



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](#).

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School Nurses Brush Up on Oral Health

Last week, Oral Health Kansas exhibited at the hybrid Kansas School Nurses conference in Wichita. We enjoyed visiting with over 100 school nurses and 497 school nurses explored our virtual exhibit. We shared oral health resources as well as information on our [Thirsty for Health](#) project. Participants were excited to do our hands on [Acid Attack Kit](#) experiment and thrilled to know our kits are available for purchase. School nurses are definitely a key to



keeping students healthy. We heard how students go to the nurses office with a toothache or they come in because they're thirsty and don't have a water bottle to get water. We listened and provided resources that hopefully help with the upcoming school year.

Our sugary drink display is always a hit at exhibits and will soon be available for reservations! Watch our [Weekly Wednesday Update](#) to know when reservations will begin.



Happy Birthday Medicaid!

This year, Medicaid turns 57. The history of Medicaid is a long one, beginning on July 30, 1965 when it was signed into law, along with Medicare. Medicaid has provided generations of low-income individuals and families with high-quality health insurance, affording them access to

essential medical care.

As Medicaid celebrates it's birthday this month, we are also celebrating the work OHK and partners did this year to advocate for extended adult dental benefits. We are still working to identify next steps in implementation including how providers can use the codes and how consumers can access services. We'll keep you updated through the Weekly Wednesday Update as we learn more.



Data Shows Dental Insurance Enrollment Low in Western Kansas

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services released summary enrollment data on March 23, 2022, for the ninth open enrollment period of the federally facilitated health insurance

marketplace created by the Affordable Care Act.

A total of 13,210 Kansans selected a standalone dental insurance plan for 2022 through the federally facilitated health insurance marketplace. Johnson County had the highest

enrollment for a standalone dental plan at 3,491 residents, while several counties in Western Kansas had the lowest enrollment at 10 or fewer residents.

Thank you to the Kansas Health Institute for preparing statewide maps showing 2022 marketplace enrollment in Kansas.

- [Plan Selections by County](#)
- [Plan Selections by ZIP Code](#)
- [Standalone Dental Plan Selections by County](#)

Learn more about the data [here](#).



How to Engage in Anti-Racism Work

Published last month, this special edition journal from the American Association of Public Health Dentistry highlights the need for us all as an extended dental community to actively engage in anti-racism work. Entangled in persistent social forces which fuel inequitable power and resource allocation, decades of individual and systemic racism in our dental community continues to present as racial inequities in dental health, dental

healthcare access, and workforce diversity. As stated in the journal's opening remarks, through action 'Together we can be the change'.

By elevating the voices of dental public health scholars, advocates, policy makers, researchers and more, the journal explores the multifaceted and multidisciplinary approach required to make dental public health an anti-racist discipline. We highlight an important definition for your attention.

'What is anti-racism? Active process of identifying and challenging racism, by changing systems, organizational structures, policies and practices, and attitudes, to redistribute power in an equitable manner.'

As we explore anti-racism in our profession, here are some suggestions of initial steps from CareQuest that may be helpful. Please visit <https://www.carequest.org/about/news/actions-anyone-can-take-start-addressing-structural-racism-health-care> for more information.

As an individual:

- Use terms (racism, racist) accurately and talk about them.
- Be curious about your own biases.

- Learn about different forms of racism.
- Pay attention to the language used to describe people.
- Familiarize yourself with the literature on racial/ethnic health inequities in your field.

Through interactions with others:

- Be an active bystander/ally
- Treat patients with a health equity lens

As an organization:

- Revisit and establish guidelines around work culture.
- Establish protocols to address discrimination in the work setting and accountability structures.
- Value and encourage research on health equity.
- Integrate health equity into training programs and continuing education
- Establish or enhance partnerships with community organizations.
- Examine for inequities in the data.

Look out for future updates as we shine a light on specific content from the journal.



Get Involved with a Rural Project ECHO

Project ECHO is an all-teach-all-learn-telementoring model focused on real-life situations, expert guidance, feedback, and problem-solving, designed to build the capacity of health professionals.

American Institute of Dental Public Health (AIDPH) was credentialed in the ECHO model in 2020 to establish a rural oral health ECHO hub. Throughout 2021, AIDPH approached stakeholders in rural communities to design programming that meets their needs.

The Rural Oral Health ECHO follows [THE THREE DOMAINS FRAMEWORK](#) using the lens of rurality and health equity.

Each virtual session includes four key elements:

1. Expert didactic presentation
2. Participant Q&A
3. Participant case presentations
4. Expert feedback for problem solving and capacity building

AIDPH has developed a certificate program for ECHO program participants to pursue as a formalized pathway signaling expertise and training in rural oral health. After each monthly ECHO session, certificate candidates can choose to take a competency assessment. Learn more about the session and certificate [here](#)!



Upcoming Events

- **16th Kansas Disability Caucus** on August 10th - 12th. Click [here](#) for details.
- **Webinar: The Science of Advocacy**, August 18 at 7pm CST. Register [here](#).
- **Kansas Public Health Association** annual conference, September 29 in Wichita, Kansas. Click [here](#) as more

information is shared.

- **Community Care Network of Kansas** annual conference, October 5-7 in Manhattan, Kansas. Click [here](#) for more information.
- **2022 Conference on Oral Health**: Friday, November 4. Conference will be a hybrid event. Thursday, November 3: Dental Champions Reception.
Don't Forget!
- **August 2: Primary Election**



Congratulations to Dental Champions (Class 2) Greg Hill in his new role! Greg will be the new executive director for the New York State Dental Association. He recently served as executive director and CEO of the Colorado Dental

Association, and he previously served as the Associate Director at the Kansas Dental association. While in Kansas he was actively engaged with Oral Health Kansas and chaired our Dental Champions Advisory Board. We're really



excited for this opportunity for Greg and for the state of New York to benefit from his expertise!



Sugary Drink Display

Stay tuned as we are continuing to make decisions on the Sugary Drink Display!



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