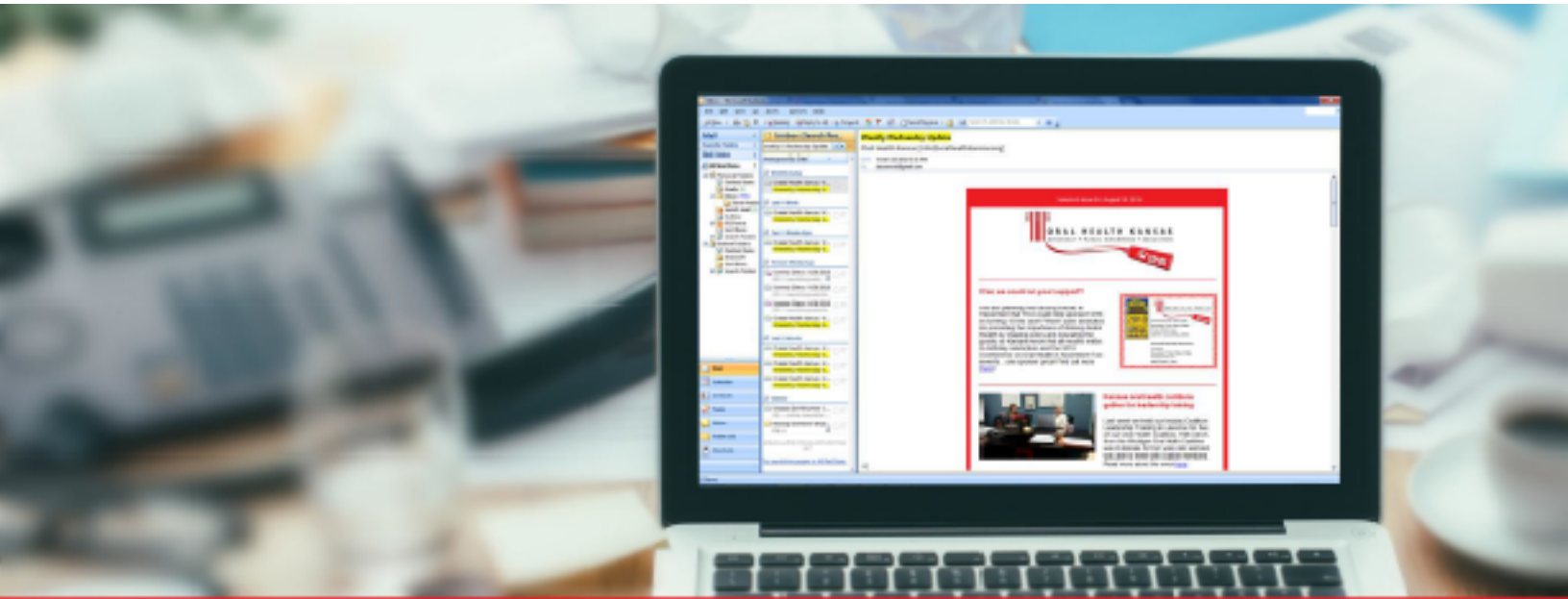




**ORAL HEALTH KANSAS**  
ADVOCACY • PUBLIC AWARENESS • EDUCATION



## 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](#).

Click here to sign up for our [Weekly Wednesday Update](#).

### May 25, 2022

Volume 13, Issue 21

## Farewell to an Advocate and Friend

We recently heard the sad news that our friend Carolyn Weinhold passed away on May 19. To us, it's sad news but if you knew Carolyn, she would tell us not to be sad. Even at the young age of 82, Carolyn was witty and could tickle your funny bone in ways you wouldn't expect. Many knew her in the advocacy world in Kansas and most recently a member of the Shawnee County Oral Health Coalition. She would attend as many rally's as she could to help bring



awareness to the need for Medicaid expansion or any other health care issues she held close to her heart. She was also the first one to begin a chant at the rally and get the crowd going. She personally made phone calls to make sure people would attend a meeting and you couldn't say no to Carolyn. Because of her, attendance was always good!

Her list of various job titles were one's she held proudly but what she enjoyed the most was playing tennis and pickleball. When she attended a pickleball competition with her group she was asked how it went. Did you win? She laughed and said oh no. We lost. But it was so much fun!

Carolyn's fierce advocacy and humor will be greatly missed. We will carry with us the reminder to keep up the good fight and to stay young at heart.

You can read Carolyn's wonderful obituary [here](#).



## Legislative Session Concludes

On Monday, May 23, the Kansas Legislature officially concluded the 2022 Legislative Session. In their final day of work they overrode one bill of note and sustained another veto. The bill they overrode will prohibit

Governor Kelly's administration from issuing an Request For Proposal for new Medicaid managed care contracts. The contracts last for five years, and this is the year they are supposed to be put out for bid again. Legislative leaders championed this bill in order to allow the next governor to manage the Medicaid RFP process. Governor Kelly is running for re-election and likely will face Attorney General Derek Schmidt in November. Because the RFP process cannot move forward as planned, the three Medicaid managed care contracts will continue for an extra year.

The Legislature failed to override a bill that would have prohibited the government entities and public officials from requiring masks in response to any contagious/infectious disease and limited KDHE authority to enforce quarantine and student inoculation requirements if not fully authorized by the FDA. Because Governor Kelly vetoed this bill and there were not enough votes to override it, it will not go into effect.

The Legislature did pass one extra bill on Monday that relates to public health. SB 19 implements the 988 suicide prevention and mental health crisis hotline in Kansas. Funding to implement the crisis hotline was passed earlier in May.

Now that the Legislative Session has concluded, election season officially begins. Each member of the Kansas House of Representatives is up for re-election, as are the statewide office holders: Governor, Attorney General, Treasurer, Insurance Commissioner, and Secretary of State. So far 14 out of the 125 House members have announced they will not seek re-election, including Speaker of the House Ron Ryckman, Jr.

We will keep our readers updated about the election throughout the summer and fall. If you have any questions, please contact us at [info@oralhealthkansas.org](mailto:info@oralhealthkansas.org).



## How to Advocate on Social Media

Kansas legislators have wrapped up the session for the year. Although they're on break, there are still ways you can learn where they stand on positions that interest you. One way to stay updated is by following your legislator on social media if they have social media accounts. Most legislators have a Twitter or Facebook account and share events they attend. Through social media, you can

advocate on an issue that interests you but there are ways to do that properly. [OHK's Advocacy Toolkit](#) shares helpful tips to help your message be viewed or get followers and how to engage in your legislators social media.

## County Health Rankings Show Strong Tie Between Wealth and Health

For over a decade, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation has funded the annual County Health Rankings, raising awareness of health factors and outcomes in counties across the nation. Although the 2022 County Health Rankings were released earlier this year, [Kansas 2022 rankings](#) look very similar to the [rankings released in 2010](#) showing community members of Wyandotte County and southeast Kansas continue to rank toward the lowest on both health outcomes and health factors. A [recent article by KCUR's Celia Llopis-Jepsen](#) explored how



generational poverty is continuing to hurt the health of people in these regions of our state.

The article explains, "Southeast Kansas has struggled with poverty for generations - going back to the heyday of the region's coal, zinc and lead mining industries. Those industries attracted immigrants willing to work dangerous jobs. The Kansas City, Kansas, area faces the cumulative effects of redlining and racism that have hindered financial investment in neighborhoods populated by people of color for decades." While both

regions of the state are working to improve health outcomes and overall quality of life, progress has been slow. We are hopeful with increased awareness and resources dedicated to these communities, we will continue to see progress and in another decade maybe the rankings will look different. Find the full KCUR article [here](#).



## Recipe for Your Weekend

Are you spending time making some yummy foods this weekend? Don't forget about healthy and yummy foods. These fruit skewers are easy to make and easy to eat, especially for young children. Click [here](#) for the recipe and don't forget to add in your favorites.

Don't forget to throw in some relaxation with your cooking. The weekends go by fast and for those of us who get a long weekend coming up, take some quiet moments to enjoy.

We hope everyone has a safe Memorial Day weekend!

## Upcoming Events

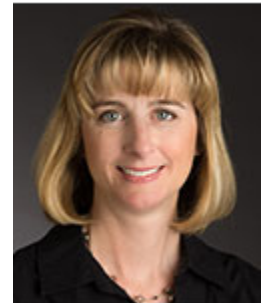
- **Webinar:** Oral Health Systems Change Webinar Series, Tuesday, June 14, 6-7:30pm CST and Thursday, June 30, 6-7:30pm CST. To sign up for June 14, Session 1, [click here](#) or sign up for June 30, Session 2, [click here](#).
- **Webinar:** Leveraging Healthy People 2030 to Address Issues Affecting Children, Mothers and Families, June 22, 2:00pm CST. Click [here](#) to register.



- **Save the Date!** 16th Kansas Disability Caucus on August 10th-12th. Click [here](#) for details.
- **2022 Conference on Oral Health:** Friday, November 4. Conference will be a hybrid event. Thursday, November 3: Dental Champions Reception



Congratulations to Dental Champion Dr. Lisa Thurlow on completing six years of service on the REACH Healthcare Foundation Board of Directors. Dr. Thurlow is an advocate for water fluoridation, dental disease prevention, access to dental care, and public oral health. She's a great champion for Kansans, and we are certain that her service at the REACH Healthcare Foundation will be felt for a long time to come.



## Sugary Drink Display Sanitation

**Out of an abundance of caution, we are suspending use of the Sugary Drink Display until further notice.**



During this time, hand washing and social distancing is on everyone's mind. We want everyone to have the comfort of knowing we sanitize our sugary drink displays. They are wiped down and cleaned off after they have been returned.

## Follow Us



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