



## 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](#).

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## World AIDS Day: A Time to Raise Awareness and Join the Fight

December 1 was World's AIDS Day, an annual international recognition of the ongoing global efforts to raise awareness, combat stigma, and unite in the fight against HIV/AIDS. This year's observance reflected on the

progress made in prevention, treatment, and support and acknowledged the challenges that persist. As the international community commemorated this day, individuals and organizations worldwide continue to work together to advocate for continued research, access to healthcare, and the eradication of discrimination, fostering a collective commitment to achieving an AIDS-free generation.

The oral health community has a role to play in ending the HIV/AIDS epidemic. On January 17, 2024, dental professionals have the opportunity to take part in a **webinar entitled "HIV & Oral Health Webinar Series HIV and Aging: What Oral Health Providers Should Know."** This webinar will describe the relationship between aging and oral health and its pertinence to the health of people with HIV. Participants will be able to review the current data on aging and HIV; better understand the relationship between oral health, aging, and aging associated diseases; and appreciate how aging with HIV may affect oral health.

Learn more and register at [New England AIDS Education and Training Center: Events \(neaetc.org\)](https://neaetc.org)



## Give & Get: Oral Health Resources Available

It's the season of giving, and in that spirit, we are happy to share a compilation of several resources from the 2023 Conference on Oral Health. This year we asked participants to help put together a "Give and Get Resource Board." The project was an opportunity for participants to share resources from their organizations and ask for help locating resources.

Conference participants shared information about voting in Kansas, the American Academy of Developmental Medicine and Dentistry, the Leadership Education in Neurodevelopment and Related Disabilities (LEND) program at KU, and the Oral Health in Nursing Education Program at NYU. Oral Health Kansas also shared some of our resources including the adult dental benefits webpage, Dental Passport, Brush Book Bed, and advocacy toolkit.

This is just a short list of the topics covered in the Give and Get Resource Board. We encourage all of our readers to check them out and share with your colleagues. Let us know if you are looking for additional resources by contacting us at [info@oralhealthkansas.org](mailto:info@oralhealthkansas.org).



## CDC Division of Oral Health Director Retires

Casey Hannan, MPH, Director of the Division of Oral Health, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, retired on November 30 after 27 years of federal service at CDC. In his role as Director of the Division of Oral Health, Casey oversaw programmatic and scientific efforts and directed policy, partnerships, and communication strategies to promote oral health equity and achieve the division's mission.

Oral Health Kansas had the opportunity to work with Casey over the years, and we always appreciated his candor, knowledge, and interest in stakeholder engagement. Casey understood the importance of state oral health advocates in improving oral health across the country. He left an indelible mark at the CDC, and he will be missed.

The new Acting Director is Gina Thornton-Evans, DDS, MPH. Gina previously served as the Director of the Dental Public Health Residency Program and Team Lead for Surveillance, Investigations, and Research in the Division of Oral Health. We look forward to working with Gina and her team.



## Understanding the Financial Impact of Dental Assistants

The expertise of dentists, practice administrators, and office managers is vital to research being conducted by DANB (Dental Assistant National Board) and the DALE Foundation. The goal of the research survey is to help DANB understand the financial impact dental assistants have on dental practices.

[Click here to access the survey.](#) The link will be active until December 18, 2023.

People who complete the survey will be able to enter a drawing for a \$100 gift card. Ten winners will be chosen for this prize. Upon completion of the survey, participants will be redirected to an optional external link to provide contact information for this raffle. All survey responses are completely anonymous. The link will not be correlated to anyone's survey responses, and providing this information is voluntary.

More information on DANB and the work they do to provide credentialing services to the dental industry is available on their [website](#), and more information regarding the DALE Foundation's work to develop education and conduct research is available on their [website](#).



## 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](#).
- **Webinar:** Pediatric Dentistry: A House of Mirrors, December 6, 5:00PM CST. 1 Hour CDE Credit. Register [here](#).
- **Webinar:** Community Engagement & Cross-Sector Collaboration Learning Community Registration, December 13. Click here: [bit.ly/3L2Yz11](https://bit.ly/3L2Yz11)
- **Save the date!** 2024 Conference on Oral Health will be Friday, November 8.



Congratulations to Dr. Nathan Suter for being honored at last week's Greater New York Dental meeting, one of the largest dental congresses in the world, with the Teledentistry Innovation Award from

MouthWatch. Dr. Suter is a pioneer in teledentistry in his home state of Missouri. He spoke at our Conference on Oral Health a few years ago and has offered guidance on teledentistry to many people in Kansas. We are excited about this honor and know that it is very well deserved.





## 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



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