



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.**



OHK Interviews with Local TV Station

Last week Oral Health Kansas' Executive Director was interviewed on a local TV morning news show - [Fox 43 AM News Live](#). She shared details about the Medicaid dental benefits available for adults and

some of the resources Oral Health Kansas has available for consumers. It was a great opportunity to get the word out about the benefits and how Oral Health Kansas is helping consumers understand how to access them. Thanks to Fox 43 AM News Live and Dane Kroll for sharing this news!



Physician Assistant Students Learn about Oral Health

Over the last two years, Oral Health Kansas has collaborated with the [100 Million Mouths Campaign](#), through the Center for Integration of Primary Care and Oral Health. CIPCOH is a joint endeavor of Harvard University Schools of Medicine and

Dental Medicine, the Harvard Medical School Center for Primary Care, and the University of Massachusetts Medical School's Department of Family Medicine and Community Health, in partnership with MCPHS University (formerly the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences), and Stony Brook University to assist medical schools in Kansas in incorporating oral health education into their curricula. In recent weeks, Kathy Hunt, RDH, our Dental Program Director, along with Dr. Taylor Pratt, DMD, Director of Dental Services at Konza Prairie Community Health Center, and Dr. Charles Abbick, DDS, Executive Director of Dental Services at Salina Family Healthcare Center, spearheaded the 2nd Annual Oral Health Day event for the Physician Assistant Program at Kansas State University in Manhattan.

During this event, physician assistant students learned about oral health topics spanning the entire lifespan, gained practical experience in applying fluoride varnish, and observed the administration of local anesthesia in the oral cavity. One of our objectives is to enhance the students' awareness of the pivotal role oral health plays in overall well-being and bolster their confidence in applying this knowledge throughout their professional journey. The other objective is to incorporate this oral health training program into the curriculum at the K-State Physician Assistant Program. Given the interest at K-State and the physician assistant students, along with the eager participation of local dentists, it is clear we are well on our way to creating a sustainable way to ensure future physician assistants in Kansas are prepared to incorporate oral health in their practices.

You can learn more about the 100 Million Mouths Campaign and medical dental integration on our [website](#).



National Diabetes Month

November is National Diabetes Month! According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention if you have diabetes, taking care of your oral health is critical to keeping you healthy! White blood cells are your body's main way to fight infections that can occur in the mouth. If the sugar level is high in your blood, it's high in your saliva too. Learn more on their [website](#) about diabetes and oral health. Oral Health Kansas has a short [Tip and Trick](#) on what you can look for in your mouth and how to keep your mouth healthy if you have diabetes.



Virtual Convening about Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program in Kansas

The Kansas Health Institute (KHI) in collaboration with the Kansas Legislative Research Department will hold a virtual Pop Up convening about Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program. The event will be December 7 from 1:30pm - 2:30pm and will provide an overview of Medicaid and CHIP, analysis of recent trends, policy changes in Kansas and general information about covered services and populations. KHI is offering continuing education credits for the following professionals - physicians, APRNs, RNs and social workers. Other participants may request a certificate of attendance. Instructions to receive credit or a certificate will be provided at the event. Register [here](#)



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Attend a Community Conversation about KanCare Expansion

United Methodist Health Ministry Fund (UMHMF) and Thrive Kansas want to invite you to a conversation on the future of rural health and KanCare expansion, with community conversations taking place across the state. Each meeting will include roundtable discussions on the changing health care landscape and what expansion would

mean to your local community, and connect residents with resources and programs available now. Register [here](#).



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](#).
- **Webinar:** Pediatric Dentistry: A House of Mirrors, December 6, 5:00PM CST. 1 Hour CDE Credit. Register [here](#).
- **Webinar:** Community Engagement & Cross-Sector Collaboration Learning Community Registration, December 13. Click here: bit.ly/3L2Yz11
- **Save the date!** 2024 Conference on Oral Health will be Friday, November 8.



Congratulations to Dr. Mark Herzog for completing eight years on the Kansas Dental Board, including serving as the President for the past few years. Dr. Herzog is a former Oral Health Kansas Board member and was in our first Dental Champions class in 2004.



He is a leader in our state, and we are proud of his service.

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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