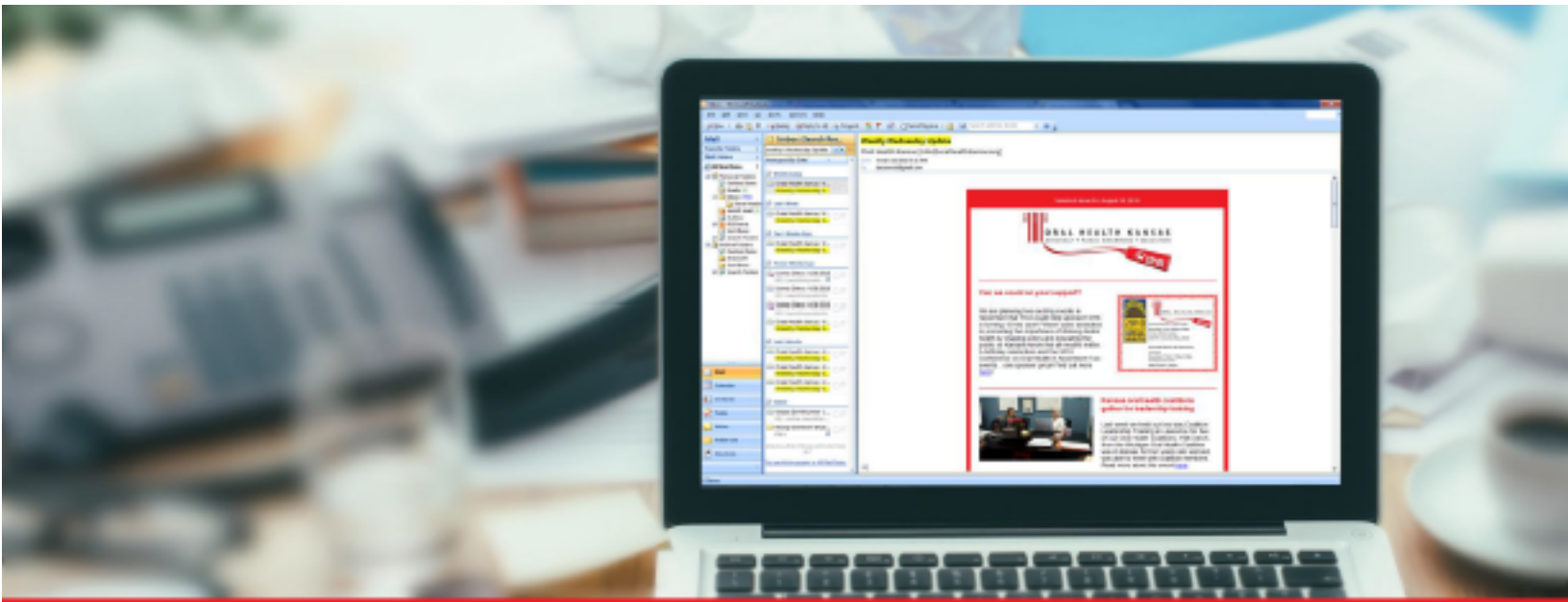




ORAL HEALTH KANSAS
ADVOCACY • PUBLIC AWARENESS • EDUCATION



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](#).

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Increasing Water Access in Topeka

On March 15, the [Thirsty for Health](#) team hosted a virtual focus group with individuals from Topeka area school districts. The group discussed why they thought access to water during the school day is important. The conversations were interesting! Parents

understood how important it is for their children to have clean drinking water during the school day and how challenging that is now that water fountains have been covered up to slow the spread of COVID.

Fruit drinks with added sugar, sports drinks, energy drinks, and soda pose a real health risk to kids, and they do not keep kids hydrated the way water does. Sugar-sweetened beverages are the leading source of added sugars in the American diet and are associated with an increased risk of obesity, type 2 diabetes and heart disease. Water bottle filling stations in schools are easy for a child of any age to use. They provide cold, filtered water, which helps keep students healthy and alert. They also have the added benefit of limiting the amount of waste schools deal with.

If you are in the Topeka area, we want to hear from you! Thirsty for Health will be hosting another round of virtual focus groups on April 12 from 5:00pm-6:00pm and 6:00pm-7:00pm. You only need to attend **ONE** of these sessions. Participants who attend will receive a Walmart gift card. Sign up [here](#) and click [here](#) for more information.



New Report: Medicaid Dental Coverage for Adults with I/DD

The National Center for Children in Poverty (NCCP) is excited to share a new [National Council on Disability](#) (NCD) report, [Medicaid Oral Health Coverage for Adults with Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities - A Fiscal Analysis](#). This report presents key findings on studies of Medicaid covered dental care for adults with disabilities. It also shares opportunities and recommendations for change within Medicaid and outside of Medicaid at the federal and state levels. Oral Health Kansas plans to use this report to guide our work on increasing access to dental care for people with disabilities, and we encourage you to check it out.

The report shows that Medicaid coverage of dental care for adults with I/DD will save money in the Medicaid program in ER usage, hospital admissions, and management of chronic diseases. The report also shows that adults with I/DD who live in states with Medicaid coverage for preventive dental care are three times more likely to receive preventive dental care than adults with I/DD living in states without such coverage. This report is part of ongoing research. A future study will examine how to incentivize oral health providers to participate in Medicaid and facilitate the treatment of people with I/DD.



Enter the Colgate Bright Smiles Kids Awards

This year Colgate is encouraging children ages 6-14 to unleash their optimism and creativity to inspire the kind of future we can all smile about. From now until April 8, Colgate Bright Smiles Bright Futures will be accepting video entries (up to 2-minutes) of musical, scientific, artistic, journalistic, technology-focused, culinary, or other projects highlighting how optimism can positively impact our lives and futures. The Kids Awards is open to children ages 6-14 who are a part of an after-school program, club, or another formal organization. This could include groups such as Boy/Girl Scout Troops, Dance Teams, or members of a Sunday School. Finalists will be determined by an advisory panel and winners will be selected by a live audience. The first-place national award winner will receive \$10,000 for their school or organization. Second and third-place winners will be awarded \$5,000 and \$2,500 respectively. **Enter now.**



Kansas Mission of Mercy-This Weekend!

The Kansas Mission of Mercy will be held this weekend, March 25 and 26 in Hays, Kansas. Here are a few things

to know about the event:

- The clinic opens at 5:30 AM on both Friday and Saturday. Waiting in line, or determining how early to get in line, is up to the patient. You may be waiting all day.
- Services provided include cleanings, fillings, and extractions. No dentures will be provided at KMOM.
- Organizers only let in as many patients as they will be able to treat each day. Standing in line on Friday and not getting in does not give the person priority the next day. It is the same process on Saturday - first come, first served.

To find out more information for patients, click [here](#).



Upcoming Events

- **Kansas Mission of Mercy**, March 25-26 in Hays, Kansas. If you want to volunteer, you must [register](#). For patient information, click [here](#).
- **Webinar: [Oral Health is Essential Primary Care: The Importance of Interprofessional Collaboration](#)**, scheduled for April 1 from noon to 12pm CST.
- Thirsty for Health **Virtual Focus Groups** for the Topeka Public School area- April 12, 5 - 6pm or 6 - 7pm. Click [here](#) and learn how to sign up!
- **Save the Date!** 16th Kansas Disability Caucus on August 10th-12th. Click [here](#) for details.



Last week Oral Health Kansas staff joined parent advocates and the Kansas Head Start Association in a virtual Hill visit with Rep. Ron Estes' (R-Wichita) office. Every five



years, Congress reauthorizes the National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, and other child nutrition programs through a process called Child Nutrition Reauthorization. 30 million kids rely on these programs for healthy breakfasts and lunches at school. Child Nutrition Reauthorization is up this year, and the group had a productive conversation about the importance of kids having healthy meals at school. We are grateful to Congressman Estes' staff for making time to discuss this issue with us.



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.



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