

## 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](#).

September 20, 2023

Volume 14, Issue 38

Scan the QR code



or click here to  
sign up for our  
**Weekly  
Wednesday  
Update.**

## Nomination Deadline Extended!

We are happy to announce we have extended the [Excellence in Oral Health Awards](#) nomination to Friday, September 29. We know many people were out of the office last week and worried about getting their nomination in. Now you have extra time!

We are seeking nominations in the following categories:



- **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.

Please note: If someone has been nominated in previous years, they are not eligible. This allows everyone an opportunity to be nominated. You can view past award winners [here](#).

Award winners will be announced during the [Conference on Oral Health](#), Friday, October 27 at the KU Edwards Campus.



## Learn About Medicaid Policy and Provider Updates at the Conference on Oral Health

On Friday, October 27 during the Conference on Oral Health, we will bring you a session that will highlight the positive developments in the Kansas Medicaid program, which have extended dental coverage, allowing tens of thousands more Kansans to access dental care. Attendees can expect to learn about the details of the improved dental coverage, recent policy changes, and their impact on the people of Kansas, as well as gaining valuable insights from a

Medicaid dental provider on how treating Medicaid patients has enhanced their dental practice. Panelists will offer insights for consumers, providers, and insurers on how to further enhance access to dental care through the Medicaid program. This session will not only be beneficial for providers but also for consumers!

Sign up to attend the conference in person or virtually. **The early bird registration ends Monday, September 25!**

**When:** Friday, October 27

Registration opens at 7:30am. The day ends at 3:30pm

Click [here](#) to view the full schedule and register.

**Where:** University of Kansas Edwards Campus, 12600 Quivira Rd, Overland Park, KS 66213

Or join us virtually.

**Lodging:** TownePlace Suites Kansas City Overland Park, 7020 W. 133rd Street Overland Park, Kansas 66209, will have a limited number of rooms available. Click [here](#) to reserve your room. CE's will be available.



## OHK Staff Participates in Congressional Hill Visits Access

The OPEN network organized a Virtual Hill Visit event last week for oral health advocates across the country to meet with their members of Congress. Over 100 virtual visits with Congressional offices were held, and Oral Health Kansas' staff Tanya Dorf Brunner and Kathy Hunt participated in meetings with Senator Moran's and Rep. LaTurner's staff. Tanya is the co-chair of OPEN's policy team and helped organize the event where advocates promoted three issues: passage of the HEADS Up Act, covering dental care for veterans, and providing CDC and HRSA oral health grants for all 50 states.



## Staff Present to Over 300 people

Last week Oral Health Kansas staff had the opportunity to present about oral health to three groups and over 300 people. We shared information about the new Medicaid adult dental benefits with care coordinators at United Healthcare. Nursing students at Washburn University

learned about oral health and its connection to overall health, and dental students at University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Dentistry learned about the Dental Care Passport and how to use it to provide person-centered dental care for people with disabilities. Oral Health Kansas enjoys the opportunity to help others learn about the importance of oral health and how to help people access the care they need and deserve.



## Upcoming Events

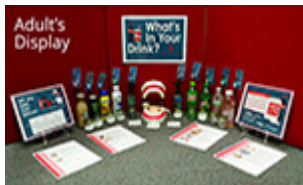
- Course: An Introduction to Value-Based Care in Oral Health: Moving from Volume to Value, 1 CE. Click [here](#) for the course information.
- Self paced courses: [Providing Oral Health Care to Autistic Individuals](#) and [Caring for Individuals with Disabilities: Practical Considerations for Dental Providers](#).
- **Webinar:** Connecting to the Community: A Provider's Work Beyond the Dental Chair, September 27. Find out more here. <https://bit.ly/3RcEqcO>
- Community Care Network of Kansas conference, October 4-6, in Lawrence. Learn more [here](#).
- **Webinar:** Oral Health Workforce Learning Community Registration, October 11. Click here: [bit.ly/3R5yqTn](https://bit.ly/3R5yqTn)
- [Conference on Oral Health](#) - hybrid conference on Friday, October 27 at the KU Edwards Campus.
- **Webinar:** Community Engagement & Cross-Sector Collaboration Learning Community Registration, December 13. Click here: [bit.ly/3L2Yz11](https://bit.ly/3L2Yz11)



Governor Laura Kelly has signed a proclamation declaring September 19 as Kansas Voter Registration Day. The goal, according to the Kansas State Library, is to reach those who aren't registered or need to update their voter registration. Kansas voters can visit the State Library to register or check their registration. For more information and the full

proclamation, you can visit [kslib.info](http://kslib.info). If you have additional questions, you can email [infodesk@ks.gov](mailto:infodesk@ks.gov).

Our friend Lissa Staley, who is a librarian at the Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library as well as a past Oral Health Kansas board member, was able to be present during the proclamation signing. Lissa is an advocate for voter registration and understands the importance of having Kansans vote.



## 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](mailto:info@oralhealthkansas.org)

Copyright 2023