



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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[**Weekly
Wednesday
Update.**](#)

Free Pre-Conference Webinar October 13

Pre-conference session, Introduction to Oral Health, kicks off the 2023 Conference on Oral Health. Dr. Adam Barefoot, DMD, MPH, Chief Dental Officer at the federal Health Resources and Services Administration, is eager to present to you 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.

The webinar is FREE but you must [register](#). Registration information including Zoom link will be sent out via email.



Still Time to Register for the Conference on Oral Health

It's now October and we're 23 days away from the Conference on Oral Health. The conference will bring together anyone who is interested in oral health, including students. You do not need to be a dental professional to attend our conference!

You can register to attend the conference virtually or in person. The sessions will be recorded and available to registered participants. Explore topics such as:

- Oral Health's Impact on Overall Health
- Oral Health Equity for People with Disabilities
- Addressing Dental Care Needs in Rural and Underserved Areas: Workforce Strategies
- Federal and State Oral Health Policy Check
- Improving Dental Access Through Medicaid: Policy Updates and Provider Insights

CE's will be available.

Fee: \$125 (\$20 student rate)

When: Friday, October 27

Registration opens at 7:30am. The day ends at 3:30pm

Click [here](#) to view the full schedule and register [here](#).

Where: University of Kansas Edwards Campus, 12600 Quivira Rd, Overland Park, KS 66213
Or join us virtually.

Lodging: TownePlace Suites Kansas City Overland Park, 7020 W. 133rd Street Overland Park, Kansas 66209, will have a limited number of rooms available. Click [here](#) to reserve your room by Thursday, October 5.



New Training Series Begins October 19

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 offer a new training series: Accessible Oral Health 2023: Building Confidence in Serving People with Disabilities.

This Project ECHO series will help dental teams learn more about people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, communication strategies, sensory awareness, as well as tools and resources for treating people with disabilities.

Dental teams, including dentists, hygienists, assistants, and receptionists are encouraged to attend and learn together, although you do not need to be a dental professional to attend! This series is not only a practice builder, but also a great opportunity for team building and education.

The series is available at lunchtime and is free of charge.

Learn more and register through the [University of Kansas Medical Center](https://www.kumc.edu/education/accessible-oral-health-2023).

Contact Oral Health Kansas at info@oralhealthkansas.org with questions.



New Webpage Provides Medical and Dental Integration Resources

Medical dental integration is a whole person centered approach to people's health. The mouth is part of the body but has been treated as a separate part of health. Oral Health Kansas recognizes this important concept and is working on two educational initiatives. Our new webpage, [Medical Dental Integration](#), shares educational activities and resources.

Check out the information and let us know what you think!

Check out the information and let us know what you think!



Medicaid Managed Care Contracts Open

On Monday the state of Kansas released their long awaited Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Medicaid managed care contracts. The Kansas Medicaid program has used managed care since 2013, and the current managed care organizations (MCOs) have been contracted in Kansas for the past five years. All three managed care contracts are up for bid, and several MCOs are planning to submit proposals.

The current MCO contracts run through December 31, 2024, the new contracts are set to begin on January 1, 2025. MCOs will need to submit their proposals by January 4, 2024, and the contracts are scheduled to be awarded April 12, 2024.

Oral Health Kansas has been in conversation with many of the MCOs considering bidding on the contracts throughout this year. We've been sharing ways in which the Medicaid dental program in Kansas can be improved, especially for people with disabilities.

In announcing the opening of the Medicaid managed care RFP, Governor Laura Kelly said, "My administration is committed to using every lever possible to improve health care across the state, which is why this RFP was carefully crafted to learn from past models and to find new ways to reach uninsured Kansans. This process is vital to providing the quality health care Kansas' Medicaid recipients deserve."

Learn more about the Kansas Medicaid RFP in [this press release from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment](#).



Last week the Oral Health Kansas Board of Directors met in Topeka and were pleased to be joined by Kansas Department of Health and Environment Secretary Janet Stanek, Deputy Secretary Ashley Goss, State Dental Director Dr. Dayna Brinckman, Matt Lara, and Amalia

Almeda. The Board appreciated the opportunity to meet in person with agency leadership. Thank you to these leaders and other agency staff who made time for a good conversation with Oral Health Kansas leaders.



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!

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