

## 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](#).

**November 8, 2023**

Volume 14, Issue 45

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**Weekly  
Wednesday  
Update.**



## OHK to Co-Sponsor TeamSmile Event at Arrowhead Stadium

TeamSmile will be hosting a one-day event on Tuesday, November 14 at Arrowhead Stadium in Kansas City to provide dental services to over a hundred children in the area. Dentists, dental hygienists and assistants will volunteer their time to screen and treat the children. We

appreciate CareSource including Oral Health Kansas as a sponsor for this great event. We will be there with our Sugary Drink Display and Acid Attack Kit to help children understand what happens to our teeth when we eat too much sugar. Stay tuned!



## Native American Heritage Month

Native American Heritage Month, observed every November in the United States, celebrates the diverse Tribal cultures, traditions, and histories of American Indians and Alaska Natives. In a [report compiled by CareQuest Institute for Oral Health](#), in collaboration with the Society of American Indian Dentists, the National Indian Health Board and Southern Plains Tribal Health Board showed American Indians and Native Alaskans face a “disproportionate burden” of oral

health disease in the U.S. from childhood onward, a crisis with roots in structural racism and exacerbated by lack of access to healthy food and housing stability.

What can we do?

- Increase awareness and knowledge for all cultures
- Provide oral health education including oral health literacy
- Make efforts to integrate primary health and oral health

To begin with, you can view consumer resources on our [website](#). If you have any questions, let us know at [info@oralhealthkansas.org](mailto:info@oralhealthkansas.org).



## It's Time to Prioritize Oral Health for Veterans

As we prepare to recognize veterans for their service to our nation this Veterans Day weekend, it's important to understand that access to dental care can be a major challenge for our veterans. Routine dental care through the Veterans Administration is available to only about 15% of veterans. People's oral health is

connected to their overall health, and when veterans cannot get their dental needs taken care of, they face worsening chronic health problems. Dental issues can be a source of chronic

pain, discomfort, and even disability. Veterans who experience such conditions may have difficulty reintegrating into civilian life, securing employment, or enjoying their retirement years. It is also important to remember that veterans' mental health is connected to their oral health. Dental problems can affect self-esteem, self-confidence, and overall mental health. Addressing these issues can help veterans feel more positive and self-assured.

The [American Institute of Dental Public Health](#) (AIDPH) is a national leader in research and policy advocacy for veterans' oral health. According to AIDPH, roughly two in five veterans describe their oral health as fair or poor. "Veterans' experience poorer oral health outcomes compared to non-veterans; a reality exacerbated by the historically fragmented dental care systems that perpetuate inequities." In order to raise awareness of the un-met dental needs veterans experience, AIDPH developed a profile for each state to show the oral health status of the state's veterans. [The Kansas profile](#) shows that our state gets a grade of C when assessing how our state compares to other states in veteran health and wellbeing.

In addition to their veterans oral health research, AIDPH is leading the national advocacy to cover dental care through the Veterans Administration. In October, Oral Health Kansas met with members of our Congressional delegation to ask them to prioritize dental care for veterans. Learn more about how to get involved with AIDPH's veteran oral health advocacy in Kansas by contacting us at [info@oralhealthkansas.org](mailto:info@oralhealthkansas.org).

If you know a veteran who may be struggling with oral health issues, be there to listen and offer support. Sometimes, seeking treatment can be intimidating, and a supportive friend or family member can make a world of difference.

## Two Free Virtual Sessions Still Available

There are still two sessions left of the FREE Accessible Oral Health 2023 ECHO series. Both sessions will be at **12:00pm CST and CE's** are available.

- **Thursday, November 9**, learn about "Behavioral Strategies to Improve Patient Experience and Cooperation" with Speaker Christie Stiehl, MA, BCBA, LBA - Owner, Clinician, Stiehl Behavioral Consulting in Lawrence, Kansas.
- **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.

You can still sign up and view the last three sessions that will be available. 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 CEs 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](mailto:info@oralhealthkansas.org) with questions.

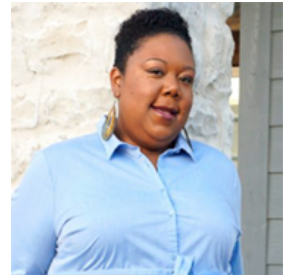


## Upcoming Events

- 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](https://bit.ly/3L2Yz11)



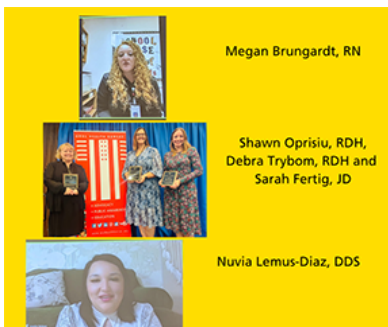
Congratulations to Dental Champions Class IV member and former Oral Health Kansas Board member, Amber Sellers on her re-election to the Lawrence City Commission. She first took office in 2021. With Amber's background in public policy and community engagement, we know she'll continue to do great work for Lawrencians.



## 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!



## Correction in Weekly Wednesday Update

Last week, we incorrectly shared the titles of our Excellence in Oral Health Award winners in the picture that joined the article. We apologize for not catching that and have corrected it.

If you ever see a mistake while reading our Weekly Wednesday

Update, please don't hesitate to send us a message at [info@oralhealthkansas.org](mailto:info@oralhealthkansas.org). We work quickly and don't always see our mistakes!

## Follow Us



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