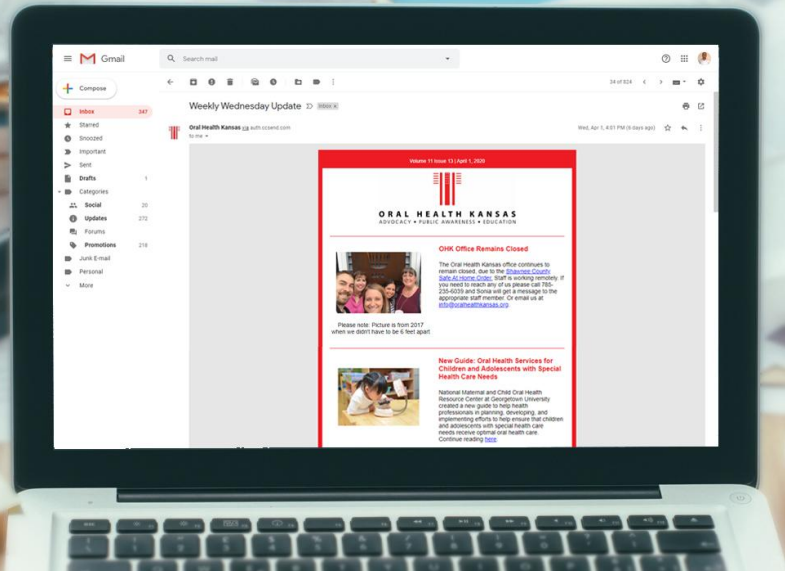




ORAL HEALTH KANSAS
ADVOCACY • PUBLIC AWARENESS • EDUCATION



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](#).

Click here to sign up for our [Weekly Wednesday Update](#).

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Another Successful Annual Conference

Last Friday, November 4, was the day of our first hybrid Conference on Oral Health. We were excited to see new faces both in person and on the virtual platform, and it was great to see so much engagement among attendees. OHK staff walked away that day feeling inspired by our speakers as well as our participants. You are the ones out in the field and community working



with Kansans and helping improve their lives and health. The stories and experiences you shared at our conference help us understand the work we all must continue to do!

We also wanted to thank again our sponsors and exhibitors. We appreciate everyone's support of our event and the wonderful items they provided for our attendees.



Congratulations to our Award Winners

During the Conference on Oral Health, we recognized the 2022 Excellence in Oral Health Award Winners. The awards were presented by our Board President, Sonja Armbruster and Board Secretary, Dr. Nick Rogers. Some of our award winners were not able to attend and their awards will be presented at a later time.

The winners pictured are in bold below.

Here are the award winners:

- **Outstanding Dental Hygienist - Christina Cook, RDH, ECP II**
- **Outstanding Dentist - Nader Rastgoftar, DDS**
- **Outstanding Organization - South Central Kansas Medical Center**
- Bob Bethell Outstanding Policy Maker Award - Representative Barbara Ballard (will be presented at a future event)
- Outstanding Dental Champion - Davette McCoy, RDH, ECP III (will be presented at a future event)

Thank you for your hard work!

Medically Necessary Dental Care in Medicare

Medicare was enacted in 1965 and has not covered dental care, but that began to change with a rules change enacted last week. The Medicare Physician Fee Schedule for 2023 released on November 1 now allows coverage under Parts A and B for dental services that are inextricably linked to, and substantially related and integral to the clinical success, of certain



other covered medical services. Examples include necessary treatment performed as a part of a comprehensive workup prior to organ transplant surgery or prior to cardiac valve replacement. Necessary dental treatment prior to treatment for head and neck cancers also will be covered.

Including medically necessary dental treatment in Medicare is a major step forward in a national movement toward including dental coverage in the federal program. Oral Health Kansas has joined with partners from around the country in advocating for this change, and we will continue to advocate for a more comprehensive benefit in Medicare.

[Read more about the change](#) from the Santa Fe Group, an oral health think tank.



Thank You for Your Vote

Thank you for joining us in voting in the general election this year! The election results are still trickling in, and we will have a full run-down of the results and how they may affect the policy landscape in 2023 next week. To continue to view results, check the [Kansas Secretary of State's office](#) or your local news station.



National Rural Health Day

Kansas and other state offices of rural health set aside the **third Thursday of November each year** to celebrate National Rural Health Day.

National Rural Health Day is an opportunity to celebrate the power of rural by honoring the selfless, community-minded, can-do spirit that prevails in rural America. It also gives us a chance to bring to light the unique healthcare challenges that rural residents face and showcase the efforts of rural healthcare providers, state offices of rural health, and other rural stakeholders to address those challenges. The Kansas Office of Primary Care and Rural Health aids Kansas' rural and medically

underserved communities in building sustainable access to quality, patient centered primary health care services by:

- Supporting recruitment and retention of the healthcare workforce
- Connecting local providers and partners to resources and programs
- Strengthening system-wide performance improvement capacity

[Learn more about National Rural Health Day.](#)

The Kansas Dental Association and Kansas Dental Charitable Foundation, in partnership with Delta Dental of Kansas, have promoted dentists to practice in rural Kansas through the Kansas Initiative for New Dentists (KIND) Program.

The KIND Program includes three opportunities to encourage dentists to locate in rural areas of Kansas. To learn more about the KIND program, click [here](#). The application deadline is quickly coming up on December 1. If you have questions about the KIND program, contact the [Kansas Dental Association](#).

Another way Kansas tries to make dental care more available in the state's rural areas is through the State Loan Repayment Program (SLRP). This program helps recruit and retain medical, nursing, dental and behavioral/mental health care professionals at eligible practice sites in federally designated Health Professional Shortage Areas in the appropriate discipline of the health care professional's licensure (medical, dental or mental health). The SLRP offers eligible health care professionals an opportunity to receive assistance with the repayment of qualifying educational loans in exchange for a minimum two-year service commitment at an eligible practice site. The application is open year round. Click [here](#) to learn more about the SLRP.



Upcoming Events

- **Webinar: Rural Oral Health ECHO on Veteran Oral Health**, November 30 at 12pm CST. Click [here](#) to register.
- **Tonight!** Healthy Kansas Advocacy Community Zoom meeting, 7:00pm-8:00pm. Click [here](#) to register.



November 8 was Parents as Teachers Day. Parents as Teachers promotes optimal early development, learning and health of young children by supporting and engaging their parents and caregivers. We wanted to



recognize OHK board member and Shawnee County Oral Health Coalition co-chair, Veronica Byrd, who is a Site Coordinator for The Pine Ridge Partnership, Parents as Teachers USD 501. The enthusiasm Veronica shows when working with her families will have everyone listening! The love she has for the program and the families is demonstrated through the support she provides to her community. Thank you Veronica for your high spirited leadership!



Sugary Drink Display

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

Follow Us



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