



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.

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Primary Election Settles Several Races

Yesterday was Kansas' primary election day. Voter turnout was among the highest in state history. In addition to the widely publicized "value them both" constitutional amendment question, many statewide and

legislative races were on the ballot. The Governor, Attorney General, Insurance Commissioner, Treasurer, and Secretary of State are all up for election this year. The primary saw races for the Republican and Democrat nominees for most of these positions. The highest profile race will pitch Governor Laura Kelley (D-incumbent) vs. Derek Schmidt (R - current Attorney General) in the Governor's race in November.

Each member of the Kansas Congressional delegation is up for election this year, as is Senator Jerry Moran. Here is how the Congressional races will look for the fall:

- Senate: Jerry Moran (R-incumbent) vs. Mark Holland (D)
- Congressional District 1: Tracy Mann (R-incumbent) vs. James Beard (D)
- Congressional District 2: Jake LaTurner (R-incumbent) vs. Patrick Schmidt (D)
- Congressional District 3: Sharice Davids (D-incumbent) vs. Amanda Adkins (R)
- Congressional District 4: Ron Estes (R-incumbent) vs. Bob Hernandez (D)

All 125 members of the Kansas House of Representatives are up for election this year.

- 55 seats were uncontested. Of those 36 were Republicans and 19 were Democrats.
- 10 seats were settled in yesterday's primary because in each district only Republicans were running for the seat.
- 21 seats had primaries yesterday and will have a general election in November.
- 39 seats will have a general election in November.
- A total of six incumbent House members lost their races to challengers in the primary. Five are Republicans and one is a Democrat.
- Following the primary, 65 seats are settled and the remaining 60 will be settled in the November general election.

Oral Health Kansas will share a voter calendar for the general election and questions you can ask candidates as they knock on your doors this fall. If you have any questions about oral health policy issues, please contact us at info@oralhealthkansas.org.

Kansas Breastfeeding Month

August is National Breastfeeding Month and on August 2, Governor Laura Kelly proclaimed August as "Kansas Breastfeeding Month." Breastfeeding has many benefits for you and your baby including oral health benefits! Breastfeeding can help your baby's body fight infections and reduce health risks like asthma, ear infections, SIDS and obesity in children. Breast milk provides a baby with ideal nutrition, supports its growth and development, and can help protect baby and mom against diseases such as hypertension and type 2 diabetes.



[Spanish](#), on breastfeeding topics.

The Journal of the American Dental Association found that babies who were exclusively breastfed for the first 6 months were 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.

Check out the Kansas Breastfeeding Coalition for helpful resources. The Health and Human Services Office on Women's Health provides [information, guidance, and support](#), available in [English](#) and



Back to School and Brushing

Families are preparing for back to school by shopping for school supplies and clothes. Don't forget to also add a new toothbrush to the list! You should replace your toothbrush every 3-4 months or when the bristles are worn down.

While getting into back-to-school routines, also include toothbrushing routines. A good way to get into a brushing and bedtime schedule is by following Brush Book Bed (BBB). BBB is a program

of the American Academy of Pediatrics and says nighttime routines will help children understand and learn to expect what comes next. It also teaches the importance of maintaining healthy teeth while enjoying time with a caregiver.

Another fun activity to do at bed time is a picture find. OHK created picture finds in [English and Spanish](#) using fun pictures related to oral health. Click [here](#) for another fun picture find!

Exploring Medical-Dental Integration Webinar

On August 18 at 12 p.m. CST. CareQuest Institute will present a webinar on implementing effective care coordination and breaking down care silos. A panel of experts will come



together to share barriers and lessons learned from setting up successful medical-dental integration programs that put the patient at the center of the care experience. [Register 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.



Community Care Network of Kansas announces Sonja W. Bachus as the new Chief Executive Officer to lead the organization. Prior to joining Community Care, Bachus served as the Chief Executive Officer of Greater Baden Medical Services, a Federally



Qualified Health Center serving nearly 20,000 patients through more than 59,000 visits annually in Prince George's, Charles, and St. Mary's Counties in Maryland. She has served as the Service Line Administrator for the satellite health centers of Swope Health

Services in Kansas City, Missouri; had numerous roles with HCA's MidAmerica Division IT&S, Desert Regional Medical Center in Palm Springs, California; and Chief Operating Officer of HealthNet, Inc., Indiana's largest FQHC located in Indianapolis, Indiana. We are looking forward to working with Sonja!



Sugary Drink Display

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



Follow Us



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