

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.**



Denture Benefits in Final Budget Bill

This week the Legislature wraps up its work before a three-week April break. Oral Health Kansas has been watching the House and Senate budget conference committee closely. The House recommended the full amount of funding needed to implement a denture benefit in the Medicaid program, which is \$1.7 million. The Senate recommended \$1.2 million, and in the

conference committee meetings, the House and Senate budget negotiators agreed to fund the \$1.2 million amount.

There are still several steps before the full budget with this new funding is approved by both chambers and Governor Kelly. Assuming the funding remains in the budget, the good news is that a denture benefit will be added to the Kansas Medicaid program. The bad news is that the funding is slightly less than the amount needed to fully fund it. Oral Health Kansas will work with partners to learn how the process will proceed to implement the benefit and will keep readers informed about the next steps.

The Legislature is set to adjourn tomorrow, April 6, and will return on April 26 to finish up remaining business and consider overriding any votes Governor Kelly issues on bills that have passed or will pass this week. Some bills related to the public health authority of KDHE and local health departments have yet to be settled this week, and we will share updates next week.



Provide Your Feedback on Dental Access for KanCare Managed Care Contracts

Kansas is preparing to develop a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the 2025 KanCare Managed Care Organizations' (MCOs) contracts. The State needs your input about potential changes that are being considered.

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) invites you to attend one of the information and feedback sessions listed below. State staff will provide you with updates and information about KanCare. We want to hear your ideas about how the program can be improved. You will have the opportunity to provide feedback and ask questions about how your input will be used to create the RFP.

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
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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

Spanish language and American Sign Language interpreters will attend each session to assist you. If you do not wish to attend one of these meetings, or if you would like to provide your ideas in writing via e-mail, please contact [Amy Gajda](#) at KDHE.

Flyers for the meetings are available below in English and Spanish.

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

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

Talking Points

Oral Health Kansas has been convening stakeholders through our Pathways to Oral Health group and Sedation Dental Care Task Force to study ways to improve access to dental care for people with disabilities. If you plan to attend one of the KanCare RFP Public Meetings and would like to share feedback about Medicaid dental care, consider sharing ideas about how to improve access to dental care for Kansans with disabilities. Please share your own experience as a provider, family member, or consumer, and consider these talking points:

- Provide incentive payments to dental providers to see people with disabilities as a way to compensate for the additional time some dental visits take.
- Allow people with disabilities and other high risk populations to receive more than two dental cleanings per year.
- Include sedation dental providers in the provider network adequacy reports the managed care organizations submit to KDHE.

If you have any questions, reach out to us at info@oralhealthkansas.org.



Picture courtesy of Kansas Dental Charitable Foundation

KMOM 2023 Was a Success

The 2023 Kansas Mission of Mercy (KMOM) was a success! It was held in Topeka on March 24 and 25, and this year marked Topeka's third time hosting the annual two-day free dental clinic. 610 patients were seen, and over \$1 million in donated care was provided. This included 1913 extractions and 626 fillings. Oral Health Kansas staff participated again this year

by staffing the patient exit survey.

Kansas is perhaps the only state to never miss holding a MOM clinic, even during the pandemic. The 2020 KMOM was in Dodge City and was held just weeks before the shut downs. Smaller clinics

were held in Wichita and Hays in 2021 and 2022, and organizers were able to host a full KMOM clinic this year in Topeka. Check out great photos from this year's event on the [Kansas Dental Charitable Foundation's Facebook page](#)

This year KMOM is marking its 20th anniversary. From 2003 to 2022, over \$21 million of donated care was provided to more than 31,000 people. Over 11,000 volunteers and countless donors have made that possible. Volunteers marked the 20th anniversary with a celebration dinner and special t-shirts noting the anniversary. Topeka Mayor Mike Padilla and KDHE Secretary Janet Stanek were on hand to congratulate the KMOM volunteers on 20 years of service in the state of Kansas. During the dinner the eight people who have participated in all 23 KMOM clinics were recognized. They are Bruce Bergstrom, Millie Bergstrom, Dr. Mark Herzog, Kevin Robertson, Niki Sadler, Dr. Cyndi Sherwood, and Dr. Jon Tilton. At Oral Health Kansas we are fortunate to count all eight as part of our organization as well. All of these remarkable volunteers also are Dental Champions, former or current Board members, or volunteers.

The Kansas Dental Charitable Foundation has announced that the 2024 KMOM will be held in Salina on January 12 and 13. Mark your calendars and make plans to join us there!



Week of the Young Child

April 1 - 7 is the Week of the Young Child. The purpose of the Week of the Young Child is to focus public attention on the needs of young children and their families and to recognize the early childhood programs and services that meet those needs. Early childhood years (birth through age eight) lay the

foundation for children's success in school and later life.

We also know teaching oral health habits at an early age will lay a foundation for children to maintain their oral health. Our website has different resources to help with your child and their oral health:

- Super Smiles for Your Child-an interactive webpage with fun videos, listen to stories and songs, play games, and more! <http://www.oralhealthkansas.org/SuperSmiles.html>
- Brush Book Bed - A nightly routine to brush your teeth, read a book and set a bedtime! There are several early childhood programs in Kansas implementing the program <http://www.oralhealthkansas.org/BrushBookBed.html>
- Consumer resources including our one pager Tips and Tricks! <http://www.oralhealthkansas.org/Consumers.html>

Learn more on our [website](#)!



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.



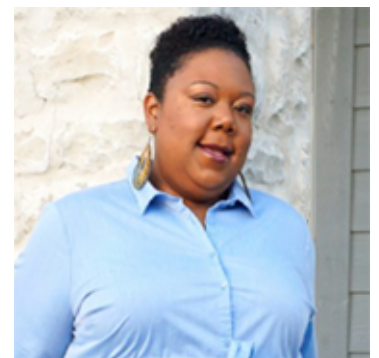
Upcoming Events

- The WSU Community Engagement Institute 2023 Virtual Workshop Series (CST):
 - [*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:** Caring for Individuals with Disabilities, April 13 at 6pm CST. Register [here](#).
- **2023 National Oral Health Conference**, April 17 - 19. Click [here](#) to register.
- **Webinar:** Strategies for Treating Autistic Individuals, April 27 at 6pm CST. Register [here](#).



Congratulations Amber Sellers, former OHK board member and Dental Champions Class IV, on her new role as Director of Advocacy at Trust Women Foundation. Amber's experience in grassroots organizing and dedication to

helping Kansans will make her stand out in her new position. She also has served as a Lawrence City Commissioner since 2021. We're excited for her new adventures!





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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