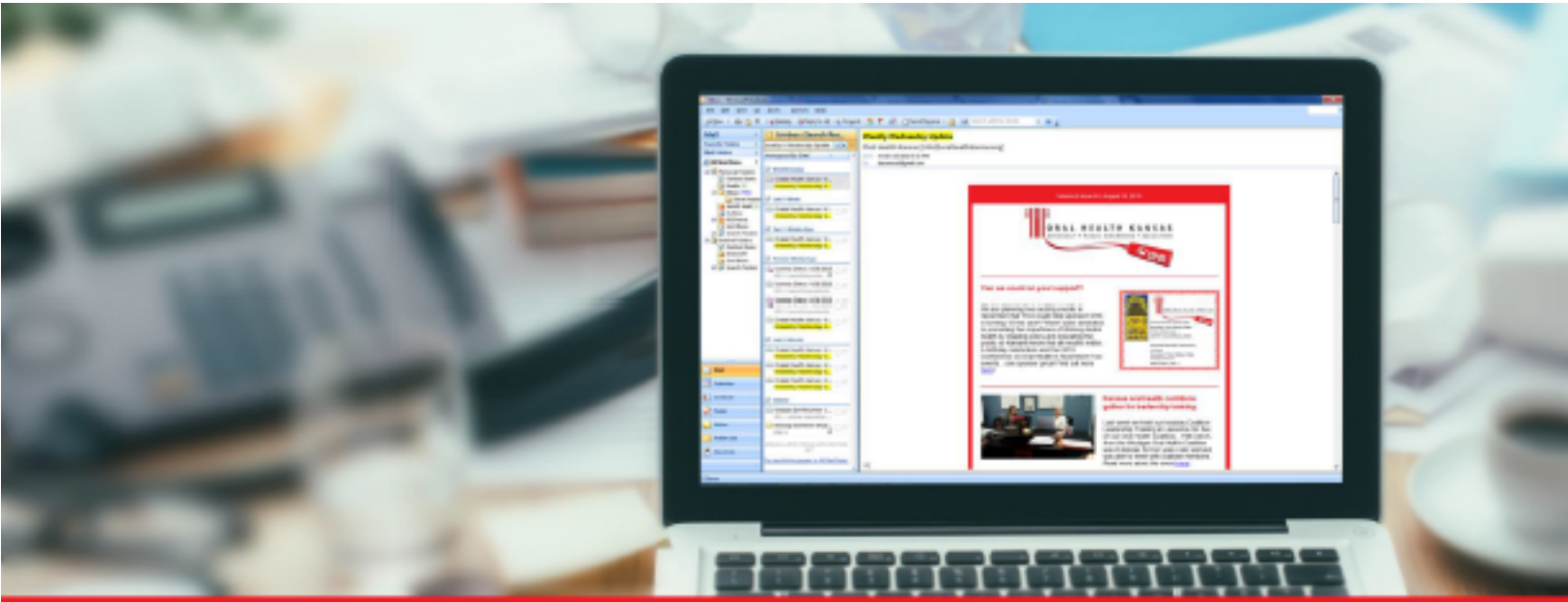




ORAL HEALTH KANSAS
ADVOCACY • PUBLIC AWARENESS • EDUCATION



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 4, 2022

Volume 13, Issue 18



It's May 4th

On this Star Wars Day and every day, Oral Health Kansas would like to remind everyone to brush for two minutes twice a day and floss every day. May the floss be with you!



Legislature Adjourns...For Now

Last Thursday, April 28 the Kansas Legislature concluded their annual Veto Session. They finished most of the work of the year, including passing a final budget bill. In a rather rare move, though, they will return for a second Veto Session on May 23 to address the new Congressional map that was declared unconstitutional by a Kansas district court. The state Supreme Court is set to hear arguments on the map on May 16 and will issue a ruling on its constitutionality quickly. While reconsidering the congressional map will be primary purpose of the Legislation convening on May 23, they also will be able to attempt to override any additional gubernatorial vetoes and will have the freedom to take up any issues they would still like to resolve.

A few things were resolved last week. One was a bill to gradually reduce the state sales tax on food by 2025. This is an issue advocates have worked on for many years, as access to food is a core determinant of health and health equity. After a few years of debate the legislature also passed a sports betting law which is expected to generate new revenue for the state. With margins of 64-53 in the House and 23-17 in the Senate, the legislature passed a bill that will prohibit mask mandates for any reason. If Governor Kelly vetoes this bill, both chambers will need to pick up more votes to override it.

An issue that was debated heavily in the House, despite the fact that no organizations testified in favor of it, would extend the current KanCare (Medicaid) contracts with the managed care organizations for one year in order to allow the next governor to manage the contract process. That process was set to begin this summer and conclude in 2023. This issue was included in a health bill that passed with large margins, so it's very possible the current three managed care organizations will see a one-year extension in their contracts, and the new contract process will begin next year instead of this year.



**ANNOUNCES TOPEKA
TO HOST 2023 KMOM**

2023 Kansas Mission of Mercy

The Kansas Dental Charitable Foundation (KDCF) is pleased to announce that the 2023 Kansas Mission of Mercy (KMOM) free dental clinic will be held on March 24-25, 2023 at the Stormont Vail Event Center in Topeka. Though this will be the 22nd KMOM event since its inception in 2003, this will mark the 20th anniversary for the Kansas Dental

Charitable Foundation, so look for a special celebration to take place. Kansas is the only state to not miss a year due to Covid or any other reason, and to date Kansas dentists have provided 31,221 patients with free dental care valued at nearly \$21.5 million through KMOM.



May is Mental Health Awareness Month

Why are we talking about mental health? What does mental health have to do with oral health you ask? It has everything to do with oral health! Some of the most common mental illnesses that can have a negative impact on a person's oral health include: anxiety and panic attacks, depression, eating disorders, obsessive-compulsive disorder, self-harm, schizophrenia and psychosis. People suffering from mental illnesses may neglect their oral health. When an individual doesn't feel confident with their mouth and smile, it affects their social interactions. Did you know 48% of young adults have untagged themselves from a photo on Facebook because of their smile?

What can we do?

- Encourage to brush at least two times a day with fluoride toothpaste
- Talk about sugary foods and beverages and reducing the amount of intake
- Spread awareness or find support <https://www.nami.org/home>
- Find a dental provider in Kansas <http://www.oralhealthkansas.org/FindingDentist.html>



Photo by Chris Montgomery on Unsplash

Check Out These Webinars on Oral Health

Below are some oral health webinars that may be of interest to you.

Free two part webinar series **“Oral Health Systems Change Webinar Series.”** Led by the North Carolina Oral Health Collaborative (NCOHC). This webinar series is a must-attend virtual event for anyone interested in driving sustainable, systems-level change in oral health care by leveraging policy advocacy and innovative grantmaking strategies.

- Session 1: Why a Systems Change Approach for Oral Health? Register for Session 1: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_5MivgPz6TsWbmONneTBreA
- Session 2: Strategies & Tactics for Seeking Funding for Systems-Level Oral Health Reform Register for Session 2: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_d9rS4FFzQsONEep_qitL2A

Another webinar that may of interest to you is **Dental Fear and Anxiety: Why It Exists and What Providers Can Do to Help** is Thursday, May 5 from 12 - 1p.m. CST. Participants can earn 1 ADA CERP credit. [Register](#).



Medicaid Training Opportunities

KDHE Division of Health Care Finance is offering six Medicaid Training courses beginning May 9th, 2022. The courses in this curriculum provide an overview of Kansas Medicaid with the following topics: the Early & Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT Mandate); Medicaid Overview; Kansas Medicaid Grievance, Appeals, & State Fair Hearings; Medicaid Eligibility; Medicaid Eligibility “Home and Community Based Services (HCBS); Presumptive Medical Disability Team (PMDT). Click [here](#) for a schedule of trainings.

Upcoming Event



- **Safe Kids Day at the Zoo**, Saturday, May 7 from 9:00am - 3:00pm. Look for our Shawnee County Oral Health Coalition members!
- **Save the Date!** 16th Kansas Disability Caucus on August 10th-12th. Click [here](#) for details.
- **2022 Conference on Oral Health:** Thursday, November 3 and Friday, November 4. Conference will be a hybrid event.



Former board member, Lissa Staley, facilitated the Thirsty for Health focus groups this year and we wanted her to know how much we appreciate her. Lissa does a fantastic job of keeping participants focused and feel comfortable to share their views. She is always full of energy! Thank you, Lissa, for volunteering and continuing to stay involved with OHK.



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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