



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](#).

July 16, 2025

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**[Weekly
Wednesday
Update](#)**.



FDA Hearing on Removing Fluoride Supplements

Oral Health Kansas has submitted comments to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) urging them to keep fluoride supplements on the market. In May the agency announced it will remove fluoride supplements from the market this fall. Fluoride supplements are the only way people who do not have access to optimally fluoridated water have to provide systemic fluoride for children. In Kansas the city of Wichita is not fluoridated, and parents have been able to rely on fluoride supplements for their children for decades. Our comments stressed the safety and

efficacy of fluoride supplements as well as the importance of preserving families' choice to provide their children with fluoride. Read our comments [here](#).

Public comments on the FDA's proposal are due today. **The American Dental Association has set up a public comment form for use by dental professionals.**

[Click here to submit your own comments by midnight on July 16.](#)

The [public meeting on the FDA's proposal to remove fluoride supplements from the market](#) will be held on Wednesday, July 23. The FDA has framed the public hearing in this way, "The purpose of the hybrid public meeting is to seek public input on the clinical use and safety concerns associated with the use of orally ingestible unapproved prescription drug products containing fluoride in the pediatric population." Because of the proposal to ban fluoride supplements the stated purpose of the public meeting to address "safety concerns," **it is important to have as many people supporting fluoride as possible at the hearing.** [Click here to register to attend the hybrid public hearing.](#)



Testimony on Rate Increase

This week Oral Health Kansas provided [testimony](#) to the Legislature's KanCare Oversight Committee. It was a chance to update Committee members on the new Medicaid dental rate increase and preview a survey of dental providers about their capacity to provide sedation dental care. The rate increase went into effect July 1. Committee members were pleased with the implementation of the rate increase. Oral Health Kansas also told legislators we will work with our partners on advocacy in 2026 to secure funding to finish the job to raise the rates to the commercial level.

Making Medicaid Work for You Webinar Series

Explore how recent Medicaid (KanCare) dental enhancements - including increased reimbursement rates - can benefit your practice and your community in Kansas.

This webinar series for dental teams dives into the latest improvements to Medicaid dental coverage, such as expanded adult benefits, higher payment rates, technical support, and new ways to broaden access to care. Whether your office is new to Medicaid or considering rejoining, this is your opportunity to see how these updates can strengthen your practice while helping more patients. Together we can create stronger pathways to oral health for Kansans.

KDA KANSAS DENTAL ASSOCIATION
ORAL HEALTH KANSAS
SAVING THE DATES FOR A WEBINAR SERIES

NEW ERA, NEW OPPORTUNITIES
MAKING MEDICAID WORK FOR YOU **FREE CEs**

Medicaid Dental: New Rates, Better Coverage	August 19 1:15 - 1:45 pm
Your Practice, Your Way: Managing Your Patient Mix	August 26 1:15 - 1:45 pm
Get to Know Your MCOs	September 2 1:15 - 1:45 pm
Enrollment & Credentialing	September 9 1:15 - 1:45 pm
Filing Medicaid Claims	September 16 1:15 - 1:45 pm
Do Well by Doing Good: Medicaid Opportunities	September 23 1:15 - 1:45 pm

The webinar series dates and topics are listed below. Each webinar will be from 1:15pm-1:45pm on a Tuesday.

- August 19: Medicaid Dental: New Rates, Better Coverage
- August 26: Your Practice, Your Way: Managing Your Patient Mix
- September 2: Get to Know Your MCOs
- September 9: Enrollment & Credentialing
- September 16: Filing Medicaid Claims
- September 23: Do Well by Doing Good: Medicaid Opportunities
- BONUS: September 30: My Dental Care Passport

Click [here](#) to register. Contact us at info@oralhealthkansas.org to learn more.

ACCESSIBLE ORAL HEALTH 2025 ECHO
BUILDING CONFIDENCE IN DENTAL TEAMS TO SERVE PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Thursdays,
September 4 -
October 2, 2025
Noon - 1 PM CST via Zoom

Join our mailing list for series details and registration information!

SCAN ME  bit.ly/JoinOralHealth2025ECHO

Continuing Education credit will be made available for dental teams.

ProjectECHO@kumc.edu 

Coming Soon: Building Confidence in Dental Teams to Serve People with Disabilities

Oral Health Kansas and our partners in the Pathways to Oral Health project are proud to announce a Project ECHO educational series will launch in September that will help dental teams prepare to serve people with disabilities. "Building Confidence in Dental Teams to Serve People with Disabilities" is a free five-part virtual educational program that will help dental teams learn more about people with disabilities, how to understand and prepare for sensitivities in the dental office, and what one dental office has done to create a safe and welcoming environment for their neighbors with disabilities.

This educational series is part of the KU Medical Center's Project ECHO program, which includes a combination of presentations from experts and case study discussions among participants. Four national experts will deliver presentations about people with disabilities, dental care for people with disabilities, behavior, and sensory accommodations. Dr. Nick Rogers and Billie Donohue from Rogers Family Dentistry in Arkansas City will describe their practice's approach to embracing people with disabilities.

The sessions will run from 12:00pm to 1:00pm CST on Thursdays from September 4 through October 2. ADA CERP credit will be available for attendees. Click [here](#) for the flyer. Registration will open soon, but you can join the mailing list to learn more about the series and receive information about registration by visiting [this link](#).

This Project ECHO series is supported through an ARPA grant from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment Division of Health Care Finance.



Disability Pride Month

July is Disability Pride Month! It's an important time to recognize, celebrate, and amplify the voices, experiences, and contributions of people with disabilities. Next week we'll honor the passing of the Americans with Disabilities Act on July 26, 1990, which was a landmark civil rights law prohibiting discrimination against people with disabilities in all areas of public life.

Accessibility for people with disabilities is important when seeking dental care. The Pathways to Oral Health Project partners are working together to improve access to dental care for people with disabilities. Below are some strategies we are currently working on:

- Improving the [My Dental Care Passport](#), a tool to help communicate with the dental team before the dental appointment.
- Provide educational webinars to empower dentists and their teams with the knowledge and tools needed to enhance patient care, ensuring these individuals receive the best possible treatment in a compassionate, accessible, and effective manner.
- Educating managed care organization (MCOs) care coordination staff on resources for their members.

Visit the [Pathways to Oral Health Project](#) website for more information.



2022 Outstanding Organization

In 2022 during the Conference on Oral Health, South Central Kansas Medical Center in Arkansas City was presented with the Outstanding Organization awarded. The hospital was nominated by Dr. Nick Rogers, a dentist in Arkansas City, for providing a space for sedation dentistry services, knowing that's difficult to find.

Do you know an organization who is doing exceptional work around oral health? Nominate them for the Excellence in Oral Health Awards.

The categories are below:

- Outstanding Dentist
- Outstanding Dental Hygienist
- Ron Alexander Outstanding Dental Champion:
- Outstanding Organization

■ Bob Bethell Outstanding Policy Maker

Nominate a peer, colleague or a friend! Click [here](#) for the nomination applications for the [Excellence in Oral Health Awards](#) or the [Ron Alexander Outstanding Dental Champion Award](#). The winners will be honored at the [Conference on Oral Health](#) on Friday, November 7 at the KU Edwards Campus. The deadline for submitting your nomination is Friday, August 29 by 5pm! Let's give others a chance to shine—please do not nominate anyone who has already received this award. You can see a list of previous award winners [here](#).



Sugary Drink Display...Where Have You Been?

The Sugary Drink Display has been busy traveling around Kansas since the beginning of 2025. It has visited schools, early childhood programs and even the Kickapoo Nation Health Center. The drink display contains 10 beverages and 10 jars filled with the amount of sugar each drink has in teaspoons.

This is a good visual for children and families to see how much sugar is in a drink that they enjoy. It encourages families to drink in moderation if they choose beverages with high sugar amounts.

The drink display also includes two table top signs and one 11x17 sign along with handouts. You can reserve the drink display for up to one month for FREE for your event! We can ship it to you and reimburse you for postage when you mail it back. Share the display at clinics, sports events, churches, library or even back to school events!

If you are interested in reserving a display, email Sonia at solmos@oralhealthkansas.org to see if one is available for your event.



Association for Dental Safety to Fill Gap Left by Elimination of CDC Division of Oral Health

The Association for Dental Safety has [launched](#) a new organization to provide clinical guidelines and best practices after the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) oral health division was eliminated in a round of federal layoffs. The CDC's oral health division was [shuttered](#) earlier this year as part of the HHS Department's plan to reduce the number of full-time employees from 82,000 to 62,000. The ADS previously oversaw dental infection prevention and patient safety initiatives in partnership with the CDC. Now, the new ADS Institute for Dental Safety and Science will work to continue developing guidelines and best practices. The institute will be led by Eve Cuny, a board member for the ADS Foundation, according to a July 8 news release. One of the first tasks the new

group will undertake is appointing an advisory committee that will oversee updates to the CDC's infection control guidelines for dental healthcare settings. The CDC last updated these guidelines in 2003.



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](#).
- [Community Care Network of Kansas](#) annual conference, September 24-26 at the Marriott Kansas City Overland Park Hotel, in Overland Park, Kansas.
- Save the date! The Conference on Oral Health will be held Friday, November 7 at the KU Edwards Campus. Click [here](#) for updates on the conference.
- SPEAK Up! (Self-Advocates Promoting Empowerment and Access in Kansas) conference on Saturday, November 8. Click [here](#) for information.



This month, Sonia Olmos is celebrating her 10-year anniversary as OHK's Operations and Communications Manager. Sonia manages the Weekly Wednesday Update newsletter, OHK's website and social media along with other projects that she jumps in to help with. "Ten years has flown by, and I love working with people who I learn from every single day". And we love working with her!



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!

Follow Us



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