



## 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](#).

## September 28, 2022

Volume 13, Issue 39



Dr. Bonnie Branson  
and Dr. John O'Malley

## First Free Session is Next Week!

The first session in the 2022 Conference on Oral Health preconference sessions begins next week, Friday, October 7. This session, Public Oral Health 101, will be presented by Dr. Bonnie

Branson, RDH, PhD with the University of Arkansas Fort Smith and Dr. John O'Malley, DDS, University of Michigan.

The session will share insight about the roles of a dentist and dental hygienist in public health, how they can create a shared vision of optimal health and improve disparities in oral health, and how coalitions can make an impact on access to care. The creator of the National Oral Health Data Portal also will show participants how to explore this exciting new national data resource and how public health advocates can use it to find the data they need.

Register [here](#) for these free sessions!

### **October 14: Federal Oral Health Policy**

Federal policy experts from Families USA and Community Catalyst will review the current federal oral health policy issues, including Medicare and Medicaid dental coverage, and share ways Kansas advocates can get involved.

### **October 21: Oral Health Policy Across the Country**

State oral health coalition leaders from Missouri, Maryland, and Hawaii will join policy analysts from the National Conference of State Legislatures to review the policy issues other states are tackling to improve oral health.

### **October 28: Advocating for policy change in Kansas**

Oral Health Kansas will share our advocacy toolkit that can help dental professionals, students, public health workers, and more learn the basics of being an advocate for better oral health. A legislator will be available to describe the best ways to educate policymakers about oral health.

**Make plans to join us at noon each Friday in October for this lunch and learn series.**



## **Registration is OPEN!**

The Conference on Oral Health is scheduled for Friday, November 4 and we are excited registration is open and spots are already filling up! The conference will bring together participants face to face and virtually, from the state of Kansas and across the nation. The sessions will be providing information for all as we explore some of the factors that make it difficult to access dental care and share resources that are available now and that are in development, including policy and education opportunities. Being a part of the advocacy network as well as

providing direct care is challenging even at the best of times. The Conference will acknowledge the challenges and provide some tools to combat compassion fatigue for each of us.

**Date:** Friday, November 4

**Time:** 7:30am - 4:00pm

**Location:** Kansas State University Olathe Campus, 22201 W Innovation Dr., Olathe

Each year we kickoff the conference with a reception for the Dental Champions Leadership Program class members. The free reception will be held Thursday, November 3. We invite anyone to attend, although registration is required. Enjoy an evening of hors d'oeuvres, drinks and help us congratulate the next Ron Alexander Outstanding Dental Champion award winner!

**Date:** Thursday, November 3

**Time:** 6:00pm - 7:30pm

**Location:** Kansas State University Olathe Campus, 22201 W Innovation Dr., Olathe

Click [here](#) to read the full program and to register!



## Preparing for end of Public Health Emergency

At the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, the federal government declared a "Public Health Emergency."

During the public health emergency, no one was removed from Medicaid eligibility in order to ensure people maintained health insurance coverage during the emergency. Anyone who was eligible for Medicaid at the start of the pandemic or has become eligible since then has not had to re-apply for the program.

The public health emergency remains in effect, but all signs are pointing to it ending or "unwinding" by mid-January 2023. The Kansas Medicaid program (KanCare) will begin conducting eligibility reviews again once the public health emergency ends. Some people's income will have changed, and that means they may lose their eligibility. The other reason people will lose eligibility will be if they cannot be contacted to determine if they are eligible. There are steps people can take now to be sure they don't lose their eligibility because they cannot be contacted.

## What to do now

If you work for an organization that is a Medicaid provider or one that works with people who are enrolled in KanCare, be sure you talk with your KanCare patients/clients and **urge them to update their contact information** as quickly as they can. In particular it's important for them to update their phone numbers and email addresses.

There are a couple of easy ways for KanCare beneficiaries to update their contact information.

1. Visit [kancare.ks.gov](http://kancare.ks.gov). In the bottom right corner, you can click on the red speech bubble to chat with a virtual assistant who will help change your email and phone number right away. You also can click "Address Change" at the top of that webpage. [Here](#) is a flier that describes the steps in English and Spanish.
2. Call the KanCare Clearinghouse to change your contact information. The phone number is 800-792-4884. You can press 7 to change your contact information over the phone.



## Dental Benefits Available for Medicaid Consumers

This summer, we announced the new Kansas Medicaid adult dental benefits went into effect in July. Oral Health Kansas created a helpful flyer in [English](#) and [Spanish](#) explaining the dental services that are available to Medicaid enrollees. If you are unsure what your Medicaid provider covers, you can call the number on the back of your insurance card and talk to a representative.

If you do not have that information, you can go to our [website](#) for information on how to contact one of the three Medicaid (KanCare) companies.

## Upcoming Events

- **Kansas Public Health Association** annual conference, September 29 in Wichita, Kansas. Click [here](#) as more information is shared.
- **Webinar:** Oral Health's Link to Preventing Pneumonia, September 29 at 12pm CST. Register [here](#)



- **Community Care Network of Kansas** annual conference, October 5-7 in Manhattan, Kansas. Click [here](#) for more information.
- **Water Fluoridation Summit** (in person and virtual), October 13-14, 2022 at the Holiday Inn in Poplar Bluff, Missouri. Click [here](#) to register.
- **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
- October 21 - Oral Health Policy Across the Country
- October 28 - Advocating for policy change in Kansas

### Deadlines to remember for General Election:

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



This week Oral Health Kansas Executive Director Tanya Dorf Brunner testified at the legislative KanCare Oversight Committee about Medicaid adult dental

implementation. She shared how the new benefit package is designed and described the new Medicaid Adult Dental Coverage Checker tool. Tanya also previewed Oral Health Kansas' next advocacy priority to



add denture coverage to KanCare, and committee members had good questions and comments about it.

Read the full testimony [here](#).



## Sugary Drink Display

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

### Follow Us



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