

ORAL HEALTH KANSAS

ADVOCACY • PUBLIC AWARENESS • EDUCATION

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Share your stories

Do you have an oral health story you would like to share with us? Stories can be about yourself or someone else. When we gather stories, they help us explain to legislators and others the issues and successes Kansans encounter.

- A person gaining access to dental services which led to changes or improvements in his or her life?
- A person who cannot access dental services and is in desperate need of them?
- A group of people who are improving access to dental services for

OHK Staff attends National Oral Health Conference

Last week, staff attended the National Oral Health Conference (NOHC) in Cincinnati, Ohio. The conference included five days of compelling information. Staff learned about the new American Fluoridation Society's work to support community water fluoridation across the U.S. Attendees were then given the opportunity to collaborate with others from multiple states about topics ranging from recent successes and challenges to resources for eliminating misinformation and running successful campaigns. The opening NOHC reception inside the Hilton's Historic Hall of Mirrors was a lively event where people reconnected with friends and celebrated the conference's kickoff.

Along with informative research poster and vendor sessions, dynamic and engaging presentations were given throughout the conference about oral

people?

- An effective way to teach children or adults about oral health?
- Any other story that shows the importance of oral health in the lives of everyday Kansans?

Click [here](#) to share your story!



Save the Date

Get your calendars! OHK's annual conference will be held **November 3-5, 2016** at the Double Tree Hotel in Overland Park. The Conference Planning Committee has been busy away planning! We will continue to keep you updated.

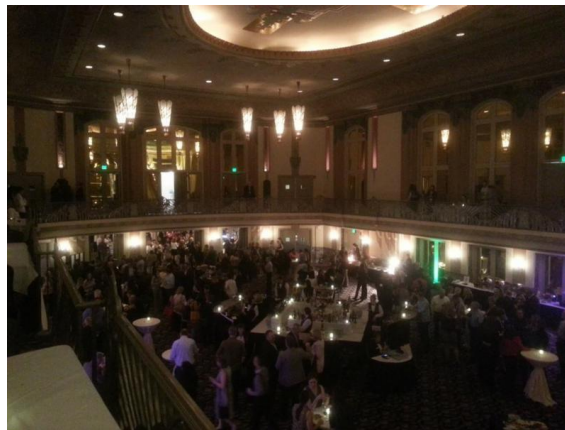


Free webinars

Below are several webinars coming up from various organizations that may be of interest to you. Click through each and see which one catches your eye!

April 28, 3:00-4:00 PM EDT
[Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion:](#)

health's importance in eliminating disparities and its significance to overall wellness. Staff participated in the sixth annual meeting of the American Network of Oral Health Coalitions (ANOHC), sponsored by the DentaQuest Foundation. Together, the 43 state ANOHC members are advocating for equity and improving oral health education.



Opening NOHC reception in Hall of Mirrors



Learning about current status of

[An Introspective Look Webcast](#), presented by National Association of Chronic Disease Directors.

May 4, 3pm EDT [The Affordable Care Act and Persons with Disabilities: An Introduction and Overview Webinar](#) presented by the National Disability Navigator Resource Collaborative.

May 10, 12:30-1:30pm EDT [Framework for Advancing Oral Health Equity](#) features insights from Connecticut Oral Health Initiative and North Carolina Oral Health Collaborative.

What do you want to know?

We're improving as we go! If you have any suggestions for our newsletter or if there is a topic you are interested in, [email us](#) with your thoughts! We are always interested in hearing what works, what you would like to see more of or if there's something you would like us to share.



Medicaid adult dental benefits
across the country

Our very own Kathy Hunt along with Diane Flanagan, RDH and Michelle Martin, RDH, MPH provided a workshop session entitled "What's in your toolkit: Changing the Oral Health Conversation with Families". The focus of the workshop was changing the conversation providers have with patients using Motivational Interviewing techniques to guide and support families in identifying goals and developing strategies to adopt good oral health behaviors.

Thank you, NOHC, for such an eventful experience!



President Obama signs Older Americans Act Reauthorization

The Older Americans Act (OAA) funds critical services that keep older adults healthy and independent—services like meals, job training, senior centers, caregiver support, transportation, health promotion, benefits enrollment, and more. These programs help seniors stay as independent as possible in their homes and communities.

On April 19, 2016, President Obama signed S.192, the Older Americans Act

Sugary Drink Display

School is almost out. But that doesn't mean teaching comes to an end! Reserve a sugary drink display for your home, daycare, event or work place. This is a great time to remind kids that while they're home for the summer, they should watch what they drink! The display is **free** to use!

Shipping costs are reimbursed when you return it to us. [Email us](#) to reserve a spot!



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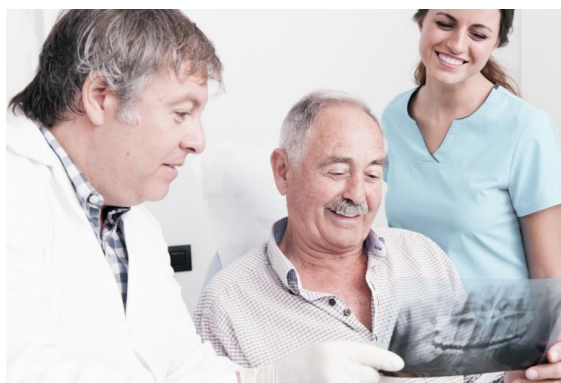
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(OAA) reauthorization act into law. According to [Oral Health America](#) (OHA), new under S.192 is a provision that allows the aging network to use grant funds to deliver oral health screenings among other disease prevention and health promotion services. These prevention programs take place at the community level to help older Americans avoid hospitalizations and unnecessary physician visits, or in this case, head off more expensive dental work and help prevent severe oral disease.

[Learn more](#) about the OAA reauthorization progress and the changes that will be enacted.



Legislature returns for wrap-up session

After a five week break, the Kansas Legislature returned today. To kick off the wrap-up session, several advocacy organizations gathered today at the Statehouse to advocate to reverse the

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2012 income tax cuts as the most effective way to dig the state out of the growing budget deficit.

Last week, state revenue officials met to revise the revenue estimates for this year and next. The budget shortfall increased by nearly \$300 million more. According to the [Kansas City Star](#), Gov. Sam Brownback's recommended fixes for the latest shortfall center on budget maneuvers and spending cuts, and all have drawn controversy. Brownback would take \$185 million from the state highway fund, delaying more than two dozen projects, and he would cut spending to state universities by 3 percent, about \$17 million, for the fiscal year beginning July 1. That would continue a 3 percent cut he ordered earlier this month.

Other moves would require approval by the Legislature. One option would sell off a portion of the state's future tobacco settlement money for quick cash. Another would delay a \$99 million payment to the state employee pension system. Brownback says he's not interested in rolling back the tax cuts he championed in 2012 and 2013, including an income tax exemption for some 330,000 businesses owners. The exemption is costing the state as much as \$250 million a year in revenue. More than \$1.5 billion has been shifted from the highway fund to the state's general fund and other state agencies since 2011. Last week led the state Department of Transportation to announce the delay of 25 projects slated to begin over the next two to three years.

Oral Health Kansas joined tobacco cessation advocates in opposing a plan to tamper with the existing tobacco settlement agreement funds. We provided testimony in March saying in part, "Supporting tobacco prevention and cessation is an important component to supporting the health of all Kansans - and saving the state millions of dollars in health care costs as well as lost productivity."



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