



Dental Champions are key building blocks in the oral health community in Kansas. Oral Health Kansas supports the Dental Champions Leadership Program in order to shape policy and educate the public, so Kansans know that all mouths matter.

Over fifteen years ago, a group of stakeholders came together to make a difference in the oral health of all Kansans. Oral Health Kansas (OHK) was born in response to a report card ranking Kansas as the fifth worst state in the nation in its commitment to a sound, statewide oral health program. Stakeholders recognized the critical issues within the report and identified the need for a Kansas-based oral health coalition to coordinate efforts aimed at improving oral health in the state. After extensive planning by a multidisciplinary group of stakeholders, OHK was launched with the mission to improve oral health in Kansas through advocacy, public awareness and education. Since 2003, OHK has been dedicated to a multidisciplinary approach to that mission.

Oral Health Kansas promotes the importance of lifelong dental health, and over 1,600 supporters join in that vision. OHK has played a key role in every major oral health public policy debate since 2003, including establishing the state's Bureau of Oral Health and the Advanced Education in General Dentistry program at Wichita State University, expanding the state's Extended Care Permit dental hygiene law, and advocating for the KanCare adult preventive dental benefit.

## The Dental Champions Program

Oral Health Kansas focuses on statewide, systemic solutions to improve oral health, emphasizing advocacy and policy change. OHK realizes that change requires a significant increase in the number of diverse voices who elevate oral health as a priority in the minds of policymakers and the public. Utilizing a leadership development model first created by the Kansas Health Foundation, OHK created a similar program designed to develop a network of state-level Dental Champions who hold a common vision for improving oral health in Kansas.

### Dental Champions benefits each participant by:

- Furthering their understanding of oral health in Kansas
- Enhancing their individual leadership skills
- Expanding their ability to understand the complex nature of oral health issues and choose appropriate interventions
- Boosting their skills to initiate and facilitate adaptive work, including managing conflict, engaging others and communicating challenges related to oral health
- Enriching their skills in advocacy and civic engagement
- Building a professional network

*My Dental Champions experience boiled down to great networking. I could go on and on about the excellent leadership training and the issue information, but the opportunity to know who to turn to for help or to ask for information was the true value for me. The lifetime friendships were a bonus!*

*Rep. Susan Concannon (Class VII)*

## Dental Champions benefits Kansans by:

- Creating a diverse network of state-level Dental Champions with a progressive vision for improving oral health in Kansas
- Establishing a statewide network of informed persons who are actively engaged in oral health activities and who advocate for oral health within their spheres of influence
- Enhancing and encouraging the development of relationships among Dental Champions and other influential Kansans for the promotion of oral health throughout the state

*"My Dental Champions leadership experience challenged me to understand a few key issues that we face in oral health. But more importantly, it stepped me out of my comfort zone and pushed me beyond believing only the stories I was telling myself in life to be true. I had always considered myself an open and willing societal member, but this class and its leaders really took my leadership to the next level. I am forever grateful for that opportunity and am continuing to take that responsibility seriously in challenging others to "get on the balcony"!"*

*Ashley D. Swisher D.D.S. (Class V)*

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## Dental Champions Leadership Program Class IX Overview

In 2019, Oral Health Kansas will launch a new Dental Champions class, and its members will join the 129 program alumni as leaders in the Kansas oral health community. Details about how to apply for the new class are on pages 4 and 5.

*"As a physician I was increasingly aware of the community impacts on the health of my individual patients, but I was also feeling increasingly frustrated that I had no influence at that level. Becoming a Dental Champion has helped me to learn the skills and knowledge necessary to be a better community advocate and key player. This opportunity has dramatically changed the trajectory of my career and improved my satisfaction level with my professional life."*

*Amy Seery, MD (Class VII)*

Since 2005, eight classes of Dental Champions have learned and worked together to improve oral health in Kansas. Dental Champions have done everything from establishing school-based dental clinics in an underserved rural area to creating a curriculum to teach future doctors, dentists, nurses and dental hygienists how to engage in advocacy to protect water fluoridation.

Dental Champions Class IX members will meet from March 2019 to January 2020. A few sessions are listed as "location TBA." Once the class members are selected, the locations will be identified to make the travel as convenient as possible.

The program includes three phases – leadership development, understanding the issue, and developing initiatives.

Class IX will include people in unique positions across the state of Kansas who can influence and improve access to dental services for pregnant women and children ages 0 to 3.

Dental Champions Class IX is supported by a generous grant from the Alliance for a Cavity-Free Future.

Additional class sponsorship opportunities are available. For more information about underwriting Class IX, contact Tanya Dorf Brunner at [tdorf@oralhealthkansas.org](mailto:tdorf@oralhealthkansas.org).



Stop Caries NOW for a Cavity-Free Future

## **Phase I: Leadership Development**

### Objectives:

- Be oriented to the Kansas Leadership Center theory, principles and competencies
- Participate in Peer Learning Circles to develop individual leadership skills while working collectively with colleagues
- Define your “why” for participating in the program
- Understand individual strengths by exploring motivations and how motivations change when in conflict

March 22	Class IX launch & begin Peer Learning Circles <i>Location TBA</i>
April 3-5	Leadership Development Retreat: “Your Leadership Edge” <i>Kansas Leadership Center, Wichita</i>
April 26 or 27	OPTIONAL: Volunteer at the Kansas Mission of Mercy <i>Pittsburg State University, Pittsburg</i>
May	Peer Learning Circle <i>Two-hour virtual meeting. Date TBA</i>
June 21	Strengths Deployment Inventory <i>Location TBA</i>

## **Phase II: Discovery**

### Objectives:

- Understand why pregnant women and children age 0-3 struggle to access dental services
- Learn about the work already under way to improve access to dental services in Kansas and what work is yet to be done
- Identify the most important current communication challenges
- Learn techniques to develop concise, understandable messages about complex issues
- Discover how to collaborate on systems change advocacy

July	Peer Learning Circle <i>Two-hour virtual meeting. Date TBA</i>
September 5-6	Learning about the Issue: State and Local Perspectives <i>Topeka</i>
September	Peer Learning Circle <i>Two-hour virtual meeting. Date TBA</i>
October 10-11	Advocacy, Systems Change, & Effective Public Message Development <i>Topeka</i>

## **Phase III: Initiative Development**

Objectives:

- Identify the most important players in increasing access to dental services for pregnant women and children age 0 to 3 in communities and at the state level
- Define what is needed and wanted from the people who must help make progress, including what prevents others from prioritizing dental services for pregnant women and children age 0 to 3
- Use leadership and messaging skills and an understanding of dental services for pregnant women and young children to design policy and education interventions to improve access to dental care

November 1	Conference on Oral Health <i>Kansas State University, Olathe</i>
November	Peer Learning Circle <i>Two-hour virtual meeting. Date TBA</i>
December	Peer Learning Circle <i>Two-hour virtual meeting. Date TBA</i>
January 10	Initiatives for Progress & Program Graduation <i>Location TBA</i>

### **Program Fees**

There is a \$500 registration fee, payable after acceptance to the Dental Champions program.

### **A limited number of partial scholarships will be available.**

Participants will be responsible for travel to all sessions, but hotel stays and most meals will be covered by Oral Health Kansas. Class members will be encouraged to consider ride sharing to the sessions.

The Dental Champions Leadership Program provides leadership and oral health advocacy training valued at \$7,000 per person.

### **Participants**

Anyone interested in making progress in oral health for pregnant women and children age 0 to 3 may apply. Oral Health Kansas seeks a class that reflects the diversity of our state's population in terms of age, culture, gender, and geography. The professional diversity should include: dentists, dental hygienists, physicians, nurses, health departments, safety-net clinics, public health, child care and early childhood development, insurance companies, education, and business.

Class IX is open to both new Dental Champions and program alumni.

*It's not an exaggeration to say the benefits of the Dental Champions Leadership Program have been countless, priceless, and continue long after the program is over. The experience gave me skills to assess and manage leadership opportunities and the confidence to lead, broadening my network to include committed advocates who are also now my friends.*

*Barb Conant, Kansas Advocates for Better Care (Class VI)*

## Program Application

To apply for Dental Champions Class IX, please complete the following and submit it to Oral Health Kansas at [info@oralhealthkansas.org](mailto:info@oralhealthkansas.org) by February 28, 2019. Applicants will be notified by March 7 about their acceptance.

### Contact Information

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

### Business

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, Zip code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

### Home

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, Zip code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

### I am most interested in learning about: (check all that apply)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Leadership                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Why pregnant women & children 0-3 struggle to access dental services     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Advocacy                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Efficacy of providing dental services to pregnant women and children 0-3 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Oral health                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Effective message development  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Collaborative systems change |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____                  |   |

### Program Fee

Dental Champions is a professional development program, and many employers pay the program fee. If accepted into the program, you or your organization will be billed the program fee of \$500. Partial scholarships are available based on need. Are you interested in receiving scholarship assistance?

- Yes      Amount requested \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- No

### Describe why you are interested in joining Dental Champions Class IX:

*(Use a separate page. Maximum 200 words.)*

### Commitment

I have reviewed my calendar and can commit to the Dental Champions Class IX program dates. I believe progress can and should be made to encourage medical professionals to make referrals for dental care and dental professionals to provide that care for pregnant women, infants, and toddlers. I am committed to be a part of the Dental Champions Leadership Program and to using what I learn to make a difference in my community and my state.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_