



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 20, 2025

Volume 16, Issue 32

Scan the QR code



or click here to sign up for our [Weekly Wednesday Update](#).



Register for the Conference on Oral Health

The annual Conference on Oral Health will be held Friday, November 7 at the KU Edwards Campus in the Best Conference Center. This event is hybrid but attending in person will allow you the chance to network, visit exhibitors and attend the breakout sessions for a more in-depth discussion.

Here are some of the highlights of the conference:

- Keynote Speaker: Rick Guidotti, [Positive Exposure](#)
- Fluoride in Kansas: Trends, Policies, and Public Health Impact
- Providing Thoughtful Care for People Who've Experienced Trauma

Attendee Rate - \$125
Student Rate - \$20
Walk-up Attendee - \$150
Walk-up Student - \$25

Click [here](#) to register. If you do not have an account on the Iris system, you do need to set one up. You can view the agenda [here](#).

Hotel: Courtyard Kansas City Olathe

12151 South Strang Line Ct.

Olathe, Kansas 66062

\$145 plus taxes. **Please book by Oct 16.**

Book at [link](#) or by calling 1-888-236-2427. Group name: Conference on Oral Health



Nominate a Deserving Colleague

The Excellence in Oral Health Awards nominations will be open until **Friday, August 29**. We have been honoring individuals and organizations in Kansas for over 20 years. Do they have to be a dentist or dental hygienist? The answer is no! We recognize people who have done work to foster a healthier community through oral health, whether they're in the dental field or not and that's why we offer several different categories for the awards:

- Outstanding Organization Award - An organization that is distinguished from others in excellence in promoting oral health awareness in Kansas.
- Outstanding Dental Hygienist Award - A dental hygienist that is distinguished from others in excellence, who goes beyond the call of duty and is committed to improving the oral health of Kansans.
- Outstanding Dentist Award - A dentist that is distinguished from others in excellence, who goes beyond the call of duty and is committed to improving the oral health of Kansans.
- Outstanding Community Leader Award - A community leader that is distinguished from others in excellence, who goes beyond the call of duty and is committed to improving the oral health of Kansans.
- Bob Bethell Outstanding Policy Maker Award - An outstanding policy maker that is distinguished from others in excellence, who shows support for the oral health of all Kansans.
- Outstanding Oral Health Volunteer Award - An outstanding non-dental volunteer who demonstrates a positive difference in an organization - someone who saw a problem and got involved to find a solution.
- Ron Alexander Outstanding Dental Champion Award - This award is designed to recognize the outstanding work a Dental Champion has done as a direct result of participating in the Dental Champions Leadership Program.

The nomination forms for the [Excellence in Oral Health Awards](#) and [Ron Alexander Outstanding Dental Champion Award](#) are at these links. The winners will be announced during the Conference on Oral Health on Friday, November 7 at the [KU Edwards Campus](#).

Please [view](#) the past award winners so we do not have duplicates.

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

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
BONUS CE: MY DENTAL CARE PASSPORT SEPTEMBER 30	

KDA KANSAS DENTAL ASSOCIATION | ORAL HEALTH KANSAS

August 26 Webinar: Your Practice, Your Way: Managing Your Patient Mix

Yesterday we held our first session in the **Making Medicaid Work for You** webinar series, Medicaid Dental: New Rates, Better Coverage. This conversation was an update on the increases in Medicaid dental rates. We appreciate everyone that attended and asked good questions! But we are not done!

Next week, on Tuesday, August 26, **“Your Practice, Your Way: Managing Your Patient Mix”** we’ll be talking about ways you can

become a successful Medicaid provider, if that’s something you’re considering. Sign up and have your dental office listen in and learn how you can make an impact by serving everyone in your community.

All sessions will be from 1:15pm - 1:45pm CST.

- 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 for the series. Contact us at info@oralhealthkansas.org if you have any questions. There is no cost to attend. and you will only need to register one time for all of the series.

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

- This series will include 5 courses on Thursdays, beginning September 4 through October 2, 2025.
- All courses will be held via Zoom Noon - 1:00 PM CST.

Register Here:
bit.ly/AccessibleOralHealth2025ECHO

ORAL HEALTH | DELTA DENTAL

This project was supported by grant funding from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment's Division of Health Care Finance (DCHF) through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

Please Join Us for the Next Project Echo Series

Oral Health Kansas and Pathways to Oral Health Project partners are excited that we’ll soon begin a Project ECHO series, **“Building Confidence in Dental Teams to Serve People with Disabilities”**. Starting September 4 through October 2 this **FREE** five-part virtual educational program will be held on Thursdays from 12:00pm - 1:00pm CST. It’s designed to expand understanding of disabilities,

address sensitivities that may arise in the dental setting, and highlight how one dental office has successfully created a safe, welcoming environment for patients with disabilities. This is a great opportunity to learn ways to improve your office and enhance patient care!

SERIES TOPICS

- A Multidisciplinary Approach to Inclusive Oral Health Care
- Behavioral Strategies to Improve Patient Experience and Cooperation
- Creating a Sensory-Inclusive Dental Office Environment
- Fostering an Accessible and Welcoming Environment in the Dental Office

SPECIALTY TEAM

- **Barbie Vartanian DePonte**, Director, Oral Health Advocacy & Policy Initiatives, NYU College of Dentistry, New York, NY
- **Allen Wong, DDS, EdD, DABSCD**, Dental Department Head, Kramer Davis Health Nashville, TN
- **Christie Stiehl, MA, BCBA, LBA**, Owner & Clinician, Stiehl Behavioral Consulting, San Francisco, CA
- **Ben Hudson**, CEO, Sensory Health, Dallas, TX
- **Nick Rogers, DDS**, Owner & Dentist, Rogers Family Dentistry, Arkansas City, KS
- **Billie Donohue, CDA**, Dental Assistant, Rogers Family Dentistry, Arkansas City, KS

ADA CERP credit will be available for attendees. Register [here](#).



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.



Former OHK board member and Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library librarian, Lissa Staley, has been awarded the Public Health Champion Award. Shawnee County Health Department - SCHD honored for her contributions to advancing health equity and improving community well-being throughout Topeka and Shawnee County.

Below is a brief quote from Lissa's acceptance speech:

"The metric of success for public health people seems to be collective happiness - more people living longer, healthier, higher quality lives.

That's pretty cool.

Public health people simultaneously care about every single person in our community all at the same time, and they call it population health, but I think that is what love looks like, in action.

When we support public health people, we are all the champions".

--Lissa Staley, August 2025, written with great appreciation for all that I have learned from working alongside public health people.



Picture courtesy of Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library



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



Oral Health Kansas • PO BOX 4567 • Topeka, KS 66604
785.235.6039 phone • 785.233.5564 fax • info@oralhealthkansas.org
Copyright 2025