



## 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](#).

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Wednesday  
Update.\*\*](#)

## The Conference on Oral Health Begins THIS Friday

We are **TWO days** away from our annual Conference on Oral Health. We are excited to see everyone in person at the KU Edwards Campus in Overland Park on Friday, October 27, or virtually via Zoom. If you registered to attend virtually, check your emails for your Zoom link. The email will be the one you registered with.



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Registration includes meals and access to all sessions! Exhibitors will be set up in the same room as the conference sessions so that you can visit with them at any time! Some of our sponsors will also be present so please make sure to say hello! We'll have national and state speakers! Help us in celebrating the 2023 Excellence in Oral Health award winners! CE's will be available! And so much more!

Thank you to our 2023 Conference on Oral Health Sponsors. Their support is invaluable!

Check out the agenda [here](#) for the Conference on Oral Health



## Join a Free Workshop Series and Build Confidence

Last week, we kicked off the first of five web-based series to help build confidence in serving people with disabilities. The series aims to increase dental care access for Kansans with disabilities through the education of the dental teams and professionals involved in the dental journey of individuals with intellectual / developmental disabilities (IDD). Keep in mind, you do not need to be a dental professional to attend! Series includes raising awareness of IDD, destigmatization, communication strategies,

sensory awareness, the importance of teamwork (both within the dental team, with care coordinators, and with other healthcare professionals), and introduction to existing tools and resources. This series is not only a practice builder, but also a great opportunity for team building and education.

All courses will be held via Zoom from 12:00PM - 1:00 PM CST and free of charge but you must register.

Oral Health Kansas and the Pathways to Oral Health Team are proud to partner with the University of Kansas Medical Center and Aetna Better Health of Kansas to bring you these FREE sessions.

Learn more and register through the [University of Kansas Medical Center](#) before spots fill up!

Contact Oral Health Kansas at [info@oralhealthkansas.org](mailto:info@oralhealthkansas.org) with questions



## Learn About the New KanCare Contracts

Beginning today, the Kansas Department of Health & Environment (KDHE) is hosting virtual meetings to discuss the latest information on the renewal of KanCare managed care organization contracts. If you missed today's session you will have another opportunity on **Thursday, October 26**. KDHE staff will provide updates and information about KanCare, and attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions about how input gathered last spring was used to create the new requests for proposal (RFPs) for the new KanCare contracts.

There are two different versions of the meeting: one for KanCare members and families, and one for providers and advocates. These meetings are not mandatory for KanCare members, just a way to stay involved in the process.

### **KanCare members & families:**

Thursday, October 26, 6pm - 8pm - [RSVP for this session here](#)

### **Providers & advocates:**

Thursday, October 26, 1pm - 3pm - [RSVP for this session here](#)

You can find more information about the RFP process and these meetings, including fliers in Spanish [on the KanCare website](#).

## February is National Children's Dental Health Month

Start preparing early for National Children's Dental Health (NCDHM) in February. The NCDHM materials are ready for order! Visit [www.ada.org/NCDHM](http://www.ada.org/NCDHM) to order FREE bilingual Posters and Postcards. Additional resources, including activity sheets and a planning guide, can be found on the NCDHM website as well.

You can also reserve a Sugary Drink Display to teach families about how much sugar is in drinks! The display comes with everything you need to set up quickly at schools, dental offices,



health departments, libraries or just about anywhere you want. It's free! Learn more [here](#) or reach out to us at [info@oralhealthkansas.org](mailto:info@oralhealthkansas.org) with questions.



## Upcoming Events

- Course: An Introduction to Value-Based Care in Oral Health: Moving from Volume to Value, 1 CE. Click [here](#) for the course information.
- Self paced courses: [Providing Oral Health Care to Autistic Individuals](#) and [Caring for Individuals with Disabilities: Practical Considerations for Dental Providers](#).
- October 19 - November 16: New training series: Accessible Oral Health 2023: Building Confidence in Serving People with Disabilities. Learn more and register through the [University of Kansas Medical Center](#).
- [Conference on Oral Health](#) - hybrid conference on Friday, October 27 at the KU Edwards Campus.
- **Webinar:** Community Engagement & Cross-Sector Collaboration Learning Community Registration, December 13. Click here: [bit.ly/3L2Yz11](https://bit.ly/3L2Yz11)



Congratulations to OHK Board Member and Treasurer, Melanie Simmer-Beck, PhD, RDH on co-authoring a manuscript in the October *Journal of Dental Hygiene* mega issue published in partnership with the International Journal of Dental Hygiene. [The article, Dental Hygiene and](#)

*Direct Access to Care: Past and Present*, reflects on opportunities and barriers as they relate to workforce policy, provides examples of effective state policies, and illustrates an educational curriculum specifically created to prepare dental hygienists to provide oral health services in settings outside of the dental office. We are proud of Dr. Simmer-Beck's leadership!



## Sugary Drink Display

We have Adult and Children's Sugary Drink Display's available for reservations. These displays are eye catching at exhibits, schools, library, dental offices, clinics and just about anywhere you see them!

We only have a limited amount so please sign up soon if you're interested in reserving one. Click [here](#) to learn more about sugary drink display reservations!

## Follow Us



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