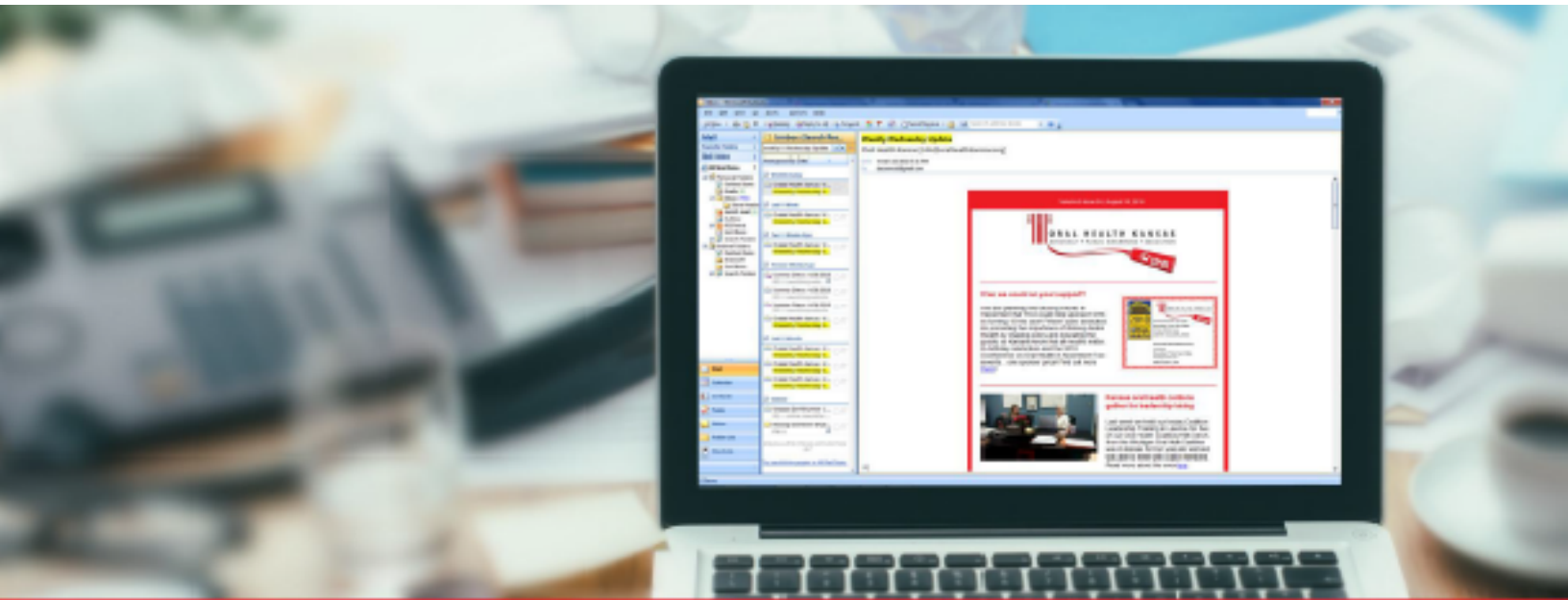




ORAL HEALTH KANSAS
ADVOCACY • PUBLIC AWARENESS • EDUCATION



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](#).

June 15, 2022

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Honoring Juneteenth

The Oral Health Kansas office will be closed on Monday, June 20 in honor of Juneteenth which falls on Sunday, June 19. Juneteenth is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States and became a federal holiday in 2019. Learn more about Juneteenth [here](#).



Update on Adult Dental Benefit

The 2022 Legislature appropriated \$3.5 million to extend dental benefits to adults. Since the Legislature adjourned in May, Medicaid Director Sarah Fertig and the Medicaid team at the Kansas Department of Health and Environment have been working on putting together a dental benefit package that can fit within the \$3.5 million appropriation and begin to address unmet dental needs of the approximately 200,000 Kansas adults enrolled in Medicaid. Director Fertig and her team are listening to stakeholders, including Oral Health Kansas and our partners as they design a package. At this writing nothing has been finalized, but Oral Health Kansas will continue monitoring the situation and keep our supporters updated as we learn more.

If you have any specific questions, please contact Tanya Dorf Brunner at tdorf@oralhealthkansas.org.



Community Health Worker Symposium

Oral Health Kansas staff are excited to be attending conferences again to share information on the latest oral health advocacy and oral health resources. Last week we exhibited at the annual Community Health Worker Symposium in Wichita and we were pleased to be an exhibitor! It was wonderful to see how the community health worker network is growing in Kansas. Over 200 people attended. To find out more about how community health workers are becoming critical players in helping Kansans get and stay healthy, please visit Kansas Department of Health and Environment's [Division of Public Health Community Health Worker](#) webpage.



June is LGBTQ Pride Month

June is Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ) Pride month. Pride Month is celebrated each year in the month of June to honor the 1969 Stonewall Uprising in Manhattan. The Stonewall Uprising was a tipping point for the Gay Liberation Movement in the United States. You can read more about Pride Month and how it was started [here](#).

Oral Health Progress and Equity Network (OPEN) has been doing 30-minute webinars, Take 30's, during the month of June to support oral health for the LGBTQ+ community. They share information to help oral health advocates find ways they can provide support for the LGBTQ+ community and also by engaging in policy advocacy. The next webinar, [Action for LGBTQ+ Oral Health: Advocating During Pride Month and Beyond, will be held on June 28 at 3:00pm](#).

We have been saddened to hear about recent threats to the health and wellbeing of LGBTQ+ people and want to show our support by sharing what we know. In your organization or dental office there are easy ways you can be inclusive. Here are some suggestions from OPEN that may be helpful:

- Using pronouns (he/him, she/her, them/their) and gender neutral language (spokesperson, police officer, etc). Use gender neutral language as much as possible.
- When doing Zoom calls, use personal pronouns in your screen name
- Advertise you are affirming and inclusive (such as putting a Pride flag in your office)
- Do an "equity audit" for your organization or office
- Educate yourself and your colleagues

Here are some resources to learn more, including why pronouns matter:

- [Supporting LGBTQ+ Oral Health Equity](#)
- Equality Act Advocacy: A Toolkit for the Oral Health Community <https://aidph.org/the-equality-act-toolkit-for-the-oral-health-community/>

Upcoming Events

- **Webinar:** How's America's Oral Health? Barriers to Care, Common Problems, and Ongoing Inequity, June 16, 12:00pm CST. Click [here](#) for details.
- **Webinar:** Leveraging Healthy People 2030 to Address Issues Affecting Children, Mothers and Families, June 22, 2:00pm CST. Click [here](#) to register.



- **Webinar:** Take 30: Action for LGBTQ+ Oral Health: Advocating During Pride Month and Beyond, June 28, 2:00pm-2:30pm CST. Click [here](#) to register.
- **Webinar:** Oral Health and Pregnancy, June 29, 2:00pm-2:20pm CST. Click [here](#) to register.
- **Webinar:** Improving Care for LGBTQ+ Patients, June 30, 12:00pm CST. Click [here](#) to register.
- **Webinar:** Oral Health Systems Change Webinar Series, Thursday, June 30, 6-7:30pm CST. To sign up, [click here](#).
- **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



Executive Director, Tanya Dorf Brunner, was in New York City last week on vacation and had the chance to meet MaryAnne Lynch Small in person! MaryAnne is a dentist from Glasgow, Scotland, studying at Columbia



University and they met near campus for coffee at a great local spot. What a treat to meet in person! MaryAnne will be doing an internship over the summer with Oral Health Kansas.



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



Oral Health Kansas • PO BOX 4567Topeka, KS 66604
785.235.6039 phone • 785.233.5564 fax info@oralhealthkansas.org

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