



## 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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## Adult Dental Coverage Checker Debuts

Last week CareQuest Institute hosted a webinar to introduce the new [Medicaid Adult Dental Coverage Checker](#). The goal of the interactive tool is to provide states with a clear classification system

for Medicaid adult dental benefits. The new tool was developed in partnership with the American Dental Association Health Policy Institute (ADA HPI), Center for Health Care Strategies (CHCS), National Academy for State Health Policy (NASHP), CareQuest Institute, and advisory committee members. The Checker is a tool for people to understand where each state's Medicaid adult dental benefits package falls on a continuum from no dental benefits to extensive benefits, helping them identify areas for improvement. It gives an in-depth view of the types and frequencies of services enrollees can receive. The goal is to update the Checker annually in order to share the most recent updates to each state's coverage of Medicaid adult dental services.

Oral Health Kansas Executive Director Tanya Dorf Brunner was a panelist on the webinar and shared insight about how state-level advocates can use the Checker in their advocacy work. Legislators often ask questions about how Kansas benefits compare to neighboring states, and the Checker will make it much easier to answer that question.

[A recording of the webinar is available.](#) Watch it to learn from the architects of the Checker why it was created, the goals for its use within the oral health community, and how to use it.



## Be Prepared for Candidate Visits This Labor Day Holiday

The upcoming Labor Day holiday weekend brings many community events including festivals and parades where you may have the opportunity to speak with candidates before election day. Take advantage of these opportunities by ensuring oral health is part of the conversation! Use the below questions to increase candidate's awareness of oral health and to learn which candidate you may 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?

### **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**



## **Coalition Sees Dental Needs in Kenya**

The Shawnee County Oral Health Coalition had a special guest speaker last week. Kansas Dental Association Executive Director Kevin Robertson joined the group to share his experiences with a dental mission trip in Kenya earlier this summer. A group of Kansans participated in the trip through Missions of Hope International to provide dental care in the slums of Nairobi and in rural areas on the east coast of the African nation. Over the course of the trip, the group was able to work with local dentists to help provide care at local schools. Some of the students had never had dental care before. Shawnee County Oral Health Coalition members enjoyed learning about the experience and shared some of their own similar experiences.



## **World Health Organization Releases New Global Oral Health Action Plan**

Over the past two decades, the United Nations and World Health Organization (WHO) have worked with national health ministries and governments in all countries, including the United States, on high priority action areas for health improvement. This has resulted in unprecedented resource allocation and health action coordination and resulting health improvements across many indicators. Examples include more than a 30% reduction in maternal mortality globally, a 59% reduction in child mortality, a decrease in malaria by up to 62% in priority regions, as well as marked decreases in HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis. Last year,

at the World Health Assembly, oral health was declared a global health priority by the WHO and officially incorporated into the political agenda in May. The WHO Global Strategy on Oral Health was adopted in May this year, and the draft [Global Oral Health Action Plan](#) was released for an open comment period this month. Review the full action plan [here](#).



## Upcoming Events

- **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

- 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

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Congratulations former OHK staff member and [Dental Champions Class 8](#), Kelly Rippel, for being selected for Topeka's 20 under 40 2022 class of honorees! Topeka's 20 under 40 recognizes honorees helping to make Topeka

and Shawnee County a great place to live, work and play. Kelly was selected from more than 200 nominations. He will be recognized at their 13th annual anniversary banquet on November 10th. Congratulations, Kelly!!



## Sugary Drink Display

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

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