



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.**

OHK Visits Arkansas City for Board Meeting

Last week, the Oral Health Kansas Board of Directors held the first in-person meeting of the year in Arkansas City, which is the home of board member, Dr. Nick Rogers. Dr. Rogers is a dentist at Rogers Family Dentistry, which is a leader in providing dental care for people with disabilities. He shared some of the history and culture of his town with staff and board members, including hosting the board meeting at the historic [Burford Theater](#).



During the meeting, we had the privilege to hear about the real challenges and opportunities of this small south-central Kansas. Dr. Rogers described the work his office does to meet the dental needs of people with disabilities through in-office and hospital-based sedation care. Dental Assistant Billie Donohue described how the dental office collaborates with South Central Kansas Medical Center to provide sedation dental care. One of the nurse anesthetists and the Chief Operating Officer of

South Central Kansas Medical Center took time out of their busy days to visit with us. We learned about the hardships the hospital has endured financially as a result of the state of Kansas opting not to implement Medicaid Expansion. The hospital has been at increased risk over the last year and is at risk of shutting its doors. It is in the process of applying to be the first “rural emergency hospital” in the state and is hopeful this designation will come soon. You can read the story about the hospital from the local newspaper, the [Courier Traveler](#), and listen to this news story about the plight of South Central Kansas Medical Center from [Kansas Public Radio](#).

We wanted to send a thank you to Judy, one of the community leaders who helped lead the restoration of the Burford Theater, for taking the time to give us a guided tour. The history and the stories behind the work so many volunteers put into it will melt your heart. If you're in Arkansas City, you must see it!



U.S. Dentist Workforce Data Now Available

The American Dental Association Health Policy Institute (HPI) conducts innovative studies on a wide range of topics on the U.S. dental economy, including access to dental care, the dental workforce, utilization and benefits, dental education, health care outcomes and more. They recently released a [dashboard](#) that provides state profiles of the dentist workforce.

The national data shows in 2022:

- There was a total of 202,536 dentists
- 68.4% dentists are White and 19.4% are Asian
- 62.2% are males

In Kansas the data shows:

- There was a total of 1,485 dentists
- 85.5% dentists are White and 7.7% are Asian
- 67.7% are male

[View](#) the HPI website for more information.

Although we are pleased about the numbers of dentists, we are also aware that the need for more gender, ethnic and racial diversity is still necessary. The disparities in race and ethnicity in the Kansas dental workforce are stark and far above the national rates. If Kansans were able to visit a dentist that resembled themselves in one way or another, it may help reduce barriers that limits them from visiting the dentist and help them feel more supported. Contact Oral Health Kansas at info@oralhealthkansas.org to learn more about our current efforts to further understand the demographics of the Kansas dental workforce.



Picture courtesy of Sesameworkshop.com

Family Resources from Sesame Workshop

[Sesame Workshop](#) has a redesigned website that makes it easy to find tools and resources to help children, including resources about [teeth](#) for free! Use search tools and navigation features to discover and share resources for parents, caregivers, and providers.

[Elmo's Toothy Dance video](#) can be used while brushing teeth with children. It's about two minutes long, which is the right amount of time to brush your teeth and also provides tips on how to brush.

More Than Strong Smiles: Why Oral Health Matters is a [webinar](#) for providers to help educate families on oral health. Watch it at your own leisure and earn a certificate.

How much toothpaste should you use? [Dentist Grover](#) teaches you just that!

Click [here](#) to find more resources for your teeth.



New Healthy Beverage Resources for Caregivers and Providers

In 2019, Healthy Eating Research released a consensus statement from key national health and nutrition organizations on what young children (0-5 years old) should be drinking as part of a healthy diet. Since the consensus statement release, they have developed many new resources to help both caregivers and professionals

learn about and implement the recommendations for healthy beverages.

Find new resources for parents and providers [here](#) and [click here](#) to view a toolkit for healthy beverage recommendations.



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](#).



Thrilling news for former OHK staff member and Dental Champions Class 8 member, Kelly Rippel! Kelly was a member of the Leadership Greater Topeka class in 2018 and this week will be presented the Marsha Sheahan Legacy

Award: Rising Star Award.

"These awards represent the levels of leadership needed for any community to move forward and make progress on tough challenges," said Michelle Cuevas-Stubblefield, the Greater Topeka Partnership's senior vice president of strategy and program director for Leadership Greater Topeka. "LGT alumni, the advisory board and The Partnership are excited for the opportunity to honor this year's Topeka-Shawnee County leadership." Click [here](#) to read the story.



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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