



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.**



Ten Thousand Kansas Adults Received Dental Care in 2022

On Sunday, November 12, Topeka Capital Journal shared an op-ed by Oral Health Kansas Executive Director, Tanya Dorf Brunner. She shares the work legislators have done to invest in dental care for Kansans covered by Medicaid including

access to fillings, crowns and gum disease care and recently, dentures. Oral Health Kansas is working with KanCare Managed Care Organizations to help them understand what's covered and how it works, so in turn they can educate their provider networks.

Read Tanya's full op-ed in the Topeka Capital Journal [here](#). Our Medicaid Adult Dental [webpage](#) provides information for consumer and providers.



OHK Staff Presents at National Network of Oral Health Access Conference

Last week, Kathy and MaryAnne were delighted to present 'Smiles Without Barriers: Enhancing Dental Care for People with Disabilities' at the National Network for Oral Health Access (NNOHA) annual conference in Denver, Colorado. NNOHA is a nationwide organization dedicated to the inclusion of oral health in community healthcare settings and, like our 'Pathways to Oral Health' initiative, holds equitable access to high quality healthcare at its core. With an estimated 100 individuals representing dentists, dental hygienists, community health center leadership, primary care associations and more, in attendance, Kathy and MaryAnne took participants on a journey through our 'Pathways to Oral Health' initiative- Oral Health Kansas' collaborative project designed to improve dental care for Kansans with disabilities. By sharing unique insights from our work, participants were guided through both the existing barriers to care and opportunities to overcome them in their place of work, including the use of 'My Dental Care Passport' communication tool, our Project ECHO education series, strategies to modify the dental office sensory environment, and the power of leveraging community voices. We look forward to continuing our leadership in this work moving forward.

You can register for the FINAL session of Project ECHO: Accessible Oral Health 2023, taking place on Thursday 11/16 at 12pm CST here: <https://www.kumc.edu/community-engagement/our-divisions/project-echo/current-series/accessible-oral-health-2023-echo.html>.

You can find 'My Dental Care Passport' in both English and Spanish at <https://www.oralhealthkansas.org/DentalPassport.html>.



Kansas Mission of Mercy Volunteer Sign Up Begins November 27

The Kansas Mission of Mercy will be held in Salina on January 12 and 13. Volunteer registration will open up on November 27. We will keep you posted and you can also check out the [Kansas Dental Charitable](#)

[Foundation website](#) with volunteer information.



Last Virtual Session TOMORROW for ECHO Series

The last session for the FREE Accessible Oral Health 2023 ECHO series is tomorrow, November 16. The session will begin at **12:00pm CST and CE's** are available.

- **Thursday, November 16**, learn about “Fostering an Accessible and Welcoming Environment in the Dental Office” with Speakers Nick Rogers, DDS, Rogers Family Dentistry and Billie Donohue, CDA - Chairside Assistant, Patient Coordinator, Rogers Family Dentistry, Arkansas City, Kansas.

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! The 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), as well as introducing tools and resources. This series is not only a practice builder, but also a great opportunity for team building and education and CE's are available.

All courses will be held via Zoom from 12:00PM - 1:00 PM CST and are **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 with questions.



Prevention and Management Best Practice for Childhood Caries

The Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors (ASTDD) [Best Practices Committee](#) announced the posting of the updated ASTDD Best Practice Approach Report, [Early Childhood Caries: Prevention and Management](#).

This report asserts that prevention is more effective in addressing early childhood caries than invasive treatment procedures. Improving oral hygiene and oral health literacy of caregivers can positively affect the oral health of children. The American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry recommends children establish a dental home by 12 months of age. Prior to this first dental visit, most young children have frequent well-child visits with their primary care provider, who can educate parents about protecting, improving, and maintaining the child's health.

Check out our [Consumer Resources](#) page with ways to help prevent cavities.



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](#).
- **Webinar:** Barriers and Opportunities for Improving Dental Healthcare Access, Utilization, and Outcomes for People Living with HIV/AIDS November 29, 12:00pm CST. Click [here](#).

- **Webinar:** Community Engagement & Cross-Sector Collaboration Learning Community Registration, December 13. Click here: bit.ly/3L2Yz11



OHK staff member, Sonia Olmos and OHK Board Member, Veronica Byrd, attended the

[TeamSmile](#) event in Kansas City at Arrowhead Stadium. Hundreds of children from the area came to receive free dental care from volunteers. The event was a fun day filled with music, oral health education and of course, Chiefs players and cheerleaders! Sonia and Veronica visited with the children who eagerly gathered at the table wanting to see our Sugary Drink Display and do the Acid Attack Kit themselves so they could see what happens to their teeth when acid attack occurs. Lets just say, several children made faces when they realized what they put in their mouth matters to their teeth!



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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