toothbrushing chart and stickers won't work with your teenager, so you will have to try a different technique. It may work to explain to your teens the importance of what hormones can do to their oral health and how sugary drinks, snacks and tobacco can cause major problems. [Here](#) is a list of issues to discuss with your teenager.



## Upcoming Events

- 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](#).
- **Kansas Mission of Mercy**, March 25-26 in Hays, Kansas. If you want to volunteer, you must [register](#). For patient information, click [here](#).

Michelle Ponce, [Dental Champions Class 8](#), has joined the OHK Board of Directors. Michelle



is the Associate Director for the [Association of Community Mental Health Centers of Kansas, Inc.](#) She brings many years of state and national public health policy work, as well as working with local health departments to improve the lives of Kansans. We are fortunate to have her expertise to help guide our work.



## 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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