

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](#).

August 13, 2025

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**Weekly
Wednesday
Update.**



Speaking Through Smiles: Oral Health and Youth Advocacy

[Families Together, Inc.](#) is a Pathways to Oral Health Project partner, and their mission is to encourage, educate, and empower families to be effective advocates for their children. Their Co-Executive Director, Tami Allen, is also Oral Health Kansas' Board President.

To serve youth with a disability, Families Together created the CHASE program. It was developed to help guide the next generation's dreams. The CHASE Program supports Kansas youth and young adults with

disabilities who are justice-involved in the foster care system or are in need of community connection. CHASE offers an 8-week personal growth and wellness program delivered through individual support for youth. Topics include positive self-talk, gratitude, values, and goal setting, among others. In addition to 1:1 support, CHASE hosts free prosocial events for youth, families, and professionals, highlighted by its annual CHASE Fest. The program aims to be a positive connection for youth by sharing tools to help them CHASE their dreams.

Families Together wrote a Blog for the Pathways to Oral Health Project. You can read more about the CHASE program in [their blog](#).



Your Sponsorship Makes It Possible

We're busy planning the 2025 Conference on Oral Health that is only three months away! Registration will open soon! Thank you to our current 2025 Conference on Oral Health Sponsors. This event wouldn't be possible without the incredible support of each them!

- Delta Dental of Kansas - Platinum Sponsor
- Health Forward Foundation - Gold Sponsor
- United Healthcare - Silver Sponsor
- United Methodist Health Ministry Fund - Silver Sponsor
- Healthy Blue of Kansas - Bronze Sponsor
- Reach Healthcare Foundation - Bronze Sponsor
- Sunflower Foundation - Bronze Sponsor

If you are interested in sponsoring or exhibiting at our Conference on Oral Health, Friday, November 7, click [here](#) to find the sponsorship form and [here](#) to register. If you have any questions, email us at info@oralhealthkansas.org.



Double Feature: Two Webinar Series You Don't Want to Miss!

The New Era, New Opportunities: Making Medicaid Work for You webinar series begins next week! Starting Tuesday, August 19, we'll begin the series with **Medicaid Dental: New Rates, Better Coverage**. These series are short but impactful and designed for the busy dental provider and their team. The sessions will run through September 30. All sessions will only be 30 minutes from 1:15pm - 1:45pm on Tuesdays. Dental teams can watch

together and have the opportunity to ask questions. **One registration** will sign you up for all series! CE's are available!

- 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 if you have any questions. There is no cost to attend.

Another opportunity to attend during your lunch hour begins September 4 through October 2. **“Building Confidence in Dental Teams to Serve People with Disabilities”** “aims to deepen understanding of disabilities, address sensitivities that can arise in dental care, and showcase how one practice has successfully built a safe, welcoming environment for patients 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.

Both webinar series are supported through an ARPA grant from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment Division of Health Care Finance.



National Nonprofit Day

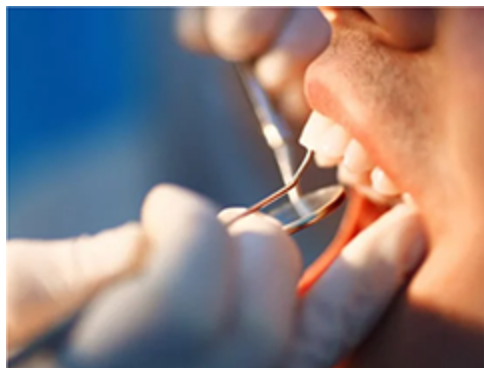
National Nonprofit Day is celebrated on August 17th. It's a day to recognize and appreciate the vital work of nonprofit organizations and the impact they have on communities. At Oral Health Kansas our mission is to improve oral health in Kansas through advocacy, public awareness and education. Here's a glimpse of the impact we have made with the help of so many of you:

- We spearheaded recruiting organizations to advocate for Medicaid to cover preventive dental coverage for adults.
- We organized the advocacy effort for another Medicaid dental rate increase and it was approved!
- At the end of 2024 we launched our [Pathways to Oral Health](#) project to increase dental provider participation in Medicaid and improve access to dental care for Kansans with disabilities. We have almost 20 partners participating in the project.

Take a moment to explore our [2024 Impact Report](#) and see the change we've achieved together.

Thank you to the Oral Health Kansas staff and board members who all play a part in OHK's success!

If you're interested in supporting our mission, consider making a [donation](#). If you have any questions about our projects or our work, email us at info@oralhealthkansas.org.

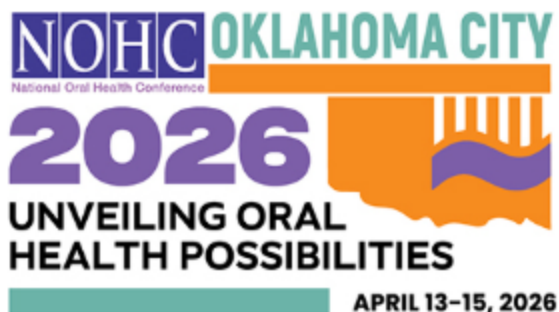


WSU and FHSU Take Steps Toward a Dental School

Wichita State University (WSU) and Fort Hays State University (FHSU) have announced the WSU Board of Trustees has approved a feasibility study to explore creation of the state's first dental school. The two schools plan to partner on the dental school project.

The feasibility study is set to be completed in the fall of 2026 and “will evaluate the scope, scale and structure of a potential dental school based in Wichita, with a presence in rural Kansas through Fort Hays State. Key areas of focus include cohort size, faculty and staff needs, accreditation requirements, facility planning and potential partnerships with Federally Qualified Health Centers to expand clinical access.

Read more about the proposed feasibility study and the goals WSU and FHSU have set in [this news release](#).



Call for Abstracts for the 2026 National Oral Health Conference

The call for abstracts for the 2026 National Oral Health Conference (NOHC) is now open! NOHC will be in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, April 13 -15, 2026 (Weekend Workshops April 11 and 12). They are requesting submissions for 60- and 90-Minute Seminars, Roundtable Presentations,

General Posters, Oral Presentations, the American Association of Public Health Dentistry Leverett Graduate Student Merit Awards, Predoctoral Dental Students Awards, and Dental Hygiene Student Awards, and Weekend Workshops (by invitation only). Deadline dates are as follows:

- 60-and 90-Minute Seminars - September 19, 2025
- Round Tables - September 19, 2025
- Weekend Workshops - September 19, 2025
- General Posters - October 31, 2025

- Oral Presentations - October 31, 2025
- AAPHD Leverett Graduate Student Merit Awards - October 31, 2025
- AAPHD Predoctoral Dental Students Awards - October 31, 2025
- AAPHD Dental Hygiene Student Awards - October 31, 2025

Before you begin your submissions, read the Overview of Abstract Submissions and then review the appropriate Guidelines:

- [60- and 90-minute sessions](#)
- [Roundtables](#)
- [General Posters](#)
- [Oral Presentations](#)
- [AAPHD Leverett Graduate Student Merit Award for Outstanding Achievement in Dental Public Health for Master's and Doctoral Degree Students in Dental Public Health and Dental Public Health Residents](#)
- [AAPHD Predoctoral Dental Student Merit Award for Outstanding Achievement in Community Dentistry](#)
- [AAPHD Dental Hygiene Student Merit Award for Outstanding Achievement in Community Dentistry](#)
- [Weekend Workshops](#)

For more information [visit their website](#).



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:** *Fact and Fiction on Fluoride and IQ*, August 28, 6:00pm-7:00pm CST. Register [here](#).
- **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.



Tanya Dorf Brunner, Oral Health Kansas' executive director, was [Kansas Health Institute's](#) (KHI) featured August Partner Spotlight during the KHI staff meeting on August 6. Tanya shared updates about the Pathways to Oral Health project and work highlights. OHK always enjoys partnering with KHI!



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!

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