



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](#).

October 12, 2022

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Meet the Speakers

We are less than a month away from the annual Conference on Oral Health. Are you as excited as we are? The early bird registration ends **TODAY**. If you have not registered, you still have time. Register to attend virtually or in person. A registrant

commented, “it looks like it’s going to be an informative and fun conference.” It is! Just check out the agenda below!

Thursday, November 3

6:00pm Dental Champions Leadership Program Reception

Friday, November 4

7:30 am Exhibits and Registration Open

8:30 am Impacting Dental Disparities in Kansas

Panelists:

- Kevin Robertson, MPA, CAE, Kansas Dental Association
- Mark Herzog, DDS
- Alice Weingartner, MEd, Community Care Network of Kansas

9:20 am Integrating Care for Kansans

Panelists:

- Laura Gigstad, RDH, ECP III, Heartland Community Health Center
- Nick Kim, RDH, HealthCore Clinic
- Kathy Hunt, RDH, ECP II, Oral Health Kansas, Inc.

10:40 am Kansas Policy Landscape

Stuart Little, PhD, Little Government Relations

11:30 am Lunch Keynote: Understanding the History of Racism in Healthcare

Carlos Smith, DDS, MDiv, FACD, Virginia Commonwealth University School of Dentistry

1:30 pm Using Equity to Improve Oral Health for Kansans with Disabilities

Panelists:

- Seth McGinnes, NAMI-Kansas
- Kathy Keck, Advocate
- Ben Hudson, CPA, Sensory Health

2:20 pm New Kansas Dental Benefits Bring Smiles

Tanya Dorf Brunner, Oral Health Kansas

3:40 pm Taking Care of Yourself When the Work Gets Tough

Vanessa Lohf, LBSW, WSU Community Engagement Institute

Register [here!](#)



Melissa Burroughs



Colin Reusch

Don't Miss the Next FREE Webinar

Last week we kicked off the virtual pre-conference sessions. We'll be having FREE webinars on Fridays at noon during the month of October. This Friday, we will learn from federal policy experts! [Melissa Burroughs](#) is the Associate Director for Strategic Partnerships at Families USA. [Colin Reusch](#) is

the Senior Advisor for oral health policy at Community Catalyst. will review the current federal oral health policy issues, including Medicare and Medicaid dental coverage, and share ways Kansas advocates can get involved.

Register for the sessions [here](#).

The next two sessions coming up are listed below:

- October 21 - Oral Health Policy Across the Country
- October 28 - Advocating for policy change in Kansas



Voter Registration Deadline in One Week

The deadline to register to vote is October 18. You can check your voter registration status, request an advance ballot, and check your polling location [at myvoteinfo.voteks.org](https://myvoteinfo.voteks.org).

Ballotpedia is a website that shows you all the candidates in your district and shares details about the two constitutional amendments. Simply [enter your home address on the Ballotpedia website](#) to learn who and what will be on the ballot for your vote in November.

Deadlines to remember for General Election:

October 18: Deadline to [register to vote](#) in the General Election

October 19: First day advance by mail ballots are mailed and advance in-person voting may begin

November 1: Deadline for votes to [apply for advance mail ballot](#)

November 8: General Election



National Dental Hygiene Month

October is National Dental Hygiene Month and this year's theme is Empowered! As a dental hygienist, how do you empower yourself or your patients? At OHK, we provide consumers with oral health [resources](#) to help

them make informed decisions about their oral health. Here are some simple ways to keep your mouth healthy:

- Drink tap water instead of sugary drinks
- Don't snack all day! If you're going to snack, eat it in one sitting. Less acid attacks on your teeth!
- Brush at least twice a day for two minutes
- Floss! Make it a routine to floss every day
- Visit the dentist every 6 months

Now that you have learned what you can do to keep your mouth healthy, make sure to thank your dental hygienist for the work they do to help keep your mouth healthy. Your mouth is unique and they take the time to review your history and learn about your family because they want you to have a strong bill of health!



Upcoming Events

- **Webinar: New Guidance on Infection Prevention**, October 13 at 6:00pm CST. Register [here](#).
- **Water Fluoridation Summit** (in person and virtual), October 13-14, 2022 at the Holiday Inn in Poplar Bluff, Missouri. Click [here](#) to register.
- **2022 Conference on Oral Health**: Friday, November 4.

Conference will be a hybrid event. Thursday, November 3: Dental Champions Reception.

Conference on Oral Health Preconference Sessions (register [here](#))

- October 14 - Federal Oral Health Policy
- October 21 - Oral Health Policy Across the Country
- October 28 - Advocating for policy change in Kansas

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Thank you to our friend Tira Cunningham, RDH, ECP, for presenting to the Ridgeview Village residents in Olathe. Today she is talking to them about how to maintain their oral health, ways to manage dry mouth and also had them participate in an acid attack

demonstration. Previously Tira had also helped us with another project providing dental hygiene care to older adults who live independently in HUD apartments in Johnson County. Thank you Tira for being so helpful!



Sugary Drink Display

Click [here](#) to learn more about sugary drink display reservations!

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