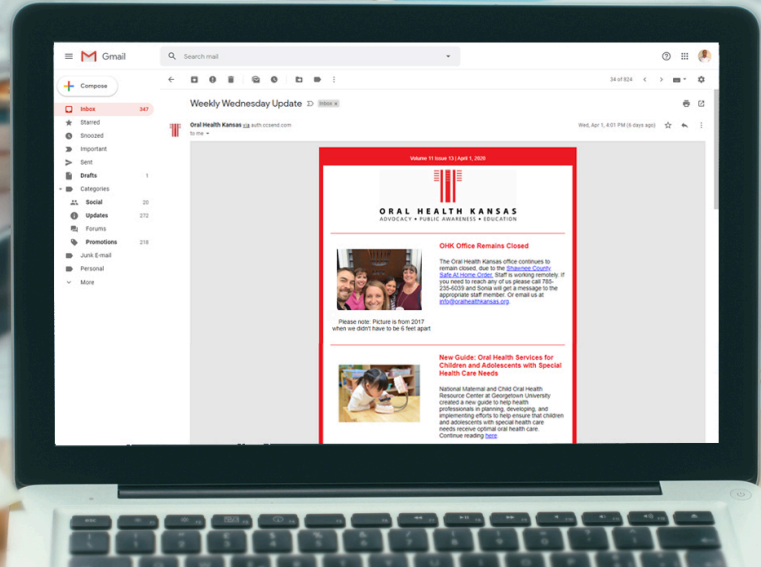




ORAL HEALTH KANSAS
ADVOCACY • PUBLIC AWARENESS • EDUCATION



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 6, 2025

Volume 16, Issue 30

Scan the QR code



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



Nominate Someone Making Oral Health Strong in Your Community

Sometimes we come across movers and shakers in our world that are working hard to make oral health better not only in their community, but also in their state. In 2018, Niki Sadler was awarded the Ron Alexander Outstanding Dental Champion award. Niki has been involved with the Kansas Mission of Mercy as the coordinator on behalf of the Kansas Dental Association staff but also now the

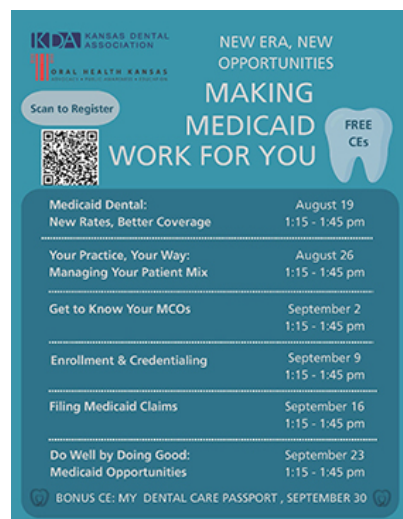
Kansas Dental Charitable Foundation Executive Director. She organizes the event, leading volunteers and committees and keeping track of all logistics (just to name a few duties!). Her family also volunteers every year and are seen there early in the mornings and stay late and Niki does too!

If you know someone that deserves an Excellence in Oral Health Award, nominate them by **August 29**. Winners will be recognized at the Conference on Oral Health on Friday, November 7 at the KU Edwards Campus, 12600 S Quivira Rd. in Overland Park. The categories for awards are listed below:

- **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 [Excellence in Oral Health Awards](#) and [Ron Alexander Outstanding Dental Champion Award](#) are two ways to honor someone! You can also remain anonymous if you don't want someone to know you nominated them but what fun is that?

Please look at the past award winner list [here](#). Email us if you have any questions at info@oralhealthkansas.org.



Learn Something New in Just 30 Minutes!

Whether you're on your lunch break or in between appointments or meetings, you'll walk away with practical knowledge about the latest improvements to Medicaid dental coverage in Kansas. **The New Era, New Opportunities: Making Medicaid Work for You** webinar series is designed for the busy provider. The webinars will begin Tuesday, August 19 and run through Tuesday, September 30. All sessions will only be 30 minutes from 1:15pm - 1:45pm. Dental teams can watch together and have the opportunity to ask questions. There's a new session each week. **One registration** will sign you up for all of them! 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.



Earn CE's While Eating Lunch

Why not set up a noon-hour staff meeting and have the whole dental team earn CE's together without closing the office? That sounds manageable! Starting on September 4 through October 2, **"Building Confidence in Dental Teams to Serve People with Disabilities"** will begin and is a **FREE** five-part virtual educational program. 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.

Oral Health Kansas and our partners in the Pathways to Oral Health project are excited for this opportunity! This educational series is part of the KU Medical Center's Project ECHO program, which includes a combination of presentations from experts and case study discussions among participants. Four national experts will deliver presentations about people with disabilities, dental care for people with disabilities, behavior, and sensory accommodations. Dr. Nick Rogers and Billie Donohue from Rogers Family Dentistry in Arkansas City will describe their practice's approach to embracing people 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.

KU Medical Center's Project ECHO team will also be presenting a report on this webinar series at the Conference on Oral Health, Friday, November 7.



Pathways to Oral Health Blogs Are Live

The Pathways to Oral Health partners have written several blogs on various topics to provide you with tips, information and insights. We also have interviews from Pathways partners that will drop soon! Watch for those. But for now, head over to the Pathways to Oral Health website and click the ["Blogs" section](#) at the top to read the articles we have. For example,

[*Creating a More Inclusive Dental Office - Small Changes That Make a Big Impact for Patients with IDD and Autism*](#), has tips on how you can make your office more comfortable for people with disabilities.

If there's a topic you're interested in learning more about, email us at info@oralhealthkansas.org.



Picture courtesy of KCDD

Kansas Council on Developmental Disabilities Staff Speaks at ADA Anniversary Celebration

Kansas Council on Developmental Disabilities Vice President of Policy and Programming, Whit Downing, was invited to speak at the US Department of Health and Human Services Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) 35th Anniversary Celebration! This national event honors 35 years of progress since the passage of the ADA, recognizing the ongoing work to advance accessibility, inclusion, and civil rights for people with disabilities. Whit's participation highlights Kansas' leadership in shaping policies and programs that empower individuals and strengthen communities.

Listen to her speech and be prepared to feel empowered! [Watch her remarks here on You Tube.](#)



Chuck Abbick



Davette McCoy

Celebrating Partners During National Health Center Week

Friday, November 8 is Partner Appreciation Day during National Health Center Week. It's a time to say "thank you" to the partners whose collaboration, expertise, and dedication help strengthen the impact of health centers and expand access to care for those who need it most. We appreciate our board members who work at the clinics in our state serving uninsured and underinsured patients. They are listed below:



Deb Pochop

Dr. Chuck Abbick - [Salina Family Health Care Center](#) in Salina

Davette McCoy - [Hunter Health Clinic](#) in Wichita

Deb Pochop - [Northwest Smile Center](#) in Atwood

Health centers are innovators, healers, and problem solvers that reach people who are not served by the conventional health care delivery system. Thank you to all the staff at these clinics!

This week Kansas Governor Laura Kelly has officially proclaimed August 2025 as Community Care Clinic Month. Community Care Network of Kansas, also a Pathways to Oral Health Project partner, is comprised of health centers and community-based clinics with a common goal of providing high-quality, whole person healthcare for all Kansans. [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:** 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.



Congratulations to our Pathways to Oral Health partner, Compass Marketing and Advertising Partners on their new office space. Their staff are the brains and creativity behind all our Pathways ads

that you may be hearing on Spotify or seeing on Facebook. They held a ribbon cutting on July 31 and the opportunity to tour their space at 1250 SW Oakley in Topeka. If you haven't had the chance to visit, stop by and admire their beautiful floors! Also, visit their brand new website at <https://weareyourcompass.com/>.



Picture courtesy of Topeka Chamber of Commerce



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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