



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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Free Oral Health Pre-conference Learning Sessions

Oral Health Kansas will be offering FREE preconference sessions leading up to the Conference on Oral Health.

The sessions will be on Friday's over the lunch hour to allow participants an opportunity to

join. These will be free and will be recorded and available to watch in real time and later on the conference platform.

The schedule is:

- October 7 - Public oral health 101
- October 14 - Federal oral health policy overview
- October 21 - National look at other states' oral health policy issues
- October 28 - Advocating for oral health policy in Kansas

Registration will be required. Watch for more information!



Oral Health Kansas Recognizes Juneteenth

Last week the Oral Health Kansas Board of Directors voted to add [Juneteenth](#) as a holiday recognized by the organization. In 2021 Juneteenth was adopted as a national holiday, and states and organizations have been following that lead ever since. Oral Health

Kansas is committed to being an anti-racist organization, and recognizing the federal holiday as an organizational holiday is one small step. Juneteenth is the celebration of the end of slavery in the United States and commemorates the date in 1865 on which the last enslaved people learning that they had been emancipated.



Excellence in Oral Health Awards Deadline

Since 2004, OHK has felt the importance of honoring Kansans who are making a difference in their communities. Past award winners are individuals and organizations who have worked hard to improve the quality of life for others, at times working countless hours. These achievements should not go unrecognized! If you know someone who deserves the

[Excellence in Oral Health Awards](#) or the [Ron Alexander Outstanding Dental Champion Award](#),

fill out the nomination forms and submit by the deadline, Monday, September 12 by 5pm. If you have questions email info@oralhealthkansas.org.



Picture courtesy of Healio

Including Dentists in the Cancer Care Team

In an article published today, the health care news source [Healio](#) highlights the critical link between oral health and cancer treatment. The article features the work of Dr. Dala Alhajji from the New York University College of Dentistry. Dr. Alhajji discusses the potential lifelong oral health problems that can arise when dental problems are not treated before cancer treatment begins. For example, if a tooth infection flares up during cancer treatment it is difficult for a dentist to intervene because the person is experiencing immunosuppression. This can lead to tooth loss. She also describes some of the recommendations she gives people undergoing cancer treatment such as using an ultrasoft toothbrush because they may be experiencing prolonged bleeding while they are immunosuppressed.

Dr. Alhajji says, "The oncologists I work with have been great about referring patients to me because they see the impact it has." [Read more](#) to learn how and why making dental treatment an early part of the cancer treatment process protects people from having lifelong eating and communications problems.



Speak with Candidates This Election Season

As we move toward the general election on November 8, you may have the opportunity to speak with candidates before election day. Whether you attend a candidate forum or visit with candidates who knock on your door, take advantage of these opportunities by ensuring oral health is part of the conversation! Ask candidates questions about oral health policy issues to help increase their awareness and ensure oral health remains part of the conversation once they are elected. Start conversations also helps you learn which candidate you want to vote for on election day.

State Level Races

- What is your position on expanding Medicaid/KanCare for adults who fall in the coverage gap?
- What are your thoughts on increasing access to dental care for KanCare beneficiaries, such as denture coverage?
- What do you think about allowing people to have access to teledental services, especially in rural areas?

Congressional Races

- What are your thoughts on including dental coverage in basic Medicare coverage?
- What is your position on increasing CDC funding to support oral health programs in each state?

How to Find Candidate Forum

- Find a list of candidates at your local election or county clerk's office.
- Follow candidates on social media to learn when they'll be in town.
- Check the newspaper and local media for candidate forum announcements.

Don't forget the upcoming deadlines

October 18: Deadline to register to vote in the General Election

October 19: First day advance by mail ballots are mailed and advance in-person voting may begin

November 1: Deadline for votes to apply for advance mail ballot

November 8: General Election



Teeth for Two Workshops Continue

Another Teeth for Two workshop was held in Paola last week. The participants were parent educators eager to get their questions answered with regards to oral health. They also had the chance to experience the [Acid Attack Kit](#). The demonstration was an eye opener for many. There will be a another [workshop in Hutchinson on](#)

[September 15](#) with limited spots open. The participants in the workshop will receive a ton of free resources, the workshop is free, and lunch is also



New KC Documentary Series Elevates Black and Latino Changemakers

Last week [Health Forward Foundation](#) announced they are partnering on a documentary series called DocuCourse that is committed to elevating the collective stories of Black and Latino community changemakers in the Kansas City area. Four hour-long documentaries will be released over the next year that will feature the lived experience of a community champion as well as stories, strategies, and research insights on structural and systemic inequities. The series will not only share the stories and experiences, but also provide practical guidance to community partners who want to develop solutions.

Health Forward president/CEO Qiana Thomason said, "Health Forward is proud to partner on a project that will catalyze change and bring people together using stories that promote health equity."

The first DocuCourse will be available September 18, 2022, at 6 pm during Hispanic Heritage Month. It will feature Diosselyn Tot who is a local artist using her art as an advocacy tool and a way to shape community perspectives. To view the trailer, receive updates, and tune in, visit www.docucourse.org.



Upcoming Events

- **Webinar: A New Adult Dental Benefits Tracking Tool**, August 25 at 12pm CST. Register [here](#).
- **Webinar: Policy Opportunities for Expanding Coverage of and Access to Oral Health Services**, Wednesday, September 7 at 2pm CST. Click [here](#) to register.
- **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.

Conference on Oral Health Preconference Sessions

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Congratulations [Dental Champions Class 7](#), Niki Sadler, on your promotion to Kansas Dental Association (KDA) Assistant Executive Director! Most recently, Niki was the Director of Operations for the KDA and is currently the Executive Director of the Kansas Dental Charitable Foundation as well.



She also serves on OHK's Resource Development/Conference Planning Committee and plays a major role in the Kansas Mission of Mercy events.



Sugary Drink Display

Click [here](#) to learn more about sugary drink display reservations!

Follow Us



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