

## 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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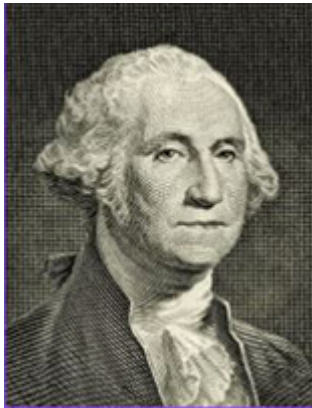
## Getting Closer to Medicaid Coverage of Dentures

Oral Health Kansas, along with more than two dozen organizations, has asked the House and Senate budget committees for \$1.7 million to extend existing Medicaid adult dental coverage to include dentures. Several

organizations joined us in sharing compelling testimony to the budget committees over the last two weeks.

Last week, the House Appropriations Committee added the requested \$1.7 million for denture coverage to the budget. The Senate Ways and Means Committee added \$1.2 million for denture coverage, so it will be necessary to work out the difference in recommended dollar amounts in the conference committee process later in March. We are pleased to see that both of the budget committees are interested in extending coverage to include dentures is a big step forward for Kansans.

Learn more about our why dentures is important and how you can join our list of supporting organization by visiting our [webpage](#).



## Access to Dentures is as Old as Our Country

As we celebrated President's Day this week, we got to thinking about President Washington and his wooden teeth. He had his own dental care issues although he did what he could to maintain it. At the time of his first presidency, he had one natural tooth left. He found a dentist to make him some dentures from carved hippopotamus ivory, human teeth and brass nails.

Washington saw his dentures as a sign of weakness and did not want to give his inaugural address in front of crowd but instead chose to deliver his address to the members of Congress. During his second inaugural speech, his dentures were bothering him so much he only spoke for two minutes.

George Washington's challenges mirror those Kansans face today. He needed to find a way to have teeth in order to be able to eat and speak. He also faced the same embarrassment many people who do not have teeth face every day. We didn't know his dental issues affected his ability to deliver his inaugural address, but we do know people who don't have teeth have a harder time getting and keeping good jobs. Improving access to good dental care is truly a tale as old as time.

You can read more about President Washington's interesting dental health story [here](#).



## Register for the Virtual Sugar Reduction Summit

Registration is now open for Center for Science in the Public Interest's 2023 Virtual Sugar Reduction Summit on April 25-27. Please join us for this not-to-be missed event for public health professionals, researchers, public health advocates, and other professionals working in the field of sugar/Sugar Sweetened Beverage reduction. Register [here](#)!



## Oral Health Coalition Virtual Summit

Five state and national experts are coming together for a virtual presentation on March 22 from 9:00am - 1:00pm presented by the New Jersey Oral Health Coalition. The Summit will share how the changing oral healthcare systems and models of care impact dentistry and increase your understanding of safety protocols and scope of considerations for whole person health and improved health outcomes. See the lineup and more at <https://www.njda.org/for-the-public/oral-health-coalition-summit> or click here to view the [flyer](#).



## Volunteer at the Kansas Mission of Mercy

The 2023 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](#). This year will be especially exciting, because the Kansas Dental Charitable Foundation will be celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Kansas Mission of Mercy. Come to provide service, and stay to help celebrate! Register [here](#) to volunteer.



## Upcoming Events

- **Sign & Share Families USA's Petition** [Medicaid Should Cover our Whole Bodies: Mouths Included!](#)
- **Webinar:** Innovative Approaches to Stngthen School-Based Dental Sealant Programs, February 23, 12:00-1:00pm CST. Register [here](#).
- **Webinar:** KanCare Expansion, February 27, 1:00pm CST.

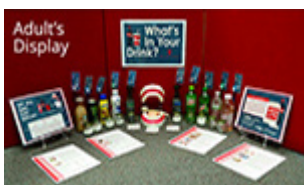
Register [here](#).

- **Webinar:** A Healthy Mouth for Every Body, February 28 at 12:00pm 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.



To conclude our celebration of Black History Month, we are happy to share about our newest board member, Davette McCoy. Davette joined the board in December, but she has been a part of the organization since her time as a member of Dental

Champions Class VIII. She is a Senior Registered Dental Hygienist at Hunter Health Clinic in Wichita and is an adjunct instructor with Wichita State University Dental Hygiene program. She was appointed to the Kansas Dental Board in 2022. Davette is also an author and has written a children's book called, "[Goodnight Teeth: A Nighttime Brush Book](#)". We are amazed at the great work she is doing to educate everyone on the importance of oral health.



## 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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