



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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or click here to sign up for our

[Weekly Wednesday Update.](#)

Announcing a new Dental Provider Advisory Group

To complement our Lived Experience Advisory Group, Oral Health Kansas is excited to announce we are launching a Dental Provider Advisory Group.

Recognizing the importance of the dental profession in the health of all Kansans, we want to understand the experiences of our dental providers delivering dental care across the state. By leveraging the voice of a diverse professional body, we hope to bridge the gap between the

DENTAL PROVIDER ADVISORY GROUP

Share your experiences and explore existing barriers and possible strategies as we work to improve the dental landscape for providers and all Kansans.



Who: Dentists & Dental Hygienists

Where: Virtual

When: Quarterly Meetings

Time: Approx. 8 hours/year

A stipend will be provided

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learn more



For further information please contact
info@oralhealthkansas.org

dental workforce and the community, policy makers and insurance industry and ensure advocacy efforts hold the interest of communities and the workforce at their core. This is an opportunity for a broad range of providers- dentists, dental hygienists, Medicaid providers, non-Medicaid providers, sedation dental providers, non-sedation dental providers, rural and urban etc. to come together to discuss topics such as barriers and solutions to sedation dental care access, barriers and solutions to becoming a Medicaid provider, and barriers and solutions to practicing in a rural community.

When: We plan to meet quarterly for 2-hour virtual meetings at a time best suited to Advisory Group members. Stipends will be provided for each meeting.

Sign up: Click [here](#) to sign up or [here](#) for the flyer.



Success Begins with a Smile at Wyandotte Juvenile Detention Center

Last week the [Kansas City Star published an op-ed by Oral Health Kansas](#) telling the story of our new educational program with the Wyandotte Juvenile Detention Center. Sponsored by CareSource, this new educational program is called "Success Begins with a Smile" and is a way to help youth learn how and why to prioritize their oral health as they transition back to the community. They learned how food choices and habits affect their teeth and why good oral health can help them get and keep jobs. After the first two training sessions, more than 80% of the youth reported they believe having healthy teeth is important. We are working to bring this program to other juvenile detention centers across the state. Read more in the op-ed.



Shawnee County Oral Health Coalition Educates Families

On Saturday, May 4, the Shawnee County Oral Health Coalition was at the Topeka Zoo during Safe Kids Day at the Zoo sharing information about oral health. About 100 families stopped by the table

and were amazed to see the Sugary Drink Display and how much sugar is in some of the drinks we enjoy. Families were excited to get Picture Puzzles [“What’s In Your Mouth”](#) to do with their kids while teaching them how important their mouth is. Thank you, Kate and Carolyn, for taking time out of your Saturday to spread awareness about oral health!

If you’re interested in learning more about the coalition, email us at info@oralhealthkansas.org or if you’re interested in reserving a Sugary Drink Display, email Sonia at solmos@oralhealthkansas.org.



Nursing Students Learn about Oral Health

What a good way to start off National Nurses Week when last week, staff member Kathy Hunt, visited with Washburn University nurse practitioner students in Topeka to share how they can integrate oral health into their profession. Simple ways to talk about oral health with patients is during their examination of their ears and eyes, ask if they floss and

brush or how many times. Nurses are key to oral health education because they can see warning signs in mouths for future problems and remind patients to brush and floss and watch what we eat and drink to help us stay healthy.

We have been working with health professionals around the state on how to integrate oral health into their health services as well as universities including oral health in their curriculum. You can learn more on our webpage: [Medical Dental Integration](#).



How is our WWU?

The Weekly Wednesday Update, or as we call it “WWU”, was created many years ago as a way to keep Kansans up to date on what’s going on with oral health in our state. Now in 2024, we have well over 1,800 contacts on our distribution list that includes Kansans and many out of state!

We want to make sure we’re meeting the interest of our readers. Please take this short survey and let us know how our WWU is doing and how we

can improve! Click [here](#) for the survey.



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.
- Self paced courses: [Providing Oral Health Care to Autistic Individuals](#) and [Caring for Individuals with Disabilities: Practical Considerations for Dental Providers](#).
- Alliance for a Healthy Kansas monthly meetings, [Events | Alliance for a Healthy Kansas 2022 \(expandkancare.com\)](#)
- **Save the date!** 2024 Conference on Oral Health will be Friday, November 8 at the Kansas State Olathe Campus, 22201 W Innovation Dr., Olathe, KS.

If you would like to add your event to this list, email info@oralhealthkansas.org.



Congratulations to past board member Whitney Zamora, MPH, RDH, for receiving the Dental Hygiene Class of 2024 Clinical Faculty of the Year award at the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Dentistry!

She was a rock star when she served on our board, and she's continuing to shine in her role as a UMKC School of Dentistry faculty member.



Sugary Drink Display

We have Adult and Children's Sugary Drink Display's available for reservations. These displays are eye catching at exhibits, schools, library, dental offices, clinics and just about anywhere you see them!

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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