



## Pre-Conference Session

Friday, October 13 | 12:00 – 1:00 pm

### Introduction to Public Oral Health

Discover the dynamic intersection of oral health and public health. Attendees will learn about the stakeholders and resources involved in the public oral health community and will explore how collaboration among dental professionals, healthcare stakeholders, and community members fosters healthier communities and drives advancements in health outcomes.

## Friday, October 27

7:30 AM Registration Opens  
Breakfast with Exhibitors

8:30 AM Welcome and Introduction to the “Give and Get Board”

8:45 AM **Oral Health’s Impact on Overall Health**  
Oral health is an integral part of overall health, and this session sheds light on the relevance of oral health across various professions, including Community Health Workers, health insurance providers, health departments, and medical professionals. Attendees will learn about the impact of tooth decay on essential aspects of life such as learning and job retention. Panelists will highlight the connection between gum disease and its influence on chronic/systemic conditions like diabetes, heart disease, and pregnancy, emphasizing the need for comprehensive oral healthcare integration within health professions.

9:30 AM **Oral Health Equity for People with Disabilities**  
People with disabilities often encounter oral health disparities, leading to challenges in accessing appropriate dental care and preventive services. Oral Health Kansas is leading two stakeholder groups to address these disparities. In this session leaders from the Sedation Dental Care Task Force and Pathways to Oral Health will share their latest work and new resources for people with disabilities and their caregivers. A dental provider will share insight about meeting the needs of people with disabilities in a rural community. This session promises to offer practical solutions and foster greater inclusivity in dental care.

10:15 AM Break with Exhibitors & Give and Get Board

10:45 AM **Addressing Dental Care Needs in Rural & Underserved Areas: Workforce Strategies**  
Accessing local and culturally appropriate dental care can be a significant challenge for individuals living in rural areas and marginalized communities. To address this issue, workforce options, such as diversifying students in dental and dental hygiene schools and establishing scholarship programs, are being explored. During this session, attendees will gain insights into the challenges faced by these communities in accessing dental care and learn about innovative programs designed to empower dental professionals to overcome barriers and provide much-needed care in remote or underserved areas.

11:30 AM Break with Exhibitors & Give and Get Board

11:45 AM **Oral Health Kansas 20th Anniversary Lunch Celebration and Excellence in Oral Health Award**

1:15 PM **Federal and State Oral Health Policy Check**  
A fan favorite session is back this year! Attendees will learn about oral health and health policy changes at the state and national levels. Oral Health Kansas’ lobbyist will share insight from this year’s Kansas legislative session and preview the 2024 session and election year. A top policy leader from Families USA will discuss current federal oral health policy initiatives and how state and local advocates can get involved. The session also will include a discussion of the proposed interstate compact that would allow dental professionals to become licensed in more than one state. This is a must-attend session for anyone interested in advancing oral health policy and advocacy.

2:00 PM Break with Exhibitors & Give and Get Board

2:30 PM **Improving Dental Access through Medicaid: Policy Updates & Provider Insights**  
The session will focus on the significance of Medicaid as the primary health insurance for many individuals. It will highlight the positive developments in the Kansas Medicaid program, which have extended dental coverage, allowing tens of thousands more Kansans to access dental care. Attendees can expect to learn about the details of the improved dental coverage, recent policy changes, and their impact on the people of Kansas, as well as gaining valuable insights from a Medicaid dental provider on how treating Medicaid patients has enhanced their dental practice. Panelists will offer insights for consumers, providers, and insurers on how to further enhance access to dental care through the Medicaid program.

3:15 PM Closing Thoughts

3:30 PM Adjourn