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### Dental

## Report Issued on ACA Dental Coverage



On April 30, the National Academy for State Health Policy (NASHP) released a new report on dental benefits in the Affordable Care Act. The report, "Improving Integration of Dental Health Benefits in Health Insurance Marketplaces," addresses the shortcomings associated with the roll-out of the pediatric dental benefit in the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

The report was released at the National Oral Health Conference in Ft. Worth, Texas, during a panel discussion about the ACA dental benefits. It details the affordability challenges in the implementation of the pediatric dental benefit, which is designed to be one of the ten Essential Health Benefits to be offered to everyone who purchases health insurance. For example, stand-alone dental policies are not included in the calculation of the premium tax credits, which is the mechanism designed to help people under 400% of the Federal Poverty Level be able to afford to purchase insurance. Another challenge is that dental benefits are subject to an out-of-pocket maximum that is separate from the maximum amount families can pay for health care. The result is that people who purchase pediatric dental coverage may be subject to a higher overall cost

## Champions Corner

Now that Dental Champions Class 6 has concluded, it is fun to remember some of the slogans the classes have created for themselves over the years:

Class 1: "We're number 1!"

Class 2: "Take your cue from Class two."

Class 3: "We have glee in Class three!"

Class 4: "Class four. Need I say more?"

Class 5: "High Five!" (the hand gesture is important here)

Class 6: "Get your kicks with Class six."



## Save the Date...

On Friday, May 30, the KDHE Bureau of Oral Health and Oral Health Kansas will host a summit to gather stakeholder input for the next State Oral Health Plan.

To learn more, contact

for health and dental insurance than was originally designed in the Affordable Care Act.

Adult dental benefits were not included in the Affordable Care Act's list of ten Essential Health Benefits. The report describes the fact that dental policies are available both inside and outside the ACA's marketplaces, but that the adult dental coverage is not eligible for premium tax credits. NASHP notes in their report, "This (adult dental coverage offered in some plans) is a potentially promising way to reduce high levels of dental uninsurance among adults."

NASHP convened stakeholders in January 2014 to identify potential policy solutions that could improve how dental benefits are provided in future years. A compilation of suggestions made by the panel are included in the report. They relate to benefit design, affordability and consumer experience. The report's authors point out, "While implementation of dental benefits is only a small part of the work that state and federal officials must do to implement ACA, maintaining good oral health is important to every person's ability to eat, learn, work and interact with others, so it is important that this coverage work as intended."

[Read the full report on NASHP's website.](#)

## OHK Seeks Office & Communications Manager

This summer, Oral Health Kansas will say goodbye to our Office and Communications Manager Caroline Stern as she prepares to attend dental school. We are seeking applications for this part-time position. This position is responsible for assisting with the smooth daily operations of the Oral Health Kansas office. The Office and Communications Manager has responsibility for producing the Oral Health Kansas e-newsletter, managing social media, assisting with website management, creating basic print pieces, basic bookkeeping, and assisting with meeting planning. This is a 20-25 hours per week grant-funded position.

Applications will be accepted until May 15 at 5 pm. For application details, email [cstern@oralhealthkansas.org](mailto:cstern@oralhealthkansas.org).

## Part Time ECP Opening

Community Health Ministry

[info@oralhealthkansas.org](mailto:info@oralhealthkansas.org)

Read the [current State Oral Health Plan here](#).

## Save the Date...

The 2014 Oral Health Kansas Conference will be November 6-8 at Wichita State University. Please plan to attend. Details coming soon!

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)



Dental Clinic in Wamego, KS is seeking part-time ECP I/II/III Dental Hygienists' interested in joining our dedicated team as we provide access to preventive dental care using portable equipment in various schools, long-

term care facilities, and Head Start programs. We serve Clay, Cloud, Jackson, Marshall, Nemaha, Pottawatomie, Riley, Shawnee, Wabaunsee and Washington counties - If you are an ECP Hygienist that resides in any of these counties and are interested in exploring new ways to give back to YOUR community, please contact Krista Hahn, Dental Director at (785) 456-7872 x 109 or email [dentaldirector@wamego.net](mailto:dentaldirector@wamego.net). Visit the [website here](#).

## WSU Dental Day Registration

Wichita State University will host a Dental Day on Friday, June 20 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the Advanced Education in General Dentistry Building.

Registration is free and is limited to 30 students.

Those interested should contact Natalie Olmsted by email by clicking [here](#) or by phone at 316-978-8349.

The registration deadline is June 1, with cancellations required by June 13. For more information, visit Wichita State's Dental Day page [here](#).



## Traveling Sugary Drink Display



Reserve our traveling Sugary Drink Display for your business or event! Displays are available from June onward and reservations are made for one month at a time. Return postage is

covered by Oral Health Kansas. [E-mail Caroline here](#) if you would like to make a reservation.

If you have an idea, story or suggestion for a Oral Health Kansas Weekly

Wednesday Update please contact us at [info@oralhealthkansas.org](mailto:info@oralhealthkansas.org).

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