

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 20, 2023

Volume 14, Issue 50

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**Weekly
Wednesday
Update.**



Medicaid Expansion Plan Released

Last week Governor Laura Kelly [announced a Medicaid expansion proposal](#) called the "Cutting Healthcare Costs for all Kansans Act" during a press conference at Holton Community Hospital. Her announcement follows a months-

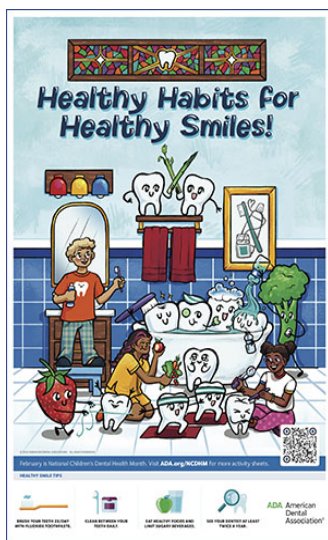
long tour of the state during which state officials visited with Kansans.

Medicaid expansion would make Medicaid coverage available to approximately 150,000 Kansans who do not have insurance coverage through their jobs or who make too little money to be able to afford private insurance. Kansas is one of only ten states that has not expanded Medicaid, and many states have had expansion in place for a decade.

The Governor's proposal is designed to have no additional cost to Kansas taxpayers. The federal government will pay 90% of the cost of expanding Medicaid, and according to the Governor's office the remaining 10% will be covered by several funding sources outside of taxpayer revenue.

The plan includes a few new policy proposals, including a work requirement with exceptions for full-time students, full-time caregivers, veterans, and people with medical conditions. County jails pay for healthcare for their inmates, but that would change under this plan by allowing inmates to be eligible for Medicaid while they are incarcerated. The Sheriffs of Sedgwick and Douglas Counties noted that including this population will cut expenses for local taxpayers and ease the burden on law enforcement.

The Governor's proposal is a compromise approach to Medicaid expansion. Oral Health Kansas supports Medicaid expansion because it will ensure more Kansans with low-income have access to life saving medical and dental care. We also support compromise as the best way to enact policies that can improve lives. Read more about Governor Kelly's proposal in this [background document](#) prepared by her office.



Now's the Time to Plan for February - National Children's Dental Health Month

National Children's Dental Health Month (NCDHM) is in February but it's not too early to begin spreading the word and create a plan to celebrate NCDHM. This year's theme is perfect! "Healthy Habits for Healthy Smiles". The American Dental Association has provided many resources to share with families below at this website:

ada.org/ncdhm

- Order FREE Bilingual Posters (12" x 18") [English on the front and Spanish on the back]
- Order FREE Postcards (4" x 6") [Available in English & Spanish]
- You can download the additional materials below [Available in English & Spanish]

- Flyer
- Maze
- Count and Color
- Coloring Sheet
- Toothbrushing Calendar

You can email ncdhm@ada.org with questions.

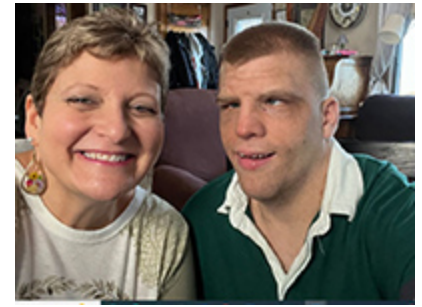


Upcoming Events

- 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](#).
- **Save the date!** 2024 Conference on Oral Health will be Friday, November 8.



Congratulations to Kathy Keck! She is the new Policy & Program Analyst for the Kansas Council on Developmental Disabilities. Kathy is a fierce advocate for her children who have complex medical



and developmental needs. Earlier this year Families USA sent a film crew to Topeka to interview Kathy Keck and her son Jacob about his dental needs and how his coverage will improve with the addition of Medicaid adult dental coverage. The [video](#) premiered at their national conference in January!



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!

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