



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 26, 2022

Volume 13, Issue 43



We Wish You Well!

In the summer of 2017 a new face joined the Oral Health Kansas team. Christi Wells had just completed her Masters of Public Health at the University of Kansas Medical Center. She jumped into oral health policy work with both feet and led our organization to some big policy wins, including Medicaid dental rate increases in 2019 and 2020. Christi led our Dental Homes for Kids work to increase access to dental care for kids with intellectual and developmental disabilities. She was active in our conference planning, led the advocacy committee, and was the first to volunteer for new projects. Christi also became our chief grant writer and is gifted at telling our story. We turn to her for her turn of a phrase, and we are always met with a smile and some great prose.

Not only has Christi been a leader at Oral Health Kansas, but also in the broader public health world. She served as the state representative for the Oral Health Progress and Equity Network's (OPEN) Midwest leadership team, and she serves on the board for the Kansas Public Health Association. She is the president-elect and will lead that organization in 2023.

Christi is ending her time with Oral Health Kansas this week. To say we will miss her is an understatement. She's an indelible part of this organization. During the pandemic she and her husband welcomed their first child, and we all enjoyed getting to know their darling baby as she joined our Zoom staff meetings and delighted us with her smiles and waves. We know Christi will always be around when we need her, and we wish her all the best. Oral Health Kansas is a better organization because she's been a part of it.



Confirm Your Attendance!

The Conference on Oral Health is Friday, November 4. The last day to register is October 30. Join us in this all day event packed with information! There are two options to join. In person or virtual but of course in person allows you to:

- Visit with colleagues and network with people from around the state
- Meet speakers in person
- Enjoy all meals (included with registration)
- No outside distractions or technology fails

Date: Friday, November 4 with an evening reception November 3

Location: [Kansas State Olathe](#)

Registration: \$125 and \$15 for students

[Watch](#) our pre-conference session series and attend the conference for an opportunity to earn up to 11.5 CE's.



Understanding the History of Racism in Healthcare

Dr. Carlos Smith, Inaugural Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and Director of Ethics Curriculum and Associate Professor at Virginia Commonwealth University School of Dentistry, will be our Keynote Speaker at the Conference on Oral Health November 4. Dr. Smith will discuss the history of how racism has affected access to health and dental care and share insights about how we can do better to address the real disparities people face

each day.

Hear one of Dr. Smith's students share what she had learned from his class! Click [here](#) to view the video.



Voting has Begun

Last week advanced voting for the general election began. If you applied for advanced voting, you should have received an advance ballot. If you are voting by mail, remember that all ballots **MUST** be postmarked on or before election day (November 7) and be received in the county election office by the close of business on the Friday following the election.

You can vote in advance in person in many counties. Oral Health Kansas' Tanya Dorf Brunner voted this week at the [Shawnee County Election Office](#), which is open on weekdays from 8 am to 7 pm. Contact your local election office or county clerk's office to find out when you can vote in advance.

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.**

If you choose to vote in person, a photographic identification is required.

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

November 8: General Election



Enjoy Halloween and Take Care of Your Teeth

Families are spending weekends visiting trunk or treats and gathering lots of candy. Everyone likes sweets. We cannot deny that and we cannot say "don't eat candy". It's ok to eat the candy but limit the amount and choose when to eat it. Eating after a meal will help the candy rinse away in your mouth.

Remember to drink tap water to swish it away. Try to avoid candy that sticks to

your teeth!

Some dental offices offer to buy your candy from you such as Little Chompers Pediatric Dentistry in Leavenworth. Search dental offices in your area to see if they're offering this!

Have a safe and Happy Halloween!



Upcoming Events

- **2022 Conference on Oral Health:** Friday, November 4. Conference will be a hybrid event. Thursday, November 3: Dental Champions Reception.
- **Conference on Oral Health last Preconference Sessions** October 28 - Advocating for policy change in Kansas. (register [here](#)).

Deadlines to remember for General Election:

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



miss you!

This week we held our last staff meeting before saying goodbye to Christi Wells. We all live and work in different places, so we have enjoyed our Zoom staff meetings as a way to stay connected. Thanks so much to Christi for all your years of service at Oral Health Kansas. The team will



Sugary Drink Display

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

Follow Us



Oral Health Kansas • PO BOX 4567Topeka, KS 66604
785.235.6039 phone • 785.233.5564 faxinfo@oralhealthkansas.org
Copyright 2022