



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.**](#)



Medicaid Denture Benefit to Start July 1

A [coalition of stakeholders](#) joined with Oral Health Kansas this year to advocate with the Kansas Legislature to add denture coverage to the state's Medicaid adult dental benefits. State officials are finalizing the policy change

necessary to implement the coverage which will go into effect on July 1.

The denture benefit will be open to people over age 21 and will include both dentures and partials, as well as repairs and adjustments. People who need dentures or partials will be able to receive replacements every five years. A list of all the codes covered and the rates for the codes is in the [policy change bulletin](#).

In the coming weeks Oral Health Kansas will update our [Medicaid adult dental benefit webpage](#) to add details about the new denture coverage. If you have any questions about how the benefit will work, please contact us at info@oralhealthkansas.org. Your questions will help us put together a list of everything providers and consumers need to know about the denture coverage.

Thank you to all of our partners for their hard work in adding this essential coverage to the Kansas Medicaid program. Kansas will become one of only about 20 states that provides denture coverage.



Outstanding Dental Hygienist Award

In 2022, the Excellence in Oral Health Award for Outstanding Dental Hygienist was presented to Christina Cook, RDH, ECP II, a dental hygienist at Health Partnership Clinic. She was hired months before the Covid pandemic and was ready to make an impact at the clinic and in schools. When the pandemic hit, it didn't bring her down. She continued her efforts to reach schools and patients at the clinic. School staff sing her praises and the care she provides to the students.

Is there someone you know that has made a difference in your community? The [Excellence in Oral Health Awards](#) is a perfect way to show someone how much you appreciate them. Just fill out a short application and share why this person deserves to be recognized!

We are seeking nominations in the following categories:

- **Outstanding Organization Award** - An organization that is distinguished from others in excellence in promoting oral health awareness in Kansas

- **Outstanding Dental Hygienist Award** - A dental hygienist that is distinguished from others in excellence, who goes beyond the call of duty and is committed to improving the oral health of Kansans
- **Outstanding Dentist Award** - A dentist that is distinguished from others in excellence, who goes beyond the call of duty and is committed to improving the oral health of Kansans
- **Outstanding Community Leader Award** - A community leader that is distinguished from others in excellence, who goes beyond the call of duty and is committed to improving the oral health of Kansans
- **Bob Bethell Outstanding Policy Maker Award** - An outstanding policy maker that is distinguished from others in excellence, who shows support for the oral health of all Kansans
- **Outstanding Oral Health Volunteer Award** - An outstanding non-dental volunteer who demonstrates a positive difference in an organization - someone who saw a problem and got involved to find a solution
- **Ron Alexander Outstanding Dental Champion Award** - This award is designed to recognize the outstanding work a Dental Champion has done as a direct result of participating in the Dental Champions Leadership Program.

The deadline to submit nominations is Monday, September 11 by 5pm. The winners will be recognized during the 2023 Conference on Oral Health on Friday, October 27 at the KU Edwards Campus in Overland Park, Kansas. Click [here](#) for information on how to nominate.



Disability Pride Month

Disability Pride Month is typically celebrated in July each year. It is a time dedicated to raising awareness about disability rights and promoting acceptance and inclusion of people with disabilities. The purpose of Disability Pride Month is to celebrate the achievements and contributions of individuals with disabilities and to promote a more inclusive society.

The month of July was chosen to coincide with the anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), which was signed into law on July 26, 1990. The ADA is a significant piece of legislation that prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities and promotes equal opportunities in areas such as employment, public accommodations, transportation, and more.

OHK believes people with disabilities should have access to opportunities, including opportunities for access to dental care services. With the work between Aetna Better Health of Kansas, United Healthcare, Sunflower Health Plan and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, [My Dental Care Passport](#) was created as a useful resource designed to improve the dental office visit for people with disabilities by letting individuals and their families/caregivers voice their specific needs. Sharing important information, for example, how a person likes to communicate, what they liked in past dentist visits, and what parts of the appointment might be hard for them, helps break down communication barriers and allows the dental team to make changes to the dental office and appointment plan before the person even arrives. This helps make the visit to the dentist better for everyone.

People with disabilities are more likely to experience dental problems when a daily hygiene routine is not practiced. [Resources for Adaptive Aids](#) can help you adapt your toothbrushing routine. When body movements are limited, effective toothbrushing can be a challenge. [Changing it Up](#) is a helpful resource that can help improve the way you care for your teeth, because poor oral health can lead to health issues that range from annoying to serious.

Our website provides a variety of oral health resources. If there is something you don't see on our website and are interested in, email us at info@oralhealthkansas.org.



The University of Kansas School of Medicine
is pleased to announce:

**Fall 2023 Tobacco Treatment
Specialist Training**

August 14th - October 13th

To apply for this virtual, self-paced, eight-week
training, click the link below:
https://bit.ly/TTS_Registration

Deadline to register is July 11th!

Cost - \$800 per individual*

*Some scholarships are available for the training
with priority given to those who serve in rural areas
or in behavioral health settings in the state of Kansas.
Slots will fill up quickly, so apply now!

Tobacco Treatment Specialist Training

The University of Kansas School of Medicine will be having a Tobacco Treatment Specialist Training beginning August 14. The virtual training is 8 weeks and self-paced! [Tobacco Treatment Specialists](#) are professionals who are specially trained to provide evidence-based treatment for individuals who use tobacco. This intensive and prestigious training prepares clinical providers to deliver behavioral support and help clients or patients select the best medications to support tobacco cessation. Cigarette use among adults in Kansas

(15.6%) is higher than the national average (12.5%; CDC 2020). Both smoking and the use of smokeless tobacco can significantly affect a person's oral health. Oral cancer and periodontal (gum) disease are among the most serious oral health problems associated with tobacco use. This training will help better your knowledge to assist clients or patients. Learn more [here](#).



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:** Veteran Oral Health Action Collaborative, **Rear Admiral (Retired) Tim Ricks**, DMD, MPH, FICD, FACD, FPFA will present “Veterans and Chronic Disease”, June

29 at 11:00am CST. Register [here](#).

- **Webinar:** Oral Health Changes in 2023, June 29 at 6pm CST. Register [here](#).
- **Webinar:** Using Quality Improvement in Dentistry, July 11 at 6:00pm CST. Register [here](#).
- Community Care Network of Kansas conference, October 4-6, in Lawrence. Learn more [here](#).
- [Conference on Oral Health](#) - hybrid conference on Friday, October 27 at the KU Edwards Campus.



This week Oral Health Kansas' Tanya Dorf Brunner collaborated with our counterpart at the Missouri Coalition for Oral Health on a presentation to the STAHR

students through the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Dentistry. The [STAHR Scholars program](#) prepares students to apply for dental school. We shared the reasons oral health advocacy is important and necessary, sharing many of the ways historically marginalized populations may face challenges in accessing dental care. The students were eager to learn and asked great questions. They certainly offer hope for the future!





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

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