



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.**



KanCare Stakeholder Meetings Scheduled

The Kansas Department Health and Environment is seeking stakeholder input as it begins to develop a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the 2025 KanCare Managed Care Organizations' (MCOs) contracts. It has posted opportunities for providing input on the [KanCare website](#).

During these meetings State staff will provide updates and information about KanCare. Participants can provide feedback and ask questions about how your input will be used to create the RFP. Spanish language and American Sign Language interpreters will be available

Member Meetings

Date	Time	Location
Tuesday, April 11, 2023	1 p.m. to 3 p.m.	Click here to register
Thursday, April 13, 2023	6 p.m. to 8 p.m.	Click here to register

Provider and Advocate Meetings

Date	Time	Location
Tuesday, April 11, 2023	6 p.m. to 8 p.m.	Click here to register
Thursday, April 13, 2023	1 p.m. to 3 p.m.	Click here to register

Anyone wishing to provide comments in writing via e-mail, please contact [Amy Gajda](#) at KDHE. Flyers for the meetings are available in English and Spanish:

[KanCare Request for Proposals \(RFP\) Member Public Meeting Flyer](#)

[KanCare Request for Proposal \(RFP\) Provider Public Meeting Flyer](#)

Celebrate National Physicians Week

Beginning March 25 - 31 is National Physicians Week. A week when we honor our doctors for the work they do to keep us healthy. Our providers play a role in managing our health and concerns in our entire body. That also includes our mouths. When medical and dental are combined in our health checks, it helps to prevent any issues we may encounter and coordinates our care. Currently, there are safety net clinics in Kansas that provide both medical and dental in one



setting. This model keeps the patients in the center of their care and a way to improve overall health.

Oral Health Kansas has been proud to work with health profession schools in Kansas since last year on a project called [100 Million Mouths](#). Through this project we are helping schools incorporate oral health education in the curriculum for physicians, physician assistants, and nurses. We also are working on a medical-dental integration initiative called Cavity Free at Three that is helping safety net clinics and local health departments incorporate oral health services such as fluoride varnish in medical visits. We look forward to

more partnerships to ensure medical and dental care are linked. If you have any questions, contact Kathy Hunt: khunt@oralhealthkansas.org.



Which Communities Face a Disproportionate Burden of Oral Disease?

A collaboration between CareQuest Institute and native-led organizations worked together to explore oral health disparities American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) communities face. Individuals in AI/AN communities experience a disproportionate burden of oral disease compared to non-AI/AN communities. Some of the findings in the [study](#) are below:

- The prevalence of early childhood caries in AI/AN communities is three times higher than for white children.
- AI/AN adults are twice as likely to have untreated decay as the overall US population, and 83% of AI/AN adults report tooth loss, compared with 66% of the overall US population.
- Three and a half times as many people who identify as AI/AN report going to the emergency department for dental care or mouth pain in the last year (13.5%) compared with those who do not identify as AI/AN (3.9%).
- Researchers and funding organizations need to develop and sustain authentic partnerships with AI/AN communities and organizations to increase representation in research and funding decisions/strategies.
- Culturally driven care and greater AI/AN representation in the dental workforce is needed. The number of AI/AN students applying to dental school has decreased dramatically from 92 in 2006 to only 8 in 2021.

OHK and many other state advocates will continue to work on reaching these communities and being culturally sensitive to their needs.



Kansas Head Start Association is Hiring!

The Kansas Head Start Association (KHSA) is hiring an executive director. This is a full time position. All KHSA staff work remotely but the Executive Director must reside in Kansas and have the ability to travel to state/national meetings as necessary. Through the policies established by the Board, the Executive Director has overall responsibility for the operation of the Association. The Executive

Director effectively represents the Association to State, Regional, and Federal agencies and programs and develops, supports, facilitates, and achieves the vision and goals of the Association. Review of applications will begin April 3, 2023. Click [here](#) to read more about the position.



Save the Date

The Conference on Oral Health will be held on Friday, October 27 at the KU Edwards Camps. The event will be in person and virtual. We'll keep you updated with details.



Upcoming Events

- The WSU Community Engagement Institute 2023 Virtual Workshop Series (CST):

[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.

- Course: An Introduction to Value-Based Care in Oral Health: Moving from Volume to Value, 1 CE. Click [here](#) for the course information.
- **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.



Last week, OHK helped at the Kansas Mission of Mercy in Topeka doing exit surveys with patients when their services were completed. We had staff from

Aetna Better Health of Kansas and Sunflower Health Plan assist with surveys and sharing oral health resources with patients. We appreciate their help so much! They were there bright and early until the end!



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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