



## 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](#).

December 13, 2023

Volume 14, Issue 49

Scan the QR code



or click here to  
sign up for our

**Weekly  
Wednesday  
Update.**



## We're Moving!

Oral Health Kansas is moving to a new office space this week. Beginning Thursday, December 14, our new office location will be: 632 SW Van Buren, Suite B1, Topeka, Kansas, 66603. Our mailing address will stay the same: PO Box 4567, Topeka, Kansas, 66604.

This week our sister organization [Virginia Health Catalyst](#) published a “[Oral Health Workforce Gap Assessment](#)” that is based on the work of their Future of Public Oral Health Taskforce. The new Gap Assessment report offers a roadmap to overcoming two major barriers to accessing oral health care: not enough oral health professionals in many areas of the state and not enough oral health professionals who serve people who are uninsured, underinsured, or Medicaid insured. These challenges are not unique to Virginia, but the work outlined in Virginia is something we can learn from in Kansas.

The Gap Assessment shows at least five strategies to address inequities in access to oral health care providers:

- Build an accessible, affordable, and equitable career highway for current and future oral health professionals.
- Value oral health professionals at every stage of their careers.
- Incentivize oral health professionals to practice in shortage areas and to serve people who are uninsured, underinsured, or covered by Medicaid.
- Deploy the oral health workforce more equitably and efficiently, with a focus on public health and prevention.
- Collect and distribute oral health workforce data that are comprehensive, accessible, and actionable.

Many partners in Kansas are working on some of these strategies to improve access to oral health professionals, including a new extended externship program for [UMKC School of Dentistry](#) dental students in Salina, Kansas, the [STAHR Scholars program](#) at UMKC, and [KIND](#) scholarship and loan forgiveness programs facilitated by the [Kansas Dental Association](#).



**APPLY TO JOIN THE STAHR SCHOLARS PROGRAM**

**SPEND YOUR SUMMER AS A SCHOLAR!**  
Become a Dental Scholar or Medicine Scholar to get ready for professional program admissions.

- Progress through a brief preparation program for the DAT or MCAT
- Develop your application materials, the personal statement and interview skills
- Connect with admissions staff, faculty, current students, and other professionals
- Develop and improve skills like writing, networking, and leadership
- Receive mentorship on your academic path

**ELIGIBILITY**

- Personal interest in pursuing a health career in dentistry or medicine
- Ready to take the DAT or MCAT this summer and apply for dental or medical program admissions this cycle
- U.S. citizen or permanent resident
- From a disadvantaged background\*, like low income, first generation college student, or from an underserved school (rural)
- Available to participate May 20 - July 15, Mon. - Fri., 8:30a - 4:00p

**LEARN MORE & APPLY!**  
Scan the QR code or visit <https://www.umkc.edu/health/scholars>

**DEADLINE:** Feb. 15, 2024 at 11:59pm

**ABOUT STAH**  
Students Training in Academic Health, and Research (STAH) is a collaborative effort of the University of Missouri-Kansas City's School of Dentistry, School of Medicine, and School of Pharmacy.

\*STAH will make an effort to determine eligibility. We encourage all interested students to submit an application to have your eligibility reviewed.

## 2024 STAHR Applications are Now Open!

The STAHR Scholars Program provides students with the opportunities, resources, and knowledge to become competitive applicants to health professional programs. Students in the Scholars Program will undergo personal and professional development as they pursue and apply to health programs.

Participation in the Scholars Program is **free**. Students who meet program expectations will receive financial support as stipends

and/or scholarships. Support also comes from a partnership with GEHA Solutions through the [GEHA Solutions Diversity in Dentistry Pre-Dental Fellowships](#).

Click [here](#) to learn more about the program.



## Kansas Mission of Mercy Volunteer Registration

The Kansas Mission of Mercy (KMOM) will be held in Salina on January 12 and 13. If you are interested in volunteering for the event, either one or both days, you must register. Volunteers must be 18 and over unless with a parent. You don't have to be a dentist, dental hygienist or dental assistant to volunteer. There are many spots you can help out with. For example, helping with food, walking with patients, or helping Oral Health Kansas with exit surveys.

To register click [here](#) or to find more information, click [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](#).
- **Save the date!** 2024 Conference on Oral Health will be Friday, November 8.



Instead of talking on Zoom for their meeting, today the members of the Shawnee County Oral Health Coalition met for lunch to

celebrate their accomplishments in 2023 and look ahead to 2024. The group participated in several community events this year sharing information about good oral health habits. From a Topeka Zoo event to a Trunk or Treat event, and lots of opportunities to share Brush Book Bed with families, the Coalition had a successful year. They are already making plans for more community activities in February for Children's Dental Health Month, and we are excited to support them in continuing to spread the word in Shawnee County!



## 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!

Follow Us



**Oral Health Kansas** • PO BOX 4567 • Topeka, KS 66604

785.235.6039 phone • 785.233.5564 fax • [info@oralhealthkansas.org](mailto:info@oralhealthkansas.org)

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