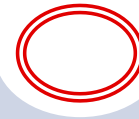




**ORAL HEALTH KANSAS**

ADVOCACY • PUBLIC AWARENESS • EDUCATION

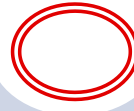


# **Oral Health Kansas Overview for House Health & Human Services Committee**

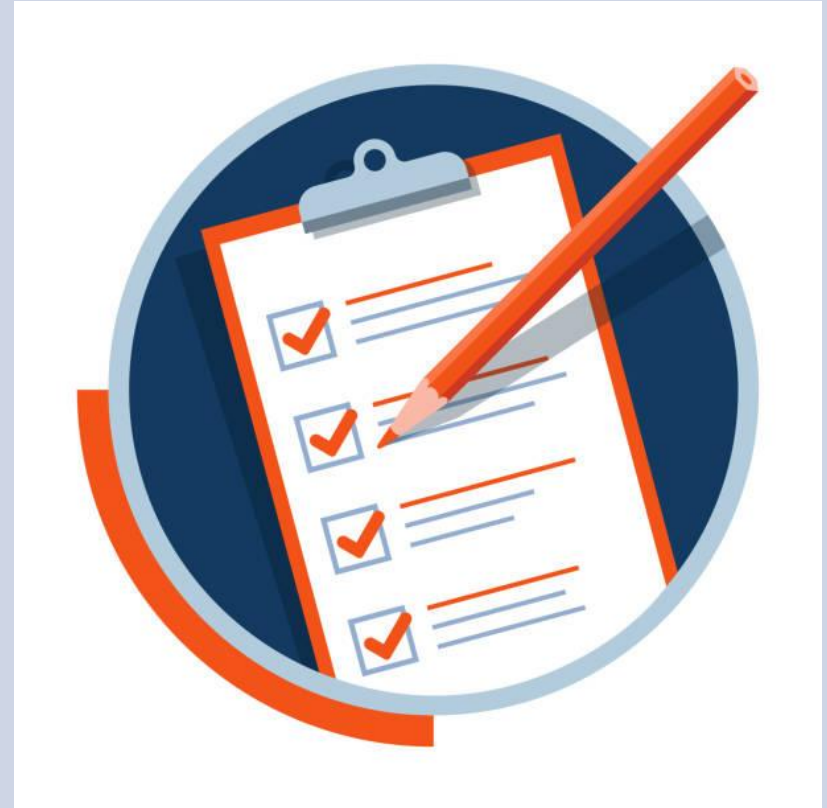
January 30, 2025

Tanya Dorf Brunner  
Executive Director

# Agenda



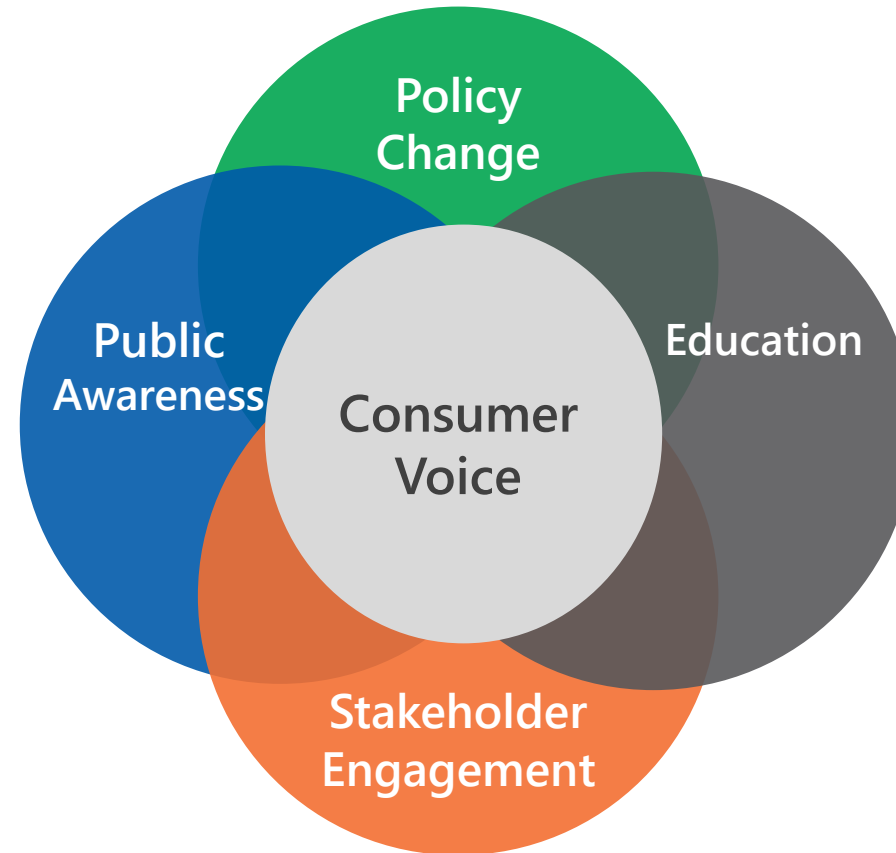
- Oral Health Kansas overview
- Medicaid dental resources
- Medicaid dental advocacy in 2025
- My Dental Care Passport
- Education programs
- Advisory groups



# Oral Health Kansas Overview

# Oral Health Kansas Mission

To improve oral health in Kansas through advocacy, public awareness and education.



# Advocacy for Improving Access to Care



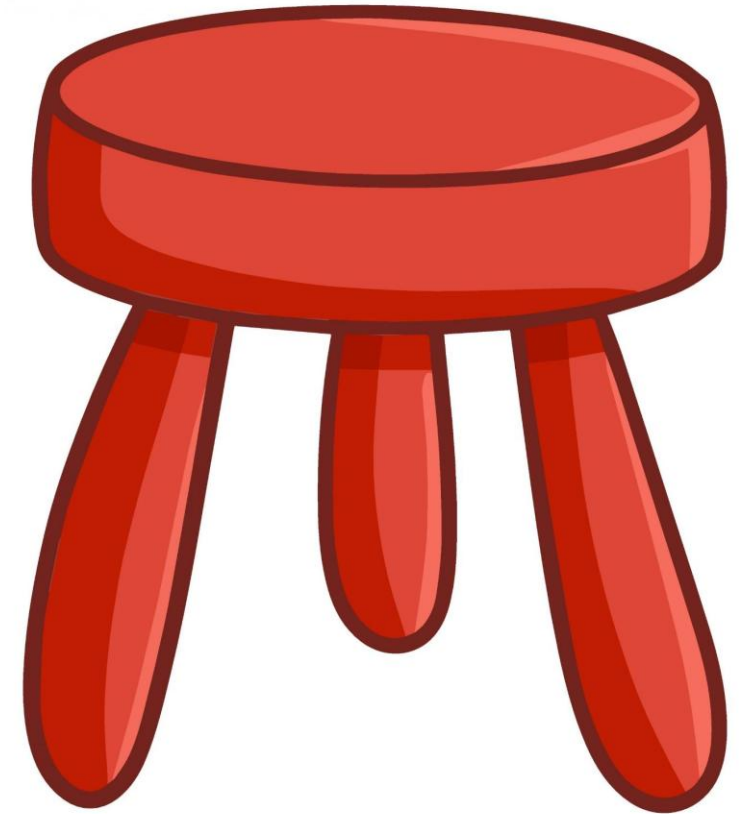
Access to dental providers



Access to a way to pay for dental care



Public health: access to community water fluoridation, healthy foods and beverages, etc.



# Medicaid Dental Resources

# Improvements in KanCare dental coverage

## 2022

Dental coverage extended to adults: fillings, crowns, periodontal care, & Silver Diamine Fluoride

## 2024

Preventive dental coverage added for to adults: exams, x-rays, & cleanings

## 2023

Denture coverage added for adults

**Visit Oral Health Kansas' Medicaid adult dental benefit webpage to learn more and find fact sheets for consumers and providers**

<http://oralhealthkansas.org/MedicaidAdultDentalBenefits.html>



**ORAL HEALTH KANSAS**

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[Home](#) • [Who We Are](#) • [Advocacy](#) • [Initiatives](#) • [Resources](#) • [Finding A Dentist](#)

[Donate](#)



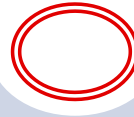
# Consumer and Provider Resources for **Medicaid Adult Dental Benefits**

[Click here for more information](#)

<http://oralhealthkansas.org/MedicaidAdultDentalBenefits.html>

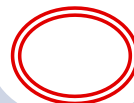


# Introductory Video



<http://oralhealthkansas.org/AdultMedicaid/oral%20health%20kansas-final.mp4> or YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JLGFrjhj4gw>

# Consumer & Provider Resources



## For Consumers

- Frequently Asked Questions, including who is eligible and what services are covered
- Download this flyer to learn what dental services are covered and how to find a provider and transportation to appointments.

Adult Medicaid Benefits Flyer - English

Adult Medicaid Benefits Flyer - Spanish



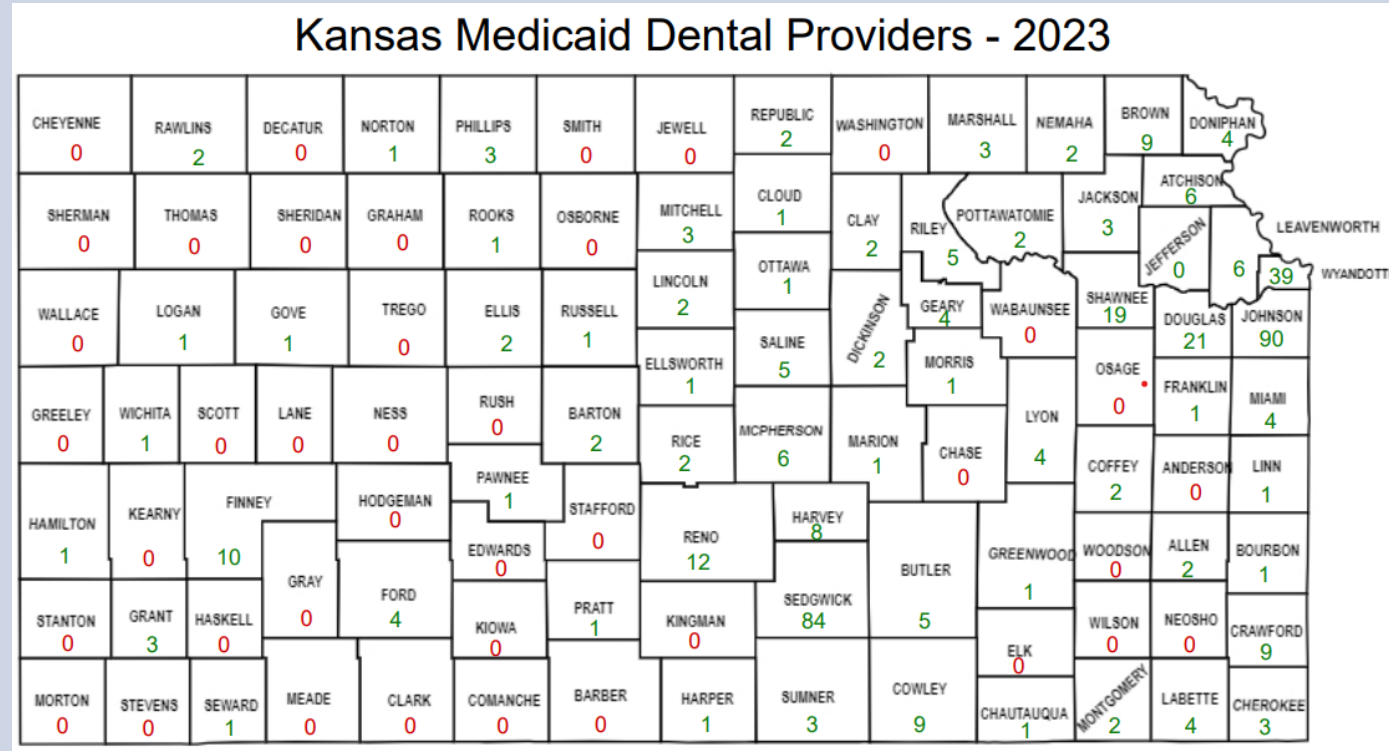
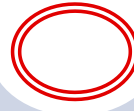
Missouri, pediatric dentist shares myths and facts about being a Medicaid dental provider in this video.

## For Providers

- Frequently Asked Questions, including who is eligible and how a practice can understand the needs of Medicaid consumers.
- Enroll to become a Medicaid provider.
- List of codes covered in the new benefit and the rates for each.
- **Dr. Aaron Bumann**, Kansas City, Missouri, pediatric dentist shares myths and facts about being a Medicaid dental provider in this video.

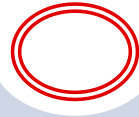
# Medicaid Dental Advocacy in 2025

# Medicaid Dental Provider Network



- 30% of Kansas dentists are Medicaid providers
- 41 rural counties have no Medicaid dental provider

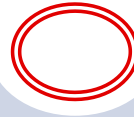
# Medicaid Dental Rates



- 4 out of 5 dentists say low Medicaid rates are the biggest barrier to providing care for Medicaid members
- The Medicaid dental rates in Colorado and Missouri are as much as twice as high as the Kansas rates
- Kansas rates are approximately 60% of private insurance rates and 37% of the average fee for service rates

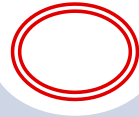


# Dental Medicaid Facilitator Program



- After the Missouri Legislature implemented a rate increase in 2022, our counterpart implemented a Dental Medicaid Facilitator program to help dental offices address the administrative barriers to becoming Medicaid providers
- The combination of a rate increase and the Dental Medicaid Facilitator program is a winning combination.
- Within two years:
  - Provider network grew by 450
  - 80,000 more people received care
  - Number of rural counties without a dentist went from 36 to 17

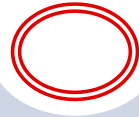
# Getting Started in Kansas



- Oral Health Kansas and our partners have a grant to begin our own Dental Medicaid Facilitator program
- We will do outreach to dental offices, especially in the 41 rural counties without a Medicaid provider
- We will provide technical assistance to dental offices to help them enroll and conquer administrative barriers



# Medicaid Dental Rate Increase



- Oral Health Kansas and our partners are advocating for a Medicaid dental rate increase to encourage more dental offices to become Medicaid providers
- Over three dozen organizations and dental offices have listed their names as supporters of a dental rate increase this year
- The 2024 Special Committee on Sedation Dentistry recommended an overall dental rate increase after studying the barriers to care
- The data and experience shows that combining a Dental Medicaid Facilitator program with a meaningful rate increase is a winning formula!



# **My Dental Care Passport**

# My Dental Care Passport



- Communications tool
  - Shares sensory needs and communications preferences for each person with a disability
  - Helps dental offices prepare for the unique needs of each person with a disability
- Gives dental offices and individuals more confidence
- Endorsed by Healthy Blue, United Healthcare, Sunflower Health Plan and the KDHE



# Passport Excerpts

## My Dental Care Passport

**For users:** This passport is unique to you. Please fill out all information that you think is important.

**For my dentist or healthcare provider:** This is key reading for all staff working with me. It gives important information about how I can be supported when visiting your clinic. This passport should be kept visible and used when you talk to me or have a question about me.

**Please check the box that applies:**

- ☐ I completed this form myself ☐ I completed this form with help from someone else

**This form was completed with help from:**

Name:  
Phone:  
E-mail:



## ABOUT ME

**My name is:**

I like to be called:|

Nickname if you have one.

**I am:** ☐ Male ☐ Female ☐ Transgender Male ☐ Transgender Female  
☐ Variant/Non-conforming ☐ Not listed\_\_\_\_\_

**My preferred pronoun is:**

☐ He ☐ She ☐ They ☐ Ze ☐ Not listed\_\_\_\_\_ ☐ No preference

**Where I live right now:**

For example: supported living; in my own home; in my family home.



## COMMUNICATION & BEHAVIOR

**Ways that I prefer to communicate with people:**

Check all that apply.

- ☐ Talk to me directly.  
☐ Give me time to process the questions.  
☐ I have a speech impairment and can be difficult to understand.  
☐ It takes time to form my words so please be patient.  
☐ Other:\_\_\_\_\_

**I communicate using:**

For example: speech, preferred language, sign language, communication devices or aids, pictures, non-verbal sounds. Also state if extra time/support is needed.

**Here are visual or verbal cues that will be useful to know about me:**

**Here are the ways I communicate some things:**

Worried; scared; angry:

Yes; Okay; I understand:

No; I do not understand:

Other:\_\_\_\_\_

**On most days, I would describe myself as:**

Check all that apply.

- ☐ Happy ☐ Quiet ☐ Nervous ☐ Other:  
☐ Sleepy ☐ Loud ☐ Angry

**These are the things I do sometimes that may be hard or dangerous:**

For example: limb movements that may strike your hand when holding a dental tool

**These are some things that can help me relax:**

Check all that apply.

- ☐ Earphones to block out noise  
☐ Eye covers to block light and activities  
☐ An object that helps me feel relaxed/secure  
For example: fidget spinner, security blanket  
☐ Other:\_\_\_\_\_



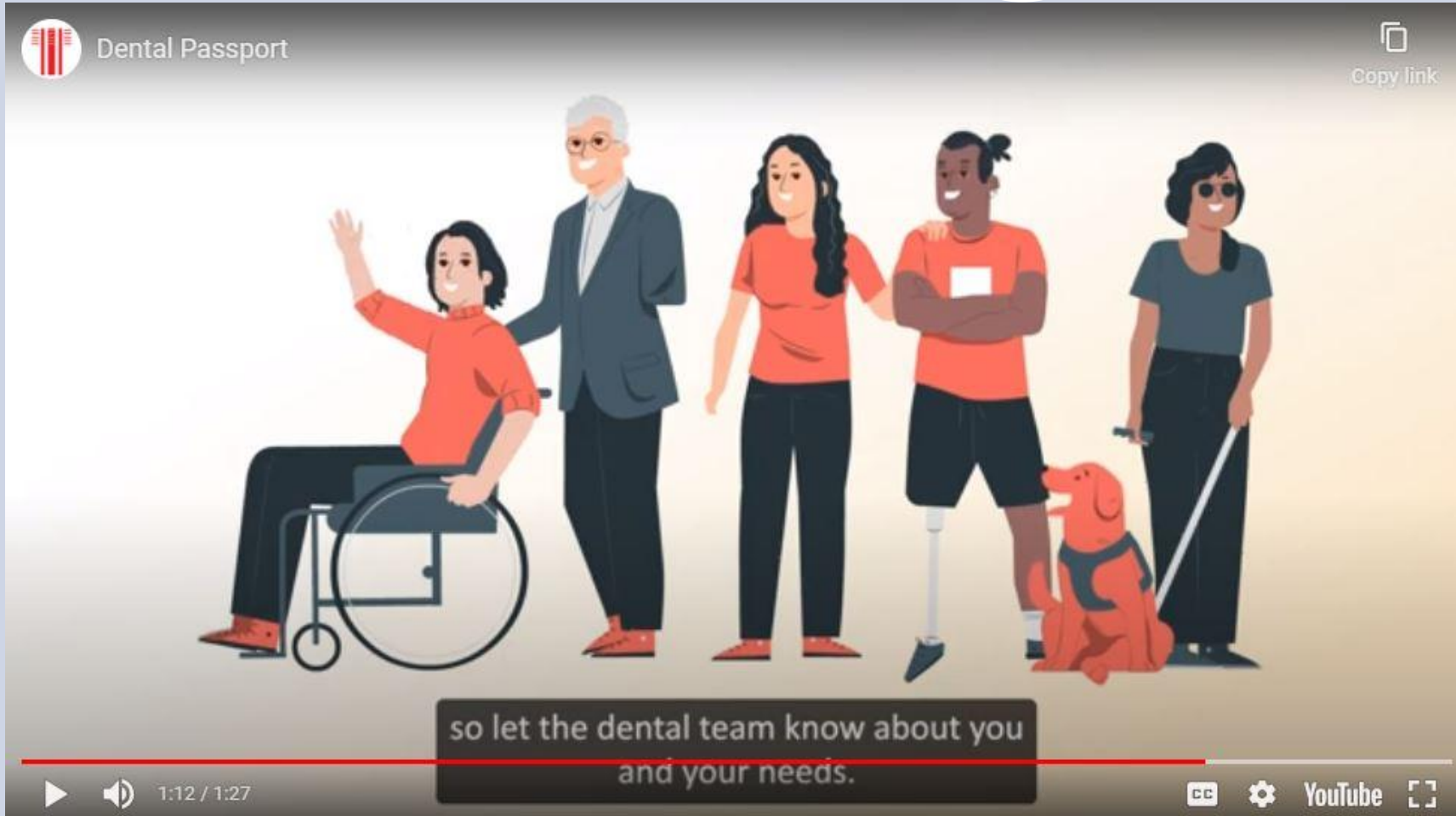
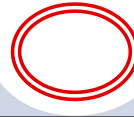
## SENSITIVITIES

**These are some things that can upset me:**

Check all that apply.

- ☐ Smell – office, perfume, cologne  
☐ Sounds – music, drill, phones, voices, clock  
☐ Sight – lights, overhead arm, mirrors, shiny tools  
☐ Positions – chair height and tilt, being “still,” lying flat  
☐ Closeness – people, water, light, x-ray machine  
☐ Touch/Temp –gloves, air, gauze, water, suction, room/water temperature, toothbrushing  
☐ Texture – toothpaste, gauze, cotton, metal  
☐ Pressure – seeking or aversion  
☐ Taste – gloves, toothpaste, fluoride

# My Dental Care Passport



<http://www.oralhealthkansass.org/DentalPassport.html>

OR

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XOooeIU-RDM>

# My Dental Care Passport

Tips and Tricks for Passport Users and their Families and Caregivers

## WHAT?

My Dental Care Passport is unique to you. It allows you to tell the dental team about yourself and your needs before you enter the office. The Passport will give you prompts on topics like how you communicate, past visits to the dentist, likes and dislikes and how you move.

## WHO?

Created for people with Intellectual and Developmental disabilities, the Passport can be used by both children and adults who face challenges when visiting the dentist. The Passport asks about experiences in the past and how you feel now, so you may find it helpful to have a family member or caregiver help you when you are filling it out.

## WHY?

It is critical you visit the dentist to make sure your teeth and mouth are healthy. If the dentist can get to know you better as a person, they can best prepare for your visit and work to make your trip to the dentist as successful as possible.



## WHERE?

Available in English and Spanish at:

[www.oralhealthkansas.org/DentalPassport.html](http://www.oralhealthkansas.org/DentalPassport.html)

OR

Scan the QR code

## My Dental Care Passport

**For users:** This passport is unique to you. Please fill out all information that you think is important.

**For my dentist or healthcare provider:** This is key reading for all staff working with me. It gives important information about how I can be supported when visiting your clinic. This passport should be kept visible and used when you talk to me or have a question about me.

Please check the box that applies:

☐ I completed this form myself ☐ I completed this form with help from someone else

This form was completed with help from:

Name:

Phone:

E-mail:



## ABOUT ME

My name is:

I like to be called:

Nickname if you have one:

I am: ☐ Male ☐ Female ☐ Transgender Male ☐ Transgender Female ☐ Variant/Non-conforming ☐ Not listed

My preferred pronoun is:

☐ He ☐ She ☐ They ☐ Ze ☐ Not listed ☐ No preference

Where I live right now:

## WHEN?

Your Passport is most useful when you complete and send it to the dental office BEFORE the day of your appointment. You should discuss with your office how they would like to receive your Passport e.g. by e-mail, by mail. This gives the dental team time to learn about you, make any necessary adjustments, and add the Passport to your records.

## HOW?

- Only complete what you feel comfortable sharing. This information will only be available to the dental office team. It will not be shared with anyone else, including other healthcare providers, without your permission.
- You can complete the Passport online or you can print it and fill it out by hand.
- You may need help from a family member or caregiver to complete the Passport.



# My Dental Care Passport

Tips and Tricks for the Dental Office Team

My Dental Care Passport is designed to help people with Intellectual and Development Disabilities voice their individual needs.

Use of the Passport can:

- Improve the dental team-patient relationship
- Allow you to best prepare for an appointment before an individual even enters the office
- Save time and resources
- Increase the chance of a successful visit

My Dental Care Passport is unique to the individual user. It contains personal information and descriptions of personal experiences. It is not to be shared with anyone outside of your dental office team, including other healthcare professionals, without the owners permission.

## You can download the Passport:

Available in English and Spanish:

[www.oralhealthkansas.org/DentalPassport.html](http://www.oralhealthkansas.org/DentalPassport.html)

Or Scan the QR code



## HOW TO USE IT?

1) Share the Passport with the patient *before* their first appointment. This can be done via e-mail, mail, QR code- please select a method that suits both your office and the patient. Advise the patient/family/caregiver to complete the document and return it to you *before* the day of their visit.

2) All members of staff who will interact with the patient should read the document prior to the individual attending the appointment. This may include the dentist, hygienist, dental assistants and reception team.

3) Discuss the appointment as a team, develop an appointment plan, and make necessary adjustments to the office environment.

4) When the patient arrives, review the Passport together and attach the document to the patient records.

5) Before the patient's next visit, review 'My Dental Care Passport'.



ORAL HEALTH KANSAS



Aetna Better Health of Kansas



# Education Programs



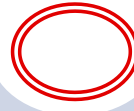
# Consumer Education



- Feeling Good About Your Smile – hands on education for people with IDD
- Brush Book Bed – program to help families of young children create bedtime routines
- Begin with a Grin – education for medical providers about integrating oral health in their practices
- Success Begins with a Smile – education for youth in juvenile detention centers



# Provider Education: Project ECHO Series



- Five-part training series for dental teams
  - Bridging the Gap in Care for Individuals with Disabilities
  - A Multidisciplinary Approach to Inclusive Oral Health Care
  - Creating a Sensory Inclusive Dental Office Environment
  - Behavioral Strategies to Improve Patient Experience
  - Fostering an Accessible and Welcoming Environment in the Dental Office

## **ACCESSIBLE ORAL HEALTH 2023 ECHO:**

**BUILDING CONFIDENCE IN  
SERVING PEOPLE WITH  
DISABILITIES**

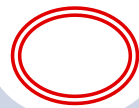
October 19 - November 16, 2023  
12:00 - 1:00 PM CST

**Coming Soon: Accessible Oral Health 2024 ECHO September-October 2024**



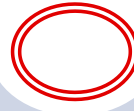
# Advisory Groups

# Lived Experience Advisory Group



- Includes individuals with disabilities and their families
- Participates in monthly meetings
- Advises Oral Health Kansas on consumer resources and advocacy strategies
- Provides education for dental professionals
- Shares mutual support

# NEW: Dental Provider Advisory Group



**DENTAL PROVIDER  
ADVISORY GROUP**

Share your experiences and explore existing barriers and possible strategies as we work to improve the dental landscape for providers and all Kansans.



**Who:** Dentists & Dental Hygienists  
**Where:** Virtual  
**When:** Quarterly Meetings  
**Time:** Approx. 8 hours/year  
**A stipend will be provided**

Scan the **QR code** or **[click here](#)** to learn more

For further information please contact  
**Info@oralhealthkansas.org**

Goal: Understand the experiences of dental providers delivering dental care across the state.

- Dentists
- Dental Hygienists
- Medicaid providers
- Private practice providers
- Safety-net clinic providers
- Sedation & non-sedation dental providers
- Rural and urban providers
- Quarterly meetings

Scan the QR code



or click here to  
sign up for our

**Weekly**  
**Wednesday**  
**Update.**



**ORAL HEALTH KANSAS**  
ADVOCACY • PUBLIC AWARENESS • EDUCATION

**Tanya Dorf Brunner, Executive Director**  
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[\*\*www.oralhealthkansas.org\*\*](http://www.oralhealthkansas.org)