



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](#).

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**Weekly
Wednesday
Update.**



Uniting Minds and Driving Change at the 2025 Conference on Oral Health

At this year's Conference on Oral Health, we'll be providing break-out sessions to give participants a chance to have deeper conversations in a smaller group. Space in the three sessions will be limited, so register soon and pick

which break-out session you will be attending!

The three topics for the break-outs are below:

- A Dental Hygiene Approach to Community Outreach
- Dental Care for Veterans
- Integrating Dental Care into Medical Care

Not only that, but we have a full agenda for the day. The sessions are shorter, but that does not mean we have a limited amount of information. You will walk away with a clear takeaway on what you learned! **You can view the agenda [here](#).**

[Register now!](#) We use Iris as the conference registration platform. If you do not have an account on the Iris system, you do need to set one up to register.

Thank you to Wichita State University for their wonderful [conference management services!](#)

There is a hotel room block at the Courtyard Kansas City Olathe hotel.

Hotel: Courtyard Kansas City Olathe

12151 South Strang Line Ct.

Olathe, Kansas 66062

\$145 plus taxes. **Please book by Oct 16.**

Book at this [link](#) or by calling 1-888-236-2427. Group name: Conference on Oral Health

Any questions? Email us at info@oralhealthkansas.org



Beginning This Week! Project ECHO Series: Building Confidence in Dental Teams to Serve People with Disabilities

Thursday, September 4, we begin a new Project ECHO series Building Confidence in Dental Teams to Serve People with Disabilities. These webinars specifically aim to deepen understanding of disabilities, address sensitivities that can arise in dental care, and showcase how one

practice has successfully built a safe, welcoming environment for patients with disabilities. This series will allow you to learn from professionals who work with patients who have a disability and what strategies you can use in your own office that will work for you and your team.

The series of topics are below:

- A Multidisciplinary Approach to Inclusive Oral Health Care
- Behavioral Strategies to Improve Patient Experience and Cooperation
- Creating a Sensory-Inclusive Dental Office Environment
- Fostering an Accessible and Welcoming Environment in the Dental Office

Hear from the Specialty Team:

- **Barbie Vartanian DePonte**, Director, Oral Health Advocacy & Policy Initiatives, NYU College of Dentistry, New York, NY
- **Allen Wong, DDS, EdD, DABSCD**, Dental Department Head, Kramer Davis Health Nashville, TN
- **Christie Stiehl, MA, BCBA, LBA**, Owner & Clinician, Stiehl Behavioral Consulting, San Francisco, CA
- **Ben Hudson**, CEO, Sensory Health, Dallas, TX
- **Nick Rogers, DDS**, Owner & Dentist, Rogers Family Dentistry, Arkansas City, KS
- **Billie Donohue, CDA**, Dental Assistant, Rogers Family Dentistry, Arkansas City, KS

ADA CERP credit will be available for attendees. Register [here](#).



Next Webinar: Enrollment and Credentialing on September 9

If you're curious about becoming a Medicaid dental provider and have questions about how claims work, how to file them, etc., attend the **September 9 Enrollment and Credentialing webinar** where we'll talk about just that! Enrollment and Credentialing is part of The New Era, New Opportunities: Making Medicaid Work for You webinar series. If you are already registered, you will automatically be register for the webinar on September 9. All webinar series are from 1:15pm-1:45pm. Why at this time and why such a short

webinar? We know dental providers and the dental team are super busy people and this may be a time you can take a break. We give you lots of information in a short period of time because we know your time is valuable.

Below are the next webinar sessions!

- 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

Register [here](#). This will register you for all the webinar series. If you have any questions, email us at info@oralhealthkansas.org



Championing Access and Equity in Oral Health

Community Care Network of Kansas is one of our Pathways to Oral Health project partners and this week's blog spotlight.

Community Care Network of Kansas is comprised of health centers and community-based clinics with a common goal of providing high-quality, whole person healthcare for all Kansans. Community Care Network is the federally designated Primary Care Association for Kansas and receives funds to provide training and technical assistance to member clinics with a Federally Qualified Health Center or Look-Alike designation. They help promote the My Dental Care Passport to their member clinics and encourage the use of this communication tool.

Mel Martin has been Director of Development and Training at Community Care for over a decade. She shares one of the struggles they have seen in the dental workforce shortage are in rural areas. Read more about CCNK [in their blog](#).

If you have questions about Pathways to Oral Health or Community Care Network of Kansas, email us at info@oralhealthkansas.org



US Dental Workforce Report

The [American Dental Association Health Policy Institute \(HPI\)](#) provided an update of the U.S. dentist workforce with new data released in August 2025. HPI explores trends in four domains “who makes up the dentist workforce, how and where dentists work, how practicing dentists are doing economically, and the future of the dentist workforce. The report makes full use of HPI’s rich repository of dentist data and includes state-level trends. HPI’s new report identifies a theme of transition:

- The dentist workforce is quickly becoming younger, with an increasing share of women.
- A younger and more diverse workforce is practicing differently compared to previous generations - early career dentists are shifting considerably to group practice.
- Dental practices are experiencing a “fiscal squeeze” that is driving dentist net income down across all specialties and career stages.
- The supply of dentists has been stable for the past few years but is about to grow. The retirement “surge” among Baby Boomer dentists is nearing its end while dental school enrollment is at an all-time high.

Watch a [7-minute summary from the ADA’s Chief Economist, Dr. Marko Vujcic](#). See the full [70+ slide report](#) for all the details.

Public Health Data to be Restored

Yesterday [AcademyHealth announced](#) that as a result of a [lawsuit](#) they filed in May, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has agreed to restore several federal public health webpages removed



AcademyHealth

from the National Institutes of Health, Centers for Disease Control, and Food and Drug Administration earlier this year. The webpages included data on vaccine guidance, clinical trials, and HIV/AIDS research.

Dr. Aaron Carroll, president and CEO of AcademyHealth said, "Access to public health data isn't just technical, it saves lives as it helps clinicians, researchers, policymakers, and communities make better decisions. Restoring these webpages brings critical guidance and data back within reach."



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:** *Fact and Fiction on Fluoride and IQ*, August 28, 6:00pm-7:00pm CST. Register [here](#).
- **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.
- **Webinar:** *Take 60: The Value of Medicaid Adult Dental Benefits*, September 30 at 2:00pm. Register [here](#).
- 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.



This year Oral Health Kansas had the great fortune to work with some talented Master's level interns. We are pleased to say they have accepted exciting new jobs with great organizations. Dr. Ketki Kulkarni did her internship with us as she completed her Dental Public Health Residency through Texas A&M University. She is going to be leading health impact work at the Sedgwick

County Health Department in Wichita, Kansas. Dr. Augustina Mensah did her internship with us as she completed a Masters of Global Health Policy through Brandeis University. She is starting a new role as a Patient Coordinator at the Boston University Henry M. Goldman School of Dental Medicine. Both

Augustina and Ketki made many improvements for Oral Health Kansas in our data and policy work, and their futures are bright. Congratulations to them both!



Ketki Kulkarni



Augustina Mensah



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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