

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](#).

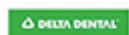
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**Weekly
Wednesday
Update.**



THANK YOU!

We are honored to see the support we have for the 2023 Conference on Oral Health, *"Bringing people together to lead innovation in overall health for Kansans."*

The conference will be hybrid on Friday, October 27 and held at the KU Edwards Campus in

Overland Park.

A special thank you to our sponsors:

- Delta Dental of Kansas - Platinum Sponsor
- CareSource - Gold Sponsor
- Molina HealthCare - Gold Sponsor
- Aetna Better Health of Kansas - Silver Sponsor
- UCare - Silver Sponsor
- REACH Healthcare Foundation - Bronze Sponsor
- Sunflower Health Plan - Bronze Sponsor

If your organization or company is interested in sponsoring or exhibiting at our event, please contact us at info@oralhealthkansas.org to learn more. Returning exhibitors will receive a discount of 10% if choosing the exhibitor package again this year. The discount offer is not valid for sponsor packages. Please email conference.office@wichita.edu for the Promo Code.

View the Sponsor and Exhibitor packet [here](#). To sign up, click [here](#).



OHK Visits with Community Health Workers

Community Health Workers (CHWs) play a crucial role in improving health outcomes and addressing health disparities across Kansas. Kathy Hunt, our Dental Program Director, was on the road last week to exhibit at this year's [Kansas Community Health Worker Coalition](#) Symposium held on the campus of Wichita State University. She showcased the vast oral health resources available from Oral Health Kansas for CHWs to use in promoting dental wellness in their communities. Symposium attendees were engaged and excited to learn about both the educational resources and the new Medicaid dental coverage for adults. The exhibit was designed to empower Community Health Workers as oral health advocates as well as inspire and increase their confidence to make a positive difference in the oral health of their communities.

Community Health Worker, Thien Doan, with COPE in Wichita, recently purchased an Acid Attack Kit and borrowed a Sugary Drink Display. He used both OHK resources to teach school aged children about the effects of eating sugary foods and consuming sugary beverages. We

almost always have both of these educational tools at our exhibit tables. Ask about them next time you see us out!



Recruitment for 100 Million Mouths Campaign

What is the [100 Million Mouths Campaign](#)? The 100 Million Mouths Campaign is a national initiative which is engaging oral health education champions across the country. The goal is to have one champion in each state over the next decade working with health profession schools and programs to integrate oral health into their curricula to bridge gaps in oral health access.

Oral health is important to our overall health, so it is important to teach health professionals the value of good oral health for their patients. OHK's Dental Program Director Kathy Hunt serves as the State Oral Health Education Champion for Kansas and would be happy to answer questions. You can email her at khunt@oralhealthkansas.org.

The 100 Million Mouths Campaign currently is recruiting for education champions in the following states:

- Arkansas
- Illinois
- Montana
- Nevada
- New Hampshire
- North Dakota
- Oklahoma
- Rhode Island

The application includes sending a copy of your CV and briefly answering three questions (250 words each):

- Why do you want to be your state oral health champion and engage health profession schools/programs to learn more about oral health?
- What experiences do you have engaging/teaching primary care learners and professionals about oral health?
- As a State Oral Health Education champion, how might you contribute to improving health equity in the population(s) you work most closely with?

If you want to apply to be a champion, click [here](#) for more information.



Promoting Inclusivity and Respect: Using Pronouns in Dental Care

We know that not everyone seeks dental care. The reasons can range from dental fear to the ability to pay for dental care to worry about not being accepted. In today's diverse world, it's important to create an inclusive and respectful environment in dental offices. In an article from the [American Dental Association](#), North Carolina dentist Dr. Michael Farmer discusses providing dental care for members of the transgender community. He says, "If they feel that they are going to be judged or talked about, they may avoid seeking care at all." This is a barrier to dental care that can be fixed.

Using people's pronouns one easy, but important way to show members of the LGBTQ community that we value their identity and want to treat them with dignity. When we get those pronouns right, we're not only showing that we're all about patient-centered care, but we're also making things easier for those who might feel uncomfortable or stressed because their gender identity doesn't fit societal norms. It's all about building trust, having open communication, and making sure every patient gets personalized and respectful treatment.

If you're wondering how to get started using pronouns in a dental office, start by making sure your team is on board and educated about the importance of using correct pronouns. You can learn more about this in an article from the [Delta Dental Foundation](#) (an affiliate of Delta Dental of Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, and North Carolina). Consider implementing a practice where staff introduce themselves with their own pronouns during patient interactions. This helps normalize the conversation around pronouns and sets a positive example. You can also update patient intake forms to include a section where individuals can provide their preferred pronouns. Lastly, make sure to actively use the correct pronouns when addressing patients during consultations and treatments. Remember, it's a small change that can make a big difference in ensuring everyone feels respected and valued.

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:** The Heartbeat of Dentistry: Integrating CV Screening and Wellness Checks in Dental Visits, June 26 at 12:00pm CST. Register [here](#).
- Community Care Network of Kansas conference, October 4-6, in Lawrence. Learn more [here](#).



Kathy Hunt, OHK's Dental Program Director, gave a hour presentation to University of Missouri Kansas City pre-dental

students in the STAHR program today. She presented on "Achieving Good Oral Health for People with Disabilities." We're thrilled to be able to share our experiences and resources with the future dental workforce and even more pleased with the diversity and passion shown by the students.



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!

Follow Us



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