



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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We Need People Like You

We have received applications and are continuing to look for members to join our new Dental Care Access Lived Experience Advisory Group. We are looking for people with lived experience that have had trouble receiving dental care through Medicaid. We want people to be able to share their experience to help improve the system.



Target populations

Oral Health Kansas wants to form a diverse and inclusive group. We are seeking people from the following communities:

- People with intellectual/developmental disabilities
- Parents of young children
- Older adults
- People with physical disabilities
- People experiencing poverty
- Veterans
- People living rural areas
- People of color
- Immigrant populations
- English not first language
- LGBTQ community
- Native American

The group will meet every quarter at a time that is most convenient for the members. Members will receive a small stipend for their time.

Next step

Apply to join the Dental Care Access Lived Experience Advisory Group using [this form](#).

Please share it with others who may be interested in joining.

Please share our flyer with anyone who may be interested. [Click here to download it.](#)



What Does it Mean to Celebrate International Universal Health Coverage Day

December 12 was International Universal Health Coverage Day. A day to promote the idea that access to affordable, quality health care is a human right. This year's theme is "Build the world we want: A healthy future for all." Access

to affordable health insurance helps people out of poverty and maintain their health. Expanding Medicaid (KanCare) in Kansas would help 165,000 working Kansans afford coverage, boost our economy, and create jobs across Kansas. It would be the investment that

we need in order to ensure working Kansans can lead happy, healthy, and productive lives. Preventive dental care can help KanCare beneficiaries maintain their physical health, and Medicaid Expansion would include access to the new adult dental benefits.

The WHO Global Oral Health Status Report, published in November 2022, stresses that most oral diseases are fundamentally preventable by addressing social and behavioral determinants together with risk factors such as tobacco, alcohol, and sugars. Practical policy approaches include better integration of oral health into primary health care in addition to oral disease prevention and oral health promotion strategies, supported by improved interprofessional collaboration. Medicaid Expansion is just such a practical policy approach. Read more about the WHO Global Health Status Report from [the Lancet](#).



Why Being a Medicaid Provider Makes You Better

Dr. Aaron Bumann is a dentist practicing in Kansas City, Missouri. He is a Medicaid provider, and he believes participating in Medicaid makes him a better dentist. In this video interview you can learn how to manage some of the administrative burdens of being a Medicaid provider as well as how providing dental services for people living in poverty improves his practice. He says you build relationships over time with all of your patients, and the same is true. When you grow your practice and welcome new people you become a better doctor. Learn more from Dr. Bumann in his [video interview](#) on Oral Health Kansas' Medicaid adult dental benefits [webpage](#). You also will find a list of covered services and frequently asked questions for [consumers](#) and [providers](#).

If you have questions about the new benefits or know of an audience that needs to learn more, please contact us at info@oralhealthkansas.org.



Mark Your March Calendars

The Kansas Mission of Mercy will be in Topeka, March 24 and 25 at the Stormont Vail Event Center. This will mark the 20th anniversary of the event!

Watch the [Kansas Dental Charitable Foundation's website](#) or OHK's [Weekly Wednesday Update](#) with KMOM news.



Upcoming Events

- **Kansas Mission of Mercy**, March 24 and 25 in Topeka.



Hooray! OHK staff, Devaki Menon, recently graduated from the University of Nevada, Reno, with a Master of Public Health. Devaki started out as an intern for OHK and is now working as our

Community Engagement Specialist. She is a dentist from India and has been working hard to complete her degree while in Kansas. We are so proud of her!



Sugary Drink Display

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

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