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To: jparnell@oralhealthkansas.org
Subject: Oral Health Kansas Weekly Wednesday Update



ORAL HEALTH KANSAS
Weekly Wednesday Update

*Our Mission:
To improve oral health
in Kansas through
advocacy,
public awareness
and education.*

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In This Issue

[Delta Dental Grant Contest](#)

[2011 Legislative Session Update](#)

[Affordable Care Act Anniversary](#)

[Clean Air Act Intact](#)

[Loan Repayment Program](#)

[Scholarship Opportunity](#)

Quick Links

[Home](#)

[Our History](#)

[Dental Champions](#)

[Partnerships](#)

[Community](#)

[Coalitions](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Delta Dental Grant Contest

Affordable Care Act Anniversary

Today is the one year anniversary of the Affordable Care Act. The ACA marks the first time in history that all children in America will be guaranteed access to dental insurance, either through state Exchanges or Medicaid/Children's Health Insurance Program. While legal challenges to parts of the law remain active across the country, the law remains intact today.

Earlier this month OHK reported that Kansas Insurance Commissioner Sandy Praeger has launched a series of eight work groups to help design the state Exchange for Kansas. Oral Health Kansas staff serves on the Steering Committee and work groups that are helping to design the business operations of the Exchange and the role of Navigators. Questions being tackled by the work groups involve how many Exchanges Kansas should have, what functions the Exchange should engage in, and what types of plans should be offered.

The Steering Committee plans to meet throughout the spring and summer to consider recommendations from each work group. There are tentative plans for public input meetings in September and October. The goal is to have a plan for a State Exchange ready to take to the Kansas Legislature in 2012. The U.S.

Oral Health Kansas is excited to announce our participation in The Champions Project - a mini-grant contest presented by Delta Dental of Kansas and the Delta Dental of Kansas Foundation. We have been 'championed' by a team of DDKS employees who are promoting our cause, but we need your help too! In early May, the DDKS Foundation will award four \$2,500 grants to the organizations that receive the most votes. You can help us win one of these grants by [CLICKING HERE](#) where you can find out what we will do with the grant dollars if we win and vote for Oral Health Kansas!

Remember, you can vote as many times as you like! Last day to vote is April 29th, voting closes at 5pm!

Please feel free to spread the word to all your friends and associates!

Department of Health and Human Services requires that states have an approved plan submitted to the Department by January 2013 in order to be ready to launch an Exchange on January 1, 2014.

For more information about implementation of health reform in Kansas [CLICK HERE](#)

To learn more about the non-dental health aspects of the law [CLICK HERE](#)

Clean Air Act Intact

This morning the Kansas House of Representatives approved a bill that would strengthen the Clean Indoor Air Act (passed a year ago) by outlawing smoking in state-owned casinos. The bill passed on a strong vote of 97 to 26.

Clean Indoor Air advocates, including Oral Health Kansas, have worked hard over the past few days and weeks to ensure the law would not be weakened this year. While a January 2011 poll indicated significant support among Kansas voters, including smokers, for the Clean Indoor Air Act, there was a lot of interest on the part of some legislators to repeal it this year.

Thank you to all who contacted your House members about this important piece of legislation.

KDHE Bureau of Oral Health Loan Repayment Program

The KDHE Bureau of Oral Health announces that applications are currently being accepted for their loan repayment program designed to provide loan repayment assistance for clinicians practicing in underserved areas or to underserved populations who would not qualify for other types of assistance (i.e., National Health Service Corps or State Loan Repayment). Clinicians receive assistance on a prorated scale starting at a minimum of 16 hours per week working at an eligible site. Dentists and dental hygienists are eligible. A one year commitment is required and funding is not guaranteed beyond one year.

Funding is limited and applications will be accepted through April 15, 2011.

2011 Legislative Session Update

This Legislative Session has been very busy. From advocating for a dental benefit for all Kansas Medicaid beneficiaries, to getting children who are eligible to be seen by ECP hygienists in schools actually seen by the ECP hygienists, as well as expanding and strengthening the dental workforce in Kansas, and many more. For a 2011 Legislative Session Summary [CLICK HERE](#). Copies of the testimony presented by Oral Health Kansas throughout this Legislative Session are available on our website under the Legislative Alerts section.

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For more information and to submit an application please [CLICK HERE](#) or contact Daniel Lassley at dlassley@kdheks.gov or (785) 296-1314.

11th Kansas Non-Traditional Occupations Statewide Scholarship Competition

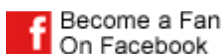
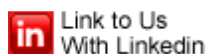
Kansas Non-Traditional Occupations Scholarship is a statewide competition to award scholarships to high school and community college students interested in gender non-traditional occupations. Those are defined as occupations or fields of work for which individuals from one gender comprise less than 25% of the individuals employed.

Eligible applicants include college students and high school seniors who are currently enrolled or will be enrolled in a gender nontraditional career technical education program. More information and an application [CLICK HERE](#)

Applicant ideas include:
Kansas female students interested in becoming a dentist
Kansas male students interested in becoming a dental assistant or dental hygienist

The application deadline is April 1, 2011.

If you have an idea, story or suggestion for a Oral Health Kansas Weekly Wednesday Update please send an email to jparnell@oralhealthkansas.org



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