



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.

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Looking for Members to Join our New Lived Experience Advisory Group

Oral Health Kansas has always been dedicated to improving the oral health of underserved, uninsured, and underinsured Kansans. Due to systemic barriers in place for decades, many of those Kansans have disparities due to their race, ethnicity, age, or disability. Research and



data can help us definitively show the disparities, but it is the stories that help us identify the solutions needed to increase access to care.

We are forming a Lived Experience Advisory Group of people who have Medicaid experience and have had difficulty receiving dental care. The experience people have had will help us identify solutions to improve the system as well as illustrate why the challenges are urgent and important. Members of the Advisory Group will meet

quarterly, and we will provide stipends for their time.

[View](#) the short application form to see if it's a good fit for you. Or [share the form](#) and flyer with others that may be interested! [Share our flyer](#) with your networks and individuals who may be interested. If you have any questions, email Devaki Menon at dmenon@oralhealthkansas.org.



International People with Disabilities Day

International Day of Persons with Disabilities is a day that is celebrated every year on December 3. The day is about promoting the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities at every level of society and development, and to raise awareness of the situation of persons with disabilities in all aspects of political, social, economic, and cultural life.

People with developmental disabilities such as autism, cerebral palsy, Down syndrome, and other cognitive disabilities experience challenges in accomplishing daily

activities, especially self-care activities such as toothbrushing. People with physical disabilities may share similar struggles. Oral Health Kansas has created resources to help with mobility challenges. [Adaptive Aids for Toothbrushing](#) and a [booklet](#) "How to keep toothbrushing in your routine when experiencing limited mobility" are both available on our website to view. We also provide a workshop, Feeling Good About Your Smile. It's a fun oral health workshop for adults with intellectual disabilities. Contact Kathy Hunt at khunt@oralhealthkansas.org with questions or for more information.



Continue Celebrating National American Indian Heritage Month

November is Native American Heritage Month, or as it is commonly referred to, American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month. Native Americans endure a legacy of healthcare disparities, leading to disproportionate

disease rates.

The [Indian Health Service](#) states, the American Indian and Alaska Native people have long experienced lower health status when compared with other Americans. Lower life expectancy and the disproportionate disease burden exist perhaps because of inadequate education, disproportionate poverty, discrimination in the delivery of health services, and cultural differences. These are broad quality of life issues rooted in economic adversity and poor social conditions. Oral diseases affect the majority of the American Indian and Alaska Native population and their prevalence is significantly greater than observed in other demographic sectors of the U.S.

What can we do?

- Provide oral health education
- Understand how culture affects well being interventions
- Look at the individual as a community

Check out [Consumer Resources](#) webpage for resources that may be helpful!



Upcoming Events

- **Webinar: Evaluation with Health Equity in Mind**, December 1 at 2 p.m. CST. Register [here](#).
- **Webinar: SDF and More: New Ways to Manage Caries**, December 8 at 6 p.m. CST. Register [here](#).



This week we learned our friend and fellow advocate Broderick Crawford passed away after a long illness. Broderick was a member of the Wyandotte County Oral Health Coalition and served as the



president and former executive director of NBC Community Development Corporation in Kansas City, Kansas. He was actively involved in his community and truly cared about the well-being of the people in his community. Broderick was an advocate who spoke words of truth and was the voice for many. Channel 41 KSHB did a short story about him. You can read the story [here](#). Our thoughts go out to his family and friends.



Sugary Drink Display

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

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Oral Health Kansas • PO BOX 4567 Topeka, KS 66604
785.235.6039 phone • 785.233.5564 fax info@oralhealthkansas.org
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