

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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**Weekly
Wednesday
Update.**



Dental Compact Bill Inches Closer

This week the Kansas Legislature is spending all of their time on the floor debating and voting on bills in advance of their first adjournment on April 5. Today the Senate approved [HB 2453](#), which will enable Kansas to join the new interstate [Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact](#). The

Senate has given preliminary approval to the bill and may give final approval in the next couple of days. It previously passed the House by a vote of 119-0. The final step is for Governor Kelly to sign the bill. The next step is for Governor Kelly to sign the bill. When she does, Kansas is poised to become the sixth state to pass dental compact legislation. Seven states need to pass the legislation in order for it to go into effect. Oral Health Kansas was [proud to support this legislation](#) and looks forward to Kansas joining the compact.

Next week the budget conference committee will meet to discuss dozens of differences in the House and Senate budget proposals. We will be following the meetings closely, as the Senate has recommended \$4.8 million to cover [preventive dental care in Medicaid for adults](#). We have met with the members of the budget conference committee to urge them to include the funding in the final state budget. We are hopeful the funding will be approved, and preventive dental coverage for adults will go into effect on July 1, 2024



March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month!

Previously, we highlighted oral health challenges faced by individuals with developmental disabilities and introduced you to Oral Health Kansas' 'Pathways to Oral Health' team who are tackling such challenges in Kansas and beyond. Through Pathways to Oral Health and our

Lived Experience Advisory Group, a specific barrier to care that disproportionately impacts individuals and families with developmental disabilities was unveiled: access to sedation dental care.

What is the Sedation Dental Care Task Force?

The Sedation Dental Care Task Force is a collaborative dedicated to all things sedation dental care in Kansas, including the identification of the current barriers to sedation dental care and working on ways to remove these barriers across the state. Like Pathways to Oral Health, our team is made up of families from the disability community, dental providers, sedation providers, insurance representatives and more.

What is the Sedation Dental Care Task Force working on?

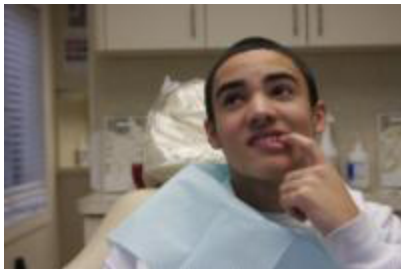
Sedation Dental Provider Survey

Individuals and families frequently spend hours calling dental offices trying to find a provider who can complete essential dental care utilizing sedation. This is exhausting and unfortunately often agonizing work. To both help with the identification of appropriate

providers and highlight areas where there may be a shortage of providers, we have created a sedation dental provider survey. This survey, to be sent out across the state, will gather critical information about our sedation dental provider workforce, from where they are geographically located to what types of sedation they provide to what insurance they accept.

Sedation Dental Care in Hospitals and Ambulatory Care Centers

Some people need to receive dental care while being sedated in a hospital setting. Although this is not required for all, for some individuals this is the safest way to ensure they receive the essential dental care they need. However, it can be difficult for dental providers to book time in hospital and ambulatory care settings. In 2023, the Kansas Medicaid program implemented a new hospital code which allows hospitals and ambulatory care centers to be more appropriately reimbursed for accepting dental cases. We hope to continue promoting use of this code across the state to remove some of the barriers to hospital sedation dentistry. Click [here](#) to view a list of the codes.



Youth Share Oral Health is Important to Them

On February 21, Dental Program Director, Kathy Hunt and James Davis, RDH, delivered a presentation entitled “Success Begins with a Smile,” to 24 young individuals residing in the Wyandotte

County Juvenile Detention Center in Kansas City, Kansas. The presentation centered on the role good oral health plays not only in the young people’s overall health, but their ability to succeed in life. After the workshop, the students shared their feedback in a survey. The results were overwhelmingly positive:

- Over 80% of participants said they believe having healthy teeth is important.
- 100% of participants said they learned something about oral health.
- There was an 11% improvement in oral health knowledge.

Click [here](#) to view an infographic of the survey results. If you’re interested in learning more about the workshop, email us at info@oralhealthkansas.org.

Thank you to [CareSource](#) for sponsoring the development of an impactful educational program for Kansas youth!

KDHE Bureau of Oral Health Spring Newsletter

The Kansas Department of Bureau of Oral Health has a newsletter with news from around the state. Read their Spring edition [here](#). [Visit their website](#)



Shawnee County Needs Assessment

Shawnee County residents are encouraged to take part in the Community Health Needs Assessment which is conducted every three years to assess public health issues present in Shawnee County and help develop strategies to address them. The survey takes less than 10 minutes and is available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#). The survey will be open until April 30.



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](#).
- Alliance for a Healthy Kansas monthly meetings, [Events | Alliance for a Healthy Kansas 2022 \(expandkancare.com\)](#).
- **Webinar:** Join a Conversation with Rep. Alma S. Adams about Black Maternal Health and Oral Health, April 8 from 10:30 a.m.â€” 11 CST. Register [here](#).
- **Save the date!** 2024 Conference on Oral Health will be Friday, November 8 at the Kansas State Olathe Campus, 22201 W Innovation Dr., Olathe, KS.

If you would like to add your event to this list, email info@oralhealthkansas.org.



Congratulations to Marlou Wegener, Dental Champions Class 1 member and former Oral Health Kansas Board member, who will be receiving The [ATHENA Leadership Award](#) on April 4 at



the Greater Topeka Partnership Annual Meeting Awards. This award is designed to highlight excellence in female leadership, acknowledging the courage, collaboration and impact of women making a difference in our community.Â Marlou is being recognized for her exceptional leadership and impactful volunteerism across various facets of the community.



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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