



## 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](#).

## February 15, 2023

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## Watch for our Legislative Update

This Friday, watch for our legislative update as we wrap up the week!



## OHK Staff Presents to Dental Students During DEI Week

Complementing work by the Pathway to Oral Health team and the Sedation Dental Care Task Force, Oral Health Kansas sta. members, MaryAnne Lynch Small and Kathy Hunt, were honored to be invited to speak on oral health and healthcare for people with disabilities at University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Dentistry, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Week. We want to thank Ben Hudson, Kathy Keck, and Jacob Perron for joining us on the panel and UMKC Dental Student, Nik Wickerhauser, and OHK board member, Dr. Melanie Simmer-Beck, for organizing such a great event. To find out more about our work in this space please visit our [webpage](#) and keep an eye out for the new 'Dental Passport' coming soon.



## Resources for Children's Dental Health Month

The theme for the 2023 National Children's Dental Health Month is Brush, Floss, Smile. OHK has some helpful resources to help children with brushing and flossing to have a healthy smile!

Our [Super Smiles for Your Child](#) webpage has some fun activities you can play with your child all while learning ways to help them with [Brushing Battles](#) or [Overcoming Oral Habits](#). Our resources are not only for children but also for infants. [Baby teeth](#) are important even though your baby will lose the baby teeth. Starting oral health habits early and taking care of baby teeth is one way to start. [Healthy eating](#) and what [beverage](#) you choose can also play a factor to a healthy mouth and it doesn't matter what age you are!

Find more [resources](#) on our website and also learn about our [Brush Book Bed program](#) to see if it's offered in your area.



## Sign to Help Expand KanCare

Oral Health Kansas believes Medicaid Expansion is one of the most important policies Kansas could adopt. It would be the investment that we need in order to assure working Kansans can lead happy, healthy, and productive lives. If we

expanded Medicaid (KanCare) in Kansas, more than 150,000 Kansans will finally get the coverage they need. Alliance for a Healthy Kansas has created a petition to urge legislators to expand Medicaid. [Sign your name](#) and let legislators know how important it is to make this happen.



## Plain Language for Public Health

Effective public health communications are critical to help people stay informed and make decisions about their health. When accurate information about public health is hard to find or understand, it's easier for false and misleading information to circulate. Using plain language can help your audience find what they need and understand what they find. The Public Health

Communications Collaborative has created a new [Plain Language for Public Health](#) guide to support public health communicators in creating messaging to advance health literacy, build trust in your organization as a source of information, and promote overall community health. This guide walks through the following three steps:

Step 1: Prepare Your Communications

Step 2: Develop and Organize Your Communications

Step 3: Review and Testing

The guide also shares other plain language techniques to help you build your communications skills.



## Volunteer at the Kansas Mission of Mercy

The Kansas Mission of Mercy (KMOM) has opened up registration for volunteers! The event will take place on March 24 and 25 in Topeka at the Stormont Vail Event Center. Register [here](#) to volunteer. Here are some flyers to share with families or anyone who may be interested in attending: [English](#) or [Spanish](#).



## Upcoming Events

- **Sign & Share Families USA's Petition [Medicaid Should Cover our Whole Bodies: Mouths Included!](#)**
- **Kansas Public Health Association, Take 20!** How to be a Public Health Advocate in Kansas with Sonja Armbruster. Thursday, February 16 at 12:00pm CST. Register [here](#).
- **Class:** Do you support breastfeeding families? Breastfeeding 101 Basics Class February 16, 8:30m-12pm CST. Register [here](#).
- **Missouri Oral Health Policy Conference**, March 2 and 3. Learn more [here](#).
- **Kansas Mission of Mercy**, March 24 and 25 in Topeka. Click [here](#) for more information.
- **2023 National Oral Health Conference**, April 17 - 19. Click [here](#) to register.



As we continue to celebrate and share Black History Month, Veronica Byrd is an OHK board member who is doing great things in the Topeka community as well as around the world! As a Parents as



Teachers Pine Ridge USD 501 coordinator, Veronica brings enthusiasm into everything she does. She educates families on the importance of reading books with your children while incorporating toothbrushing and oral health habits through the Brush Book Bed Program. Veronica is a co-chair of the Shawnee County Oral Health Coalition and recently shared the coalition's work on a webinar with Parents as Teachers coordinators from across the state. We also get to share Veronica with the beautiful country of Kenya where she volunteers every year!



## Sugary Drink Display

We have Adult and Children's Sugary Drink Displays available for reservations. 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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