



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](#).

2018 Outstanding Volunteer

Jenna Weikel was a 7th grader in 2016 at Fort Scott Middle School when she entered a cartoon character contest for the Thirsty for Health project. She was selected out of 50 submissions as the winning character and a mascot was created from her drawing named Sippy. She developed other Sippy images and also assisted in providing versions used in marketing



materials and a toolkit. Sippy is a character that traveled to different schools, health fairs and other events, energizing children and families to drink water!

In 2018, Jenna Weikel received the Excellence in Oral Health Award for Outstanding Volunteer. She, along with her parents, attended our Conference on Oral Health in Olathe where she was presented the award. Sippy is still popular to this day and is quite a unique character!

Do you know someone such as Jenna Weikel who deserves recognition for their efforts? Is there someone who did something in a community that helped promote the importance of oral health? The Excellence in Oral Health Awards is the perfect opportunity to show them their work is valued.

Here are nomination forms: Excellence in Oral Health Award nomination [here](#) (in [Word Document](#)) or the Ron Alexander Outstanding Dental Champion nomination [here](#) (in [Word Document](#)).

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.



Oral Health Kansas Shares Resources at Conferences

Oral Health Kansas was busy meeting new people this week and celebrating our 20th anniversary. We attended the Kansas Association of Community Action Programs' Kansas Poverty Conference in Topeka and the Kansas School Nurses Conference in Wichita. Between both conferences we visited with about 200 people about our oral health resources and also educating everyone about the new dental benefit added to KanCare (Medicaid) - dentures!

This year we'll be presenting and continuing to exhibit at different conferences. If you would like for us to present or exhibit at your event, email us at info@oralhealthkansas.org



Take Action Now to Keep Medicaid Coverage

In April the Medicaid program (KanCare) began determining people's eligibility for the program after a three-year hiatus due to the COVID pandemic. As many as 120,000 Kansans could lose their Medicaid coverage, and for thousands of adults covered by Medicaid this means they also would lose access to the new adult dental benefits.

The most significant barrier to people keeping their coverage right now is the ability to receive the renewal notice. Because people have not gone through the annual process of redetermining their Medicaid eligibility since 2020, state Medicaid officials may not have the most current contact information for everyone. Many people could lose their coverage just because they do not receive the notice. There is an easy fix, and it just takes a few minutes.

Step 1: If you or anyone you know are covered by Medicaid in Kansas, visit <https://kancare.ks.gov/>. At the top of the page are instructions about updating your contact information using the chat bubble or by calling a toll-free number: 1-800-792-4884. This just takes a few minutes to confirm your mailing address and phone number.

Step 2: Check your mail! In order to be sure you receive your Medicaid eligibility information and take action you will need to check your mail regularly and respond to the notices quickly.



Kansas Shows Progress on Medicaid Adult Dental Coverage

This month CareQuest Institute released the newest Medicaid Adult Dental Benefit Coverage Checker. Last year CareQuest released the first national tool designed to track the Medicaid adult dental benefits in each state. The data in the tool last year was from 2020, and Kansas ranked low among the states because only preventive and emergency extraction services were covered. In 2022 fillings, crowns, and periodontal care were added to the Kansas Medicaid program, and our state's progress shows in the 2023 update to the Medicaid Adult Dental Benefit Coverage Checker!

Kansas is one of five states that significantly improved Medicaid adult dental services in 2022. While we do not yet have a comprehensive adult dental benefit available, our overall score had one of the highest increases in the country.

Next week we will dig into the coverage checker to share more good news and trends.



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:** Part 1: Prevention Super Partners: Dental Care Teams & QuitLines, July 27 at 1:00pm CST. Register [here](#).
- **Webinar:** Part 2: Saving Smiles and Lives: Tools to Integrate Smoking Cessation into Practice, August 3 at 12:00pm CST. Register [here](#).
- **Webinar:** Learning Community - Oral Health Policy & Advocacy, August 30 at 2:00pm 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.



The Kansas Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics (KAAP) recently announced Denise Cyzman as its incoming Executive Director. Denise was the Executive Director for Community Care Network of

Kansas from 2104 - 2022. We worked closely with her while at Community Care Network of Kansas and she was also a member of Dental Champions Class 8. We are excited for her new opportunity and look forward to working with her in this new role.



Picture courtesy of KS Chapter American Academy of Pediatrics



Sugary Drink Display

We have Adult and Children's Sugary Drink Displays 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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