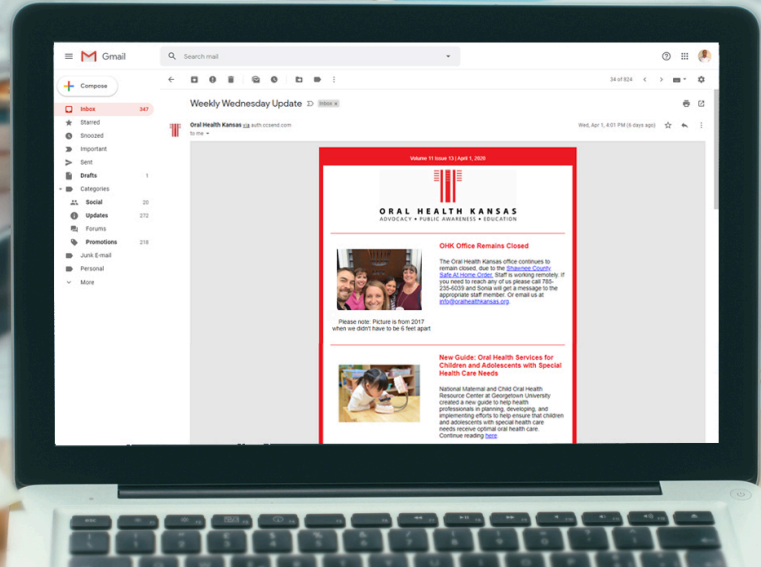




ORAL HEALTH KANSAS
ADVOCACY • PUBLIC AWARENESS • EDUCATION



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 30, 2025

Volume 16, Issue 29

Scan the QR code



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**Weekly
Wednesday
Update.**



Here is the Conference on Oral Health Session Overview

We are three months away from the November 7 annual Conference on Oral Health and we have many topics to explore during the all-day event. We'll be providing both long and short sessions, including three breakout sessions. See the topics below for the day:

- State of the State of Oral Health in Kansas
- Accessible Oral Health: Building Confidence in Dental Teams to Serve People with Disabilities

- Fluoride in Kansas: Trends, Policies, and Public Health Impact
- Keynote Address: Positive Exposure by Rick Guidotti
- Three Breakout Sessions: Community Approaches to Meeting Community Needs (listed below)
 1. A Dental Hygiene Approach to Community Outreach
 2. Dental Care for Veterans
 3. Integrating Dental Care into Medical Care
- Providing Thoughtful Care for People Who've Experienced Trauma
- Pathways to Oral Health: A Collaborative Approach to Improving Access to Medicaid Dental Care

When: Friday, November 7

Where: KU Edwards Campus, 12600 S Quivira Rd in Overland Park

If you're interested in sponsorship or exhibitor opportunities, click [here](#).

CE's will be available!

Registration will be opening soon! Watch your emails and Weekly Wednesday Update!



Medicaid Dental Rates in the News

Yesterday, OHK's Executive Director, Tanya Dorf Brunner and Kansas Dental Association's Executive Director, Kevin Robertson, spoke on Kansas Public Radio about the recent increase in Medicaid reimbursement rates that went into effect July 1. You can see their story at this link:

<https://kansaspublishradio.org/daily-headlines/2025-07-29/headlines-for-tuesday-july-29-2025>

Over 75 dental professionals provided feedback about the best way to allocate the funds in order to help maximize the number of dental offices that are Medicaid providers. Nearly every Medicaid dental code increased this month. The rates increased by roughly these amounts:

- Exams: 50%
- Cleanings/scaling & root planing: 35%
- X-rays and composite fillings: 20%
- All other codes: 10%

A full list of the new Medicaid rates is available on a new provider bulletin on the [KMAP website](#).



Still time to Register for Making Medicaid Work for You Webinar Series

The first “Making Medicaid Work for You” webinar series will be on August 19. These webinars are series offered for dental teams to learn about 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. Explore how recent Medicaid (KanCare) dental enhancements - including increased reimbursement rates - can benefit your practice and your community in Kansas. Register **one** time for access to all

webinars.

The webinar series dates and topics are listed below. Each webinar will be from 1:15pm -1:45pm CST on a Tuesday beginning August 19.

- 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. There is no cost to attend.



Register Now: Building Confidence in Dental Teams to Serve People with Disabilities

Oral Health Kansas and our partners in the Pathways to Oral Health project will launch a Project Echo series 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 and with a sponsorship from Delta Dental of Kansas.



World Breastfeeding Week Begins

August 1 begins World Breastfeeding Week, and this week [Governor Laura Kelly signed a proclamation recognizing August as "Kansas Breastfeeding Month."](#) The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommends exclusive breastfeeding for about the first six months and beyond if the mother chooses.

Babies who are exclusively breastfed for the first six months are less likely to have teeth alignment issues such as open bites, crossbites, and overbites, than those exclusively breast fed for shorter lengths of time or not at all.

"Breastfeeding supports healthy smiles from the start - it helps babies develop strong jaws, proper tooth alignment, and a foundation for lifelong oral health," says Brenda Bandy, Executive Director of the Kansas Breastfeeding Coalition. "It gives every child a healthier future." The Kansas Breastfeeding Coalition has the latest resources for families, health care providers, child care providers, and employers to support breastfeeding. Visit the Kansas Breastfeeding Coalition at <https://ksbreastfeeding.org/>.



National Health Center Week

Every August, the National Association of Community Health Centers sponsors National Health Center Week to celebrate and increase awareness of America's nearly 1,500 Community Health Centers. National Health Center Week is an opportunity to highlight the commitment and passion of Community Health Center staff, board members, and supporters who make it possible to provide quality, comprehensive healthcare services to more than 32.5 million

patients across nearly 16,000 communities annually. This year's theme is Celebrating 60 Years of Progress.

[Community Care Network of Kansas](#) is a statewide association made up of a network of community member health centers and clinics. Their clinics offer essential medical, dental, vision, and behavioral health services across Kansas. Click [here](#) to find a list of community care clinics. Community Care Network of Kansas is also a [Pathways to Oral Health Project](#) partner.



Are You Ready for Back to School?

If you are like many families, you're doing back to shopping, getting kids enrolled and figuring out how you'll get them back into their routines for school, including their bedtime routines. Parents, don't worry. The [Brush Book Bed](#) model is designed for ages 0-5 but can work for kids of any age! Brush Book Bed encourages families to brush their teeth together, read a

book and go to bed at the same time every night. Kids do better with routines and expectations, and this could make bedtime a more smooth transition. It also re-enforces spending time together.

While out school shopping, add a toothbrush to your list. We should replace our toothbrushes every 3-4 months or when the bristles on your toothbrush become frayed. If you have been sick, go ahead and replace it because we don't want germs spreading. Toothbrushes do not need to be fancy, but they should be easy to use for each individual. And most importantly, don't share toothbrushes. "My son grabbed my husband's toothbrush and started brushing. I quickly tossed it in the trash and explained to my son why we don't use other people's toothbrushes", says OHK staff member, Sonia Olmos. Using someone else's toothbrush is a quick way to spread germs and cavities.

[Super Smiles for Your Child](#) is a webpage with fun games and resources if you have kids that don't like to brush! Check out our [website](#) for more helpful resources.

Good luck to all the kiddos going back to school!

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](#).



- **Webinar:** webinar series beginning August 19, *Making Medicaid Work For You*. Register [here](#) for five sessions!
- **Webinar:** Project Echo Series beginning September 4 - October 2, *Building Confidence in Dental Teams to Serve People with Disabilities*. Register [here](#)! CE's are available!
- **Webinar:** Older Adults and Oral Diseases: Benefits from Early Intervention, Emerging Technology and Minimally Invasive Dentistry, September 30, 7:00pm CST. Register [here](#).
- [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.



Last week Executive Director Tanya Dorf Brunner participated in a Board meeting for the [Dental Assisting National Board](#) (DANB). She has served on the DANB Board



for two years as their public member. DANB is doing some interesting national work on the profession of dental assisting include a recent study of the [fiscal impact of dental assistants in dental offices](#) and [tracking the requirements of dental assistants in every state](#).



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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