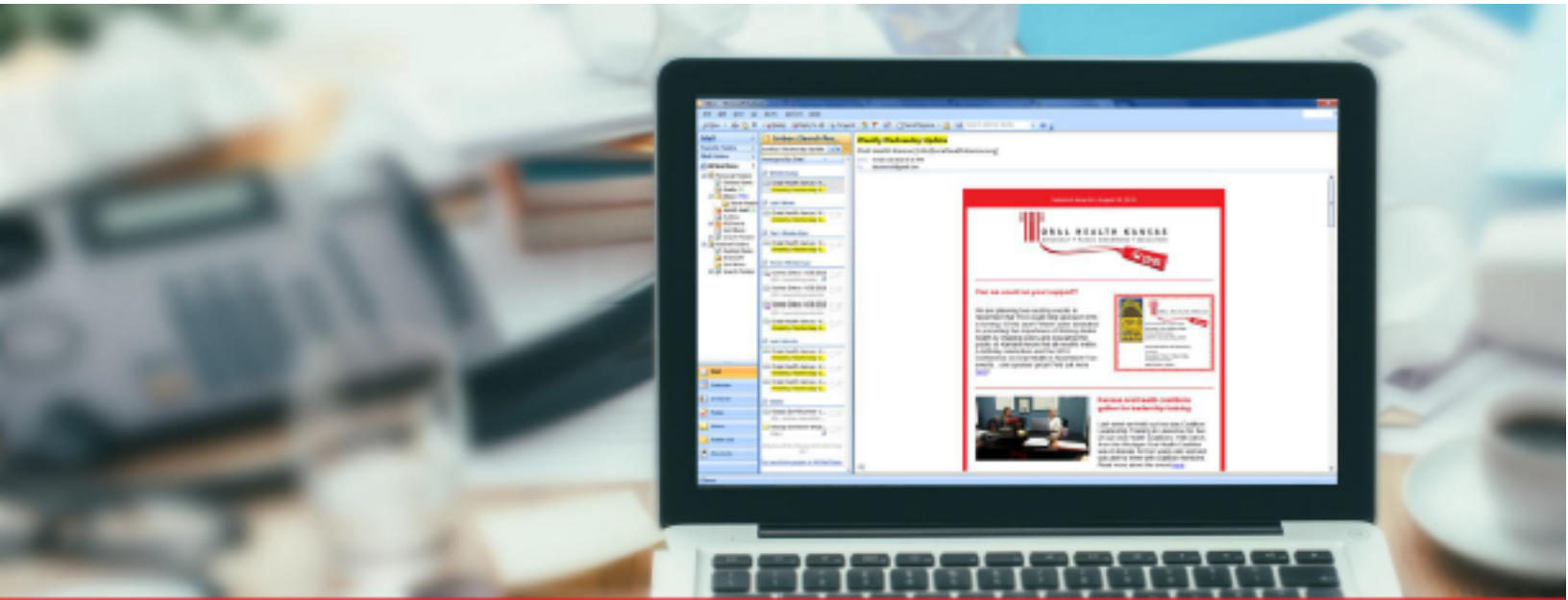




ORAL HEALTH KANSAS
ADVOCACY • PUBLIC AWARENESS • EDUCATION



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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Dental Care Needs for Minorities

April is National Minority Health Month! Did you know nonelderly adult Kansans who are Hispanic were nearly two times more likely to not have dental insurance than non-Hispanic Blacks or non-Hispanic Whites (63.8 percent, 33.2 percent and 32.2 percent, respectively). [Dental Insurance Coverage and Unmet Dental Needs in Kansas](#) report showing data available on dental insurance

coverage in the state, including detailed information on the source of dental insurance coverage, unmet dental needs and dental visits by age group and race or ethnicity. The report highlights several gaps in dental insurance coverage in Kansas and the existence of racial and ethnic disparities in coverage and utilization of dental services.

In 2021, Oral Health Kansas renewed our commitment to being an inclusive organization through the hiring of a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion consultant to lead our organization through trainings and strategic planning. We look forward to sharing more about the improvements made within our organization in the year to come.



Kansas Mission of Mercy Helps Hundreds

The Kansas Mission of Mercy held its 21st event in Hays on March 25 and 26. This is the first time in the event's history to be held in this area. This event took months of planning and rescheduling because of the Covid pandemic. There is not one thing that goes unnoticed in

the tremendous work that is done. The community came together to set up the venue and even had help from the Fort Hays State University Athletics football team with tearing down the clinic equipment!

This year KMOM provided the services below:

526 Patients

471 Fillings

1,058 Extractions

\$673,748 in services donated.

Thank you to all the volunteers that helped make this event possible!



Diverse Dental Society Statement

The Diverse Dental Society released a statement in support and sympathy for medical and dental colleagues

continuing to provide care through the current conflict in Ukraine.

The statement reads: “We sympathize with medical and dental colleagues in Ukraine that are saving lives and providing the best care they can, under dire circumstances. We also join with the World Dental Federation (FDI) to express our solidarity and concerns. We call for the international principle of medical neutrality and human rights to be upheld and respected.” Read the full press release [here](#).



Position Available with Community Care Network of Kansas

Our friends at Community Care Network of Kansas are hiring! Community Care Network is a statewide association made up of a network of community care clinics. Community Care Network is a statewide association made up of a network of community care clinics and is currently seeking a Chief Executive Officer. You can access the position description through their [website](#) or click [here](#) for the job description. Applications can be sent to Diana Rivera, drivera@vibranthealthkc.org.



Upcoming Events

- **Webinar:** [Oral Health is Essential Primary Care: The Importance of Interprofessional Collaboration](#), scheduled for April 1 from noon to 12pm CST.
- **Webinar:** Indigenous Oral Health Inequities and the Role of Intersectionality, April 5, 12-1:30pm. Register [here](#).
- 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.



We are excited to announce our friend Huascar Medina, Seventh Kansas Poet Laureate and first Latino poet laureate, on his nomination to the National Council on the Arts by President Biden. Huascar was the



Keynote Speaker at the 2020 Conference on Oral Health where he read poetry from his book *Un Mango Grows in Kansas*. Huascar uses his poetry to engage with people in a variety of roles and reaching out to community members. His poetry is based on a variety of subjects: separation, diversity, culture and inclusion are all elements of Medina's poetry. This is a well deserved recognition for Huascar. Congratulations! Read the press release [here](#).



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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