



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](#).

March 15, 2023

Volume 14, Issue 11

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**Weekly
Wednesday
Update.**



Save the Date for the Conference on Oral Health

We have a new date for the 2023 Conference on Oral Health! The conference committee voted to change the date of the event to provide you with a hybrid conference that included all the amenities to serve our attendees the best. The date is now Friday, October 27 and will be held virtually and in person

at the KU Edwards Campus in Overland Park. Mark your calendar now, and we will provide more details as the committee continues to make plans.



Finding a Dentist Webpage Gets a New Look

Our “[Finding a Dentist](#)” webpage has a new look! We hope this makes it easier for you to navigate and find information. OHK receives calls and emails on a weekly basis from consumers that need help finding a dentist. We have a webpage on our website to help find safety net clinics that provide dental care or also

how to find a dentist if you have KanCare. Another option for help is the [Kansas Mission of Mercy](#), which is coming up next week in Topeka. The clinic is free and services are based on a first come, first served basis. You can find more information for patients [here](#).

Our [webpage](#) also provides a list of other resources for dental care. If you have any questions, you can email us at info@oralhealthkansas.org.



National Minority Health Month

This year's theme for National Minority Month is **Better Health Through Better Understanding**. This year's theme focuses on improving health outcomes for racial and ethnic

minority and American Indian/Alaska Native communities by providing them with culturally and linguistically competent healthcare services, information, and resources. When patients are provided with culturally and linguistically appropriate information, they are empowered to create healthier outcomes for themselves and their communities.

The Health and Human Services Office of Minority Health says:

- It is estimated that only 14 percent of the U.S. population has proficient health literacy.
- Nearly 20 percent of people in the U.S. speak a language other than English at home.
- It is estimated that over 60 percent of racial and ethnic minority patients over the age of 18 believe it is at least somewhat important to visit a health care provider who shares or understands their culture.

People of color and people with disabilities are particularly vulnerable to oral disease and among the least able to access quality, affordable dental care. These populations are difficult to reach and often are impoverished. Dental care is frequently low on the list of priorities for people living in poverty, as day-to-day survival must take priority. We routinely discuss the value of having consumers at the table to ensure we understand their barriers in accessing dental care and maintaining good oral health to ensure the resources we provide are geared towards our communities. We established a lived experience advisory group this year and will use their consumer perspectives in our work. Our intent in creating this advisory group is to drive the strategies to address access to dental care, as well as to ensure all strategies incorporate a health equity/racial equity lens. Learn more [here](#).



Kansas Mission of Mercy Seeks Volunteers

The Kansas Mission of Mercy (KMOM) is just around the corner and the organizers are still looking for volunteers.

The event will take place March 24 - 25 in Topeka at the Stormont Vail Event Center. This is a great opportunity to give back to the community, help consumers in need and celebrate the 20th anniversary of KMOM! There will be some fun celebrations happening that you can join in on. Register here to volunteer: <https://www.ksdentalfoundation.org/about-kmom/>.

Oral Health Kansas staff will be at KMOM doing exit surveys. The exit surveys are short questions we ask the patients at the end of their visit. We are looking for volunteers to help us during this time as well as Spanish speaking volunteers. You do not need to volunteer the entire day, although the help is extremely appreciated. If you have questions, you can email us at info@oralhealthkansas.org.



Upcoming Events

- **Webinar:** One Bite at a Time: Oral Health and Nutrition, March 20 at 1:00pm CST. Register [here](#).
- **Kansas Mission of Mercy**, March 24 and 25 in Topeka. Click [here](#) for more information.
- The WSU Community Engagement Institute 2023 Virtual Workshop Series (CST): [*Self-Management for Improving*](#)

[Interactions Using the Process Communication Model](#), March 22 at 11:00am.

[Conscious Communication Culture](#), March 29 at 11:00am.

[Workplace Belonging](#), April 5 at 11:00am.

[Healthy Boundaries](#), April 12 at 11:00am.

[Self-Care](#), April 19 at 11:00am.

[Navigating Conflicts and Difficult Situations](#), April 26 at 11:00am.

- **Webinar:** Missouri Dental Medicaid Town Hall Webinar, April 3, 8:00pm-9:00pm CST. Register [here](#) or download the [flyer](#) for information.
- **Webinar:** Silver Diamine Fluoride: A Cost Effective Tool for Medical Providers to Thwart Caries and Promote Health Equity, April 4, 12:00pm CST. Register [here](#).
- **2023 National Oral Health Conference**, April 17 - 19. Click [here](#) to register.



Congratulations to former OHK President, Steve Peppes, who was recently selected to join the 2023 Leadership Kansas class. Steve is the National Vice President of Sales for Delta Dental of Kansas. He was a

visionary leader of our board as we celebrated our 15th anniversary, and we know he will continue to lead with vision as he enters the Leadership Kansas Program! To view the full list of the leadership class, click [here](#).



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!

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