



## 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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Wednesday  
Update.**



## OHK Visits with Dental Clinic Leaders

As Oral Health Kansas celebrates our 20th anniversary this year we are taking the opportunity to share our story with our partners and listen to their stories. Last week we visited with our partner Community Care Network of Kansas at their Dental Clinic Leadership Conference in Manhattan. We shared our new resources for dental care with people with

disabilities, including the Dental Care Passport. We also shared the news about the new Medicaid denture benefit that will go into effect on July 1, 2023. Dental Clinic leaders provided feedback about both the Dental Passport and the denture benefit that we will use as we develop educational materials for both.

We look forward to continuing our anniversary celebration with our partners throughout the year. If you are interested in us visiting your organization, please contact us at [info@oralhealthkansas.org](mailto:info@oralhealthkansas.org)



## Nurse Practitioner Students Learn About Oral Health

Last week, Kathy Hunt, Dental Program Director for Oral Health Kansas, was invited to speak with the Nurse Practitioner students at Washburn University School of Nursing. The students were engaged. As part of our involvement with the [100 Million Mouths Campaign](#), OHK will continue to collaborate with the faculty at Washburn University to integrate oral health content into their core curriculum.

Incorporating oral health education into medical curricula equips future medical professionals with the necessary knowledge and skills to provide holistic care, recognize oral indicators of systemic diseases, promote preventive measures, and collaborate effectively with dental professionals. By understanding the importance of oral health, medical students contribute to improved patient outcomes and overall well-being.



## Coalition Members Share Oral Health Information with Families

Shawnee County Oral Health Coalition members exhibited at the Safe Kids Day at the Zoo on Saturday, May 6 on a hot

Topeka day. Kate and Carolyn visited with 100's of families as they enjoyed their time visiting

various organizations booths. The [Sugary Drink Display](#) was popular as families were surprised to see the sugar in drinks.

Find Kate and Carolyn at Roll and Read on May 20 at the Evergy Plaza in Topeka. They'll be sharing similar information and have some fun giveaways!

If you are interested in learning more about the Shawnee County Oral Health Coalition, email [info@oralhealthkansas.org](mailto:info@oralhealthkansas.org).



## May is Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month

The National 2023 theme for the observance of Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Heritage Month (AA/NH/PI) in May is "Advancing Leaders Through Opportunity." Although we see opportunity defined as "a set of circumstances that make it possible to do something," we also see opportunity as everyone should have access to dental care.

According to the Centers for Disease, Control and Prevention, the two leading causes of death among AA/NH/PI adults are cancer and heart disease. Cigarette smoking increases the risk of developing these two conditions. Oral health disparities are a growing concern in the AA/NH/PI populations. According to recent studies, these communities are more likely to experience oral health problems and have limited access to oral health care services.

Several factors contribute to these disparities, including language barriers, cultural differences, and lack of insurance coverage. For instance, many individuals are not proficient in English, which makes it difficult for them to communicate with healthcare providers and access appropriate oral health services. This week, join a webinar on May 11, [Building Healthier Communities through Language Access: AANHPI Perspectives and Solutions](#) and learn about creative solutions for providing language access services to diverse Asian populations in both community and healthcare settings.

Additionally, cultural beliefs and practices may impact their oral health practices, leading to untreated dental issues. Many AA/NH/PI individuals lack dental insurance, making it harder for them to afford regular check-ups and necessary dental treatments. This is a major barrier to accessing preventive care, which is crucial in maintaining good oral health.

To address these disparities, various organizations are working towards increasing awareness and access to oral health care services for AA/NH/PI populations. Dental health programs and

community outreach initiatives are being developed to provide culturally and linguistically appropriate care, while also addressing other social determinants of health that impact oral health, such as poverty and food insecurity. One example coming up on May 16, the Center for Science in the Public Interest will be having a webinar on Indigenous Communities and Food Justice Panel. Register for the webinar [here](#).

Oral health disparities in the AA/NH/PI communities are a pressing issue that requires concerted efforts from healthcare providers, policymakers, and community members. By working together to increase awareness and access to oral health care services, we can improve the overall health and well-being of these populations.



## 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

- Course: An Introduction to Value-Based Care in Oral Health: Moving from Volume to Value, 1 CE. Click [here](#) for the course information.
- **Webinar:** Building Healthier Communities through Language Access: AANHPI Perspectives and Solutions, May 11, 200pm CST. Register [here](#).
- **Webinar:** Using Oral Health Equity Data to Improve Patient Care, May 18, 3:00pm CST. Register [here](#).
- Kansas Community Health Worker Symposium, June 13, 9am-4pm in Wichita. Register [here](#).



The Wichita Regional Chamber of Commerce presented awards to some of Wichita's greatest advocates and achievers. Junetta Everett, Dental Champions Member Class 2, is the Chamber's 2023 Uncommon Citizen. This

award recognizes individuals who have served their community year after year in an extraordinary capacity - making outstanding contributions to the civic and cultural institutions in Wichita. Junetta is an advocate for her community as well as an advocate for Kansans. Congratulations Junetta!



Picture courtesy of Wichita Chamber of Commerce

[Watch](#) this short video to learn more about Junetta's interesting life story. And get ready to dance at 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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