



O R A L H E A L T H K A N S A S

Proposed 2019 Public Policy Priorities

Note: All bolded initiatives are those on which Oral Health Kansas plans to lead advocacy efforts.

POLICY AREA	SPECIFIC INITIATIVE OR LEGISLATION	LEVEL OF SUPPORT
Increase access to providers	Ensure that all Kansans have access to comprehensive oral health care. Address policies and practices that would restrict or impact the ability of citizens to access oral health care.	Support and advocate. Take the lead when appropriate.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support increased reimbursement rates for KanCare 2.0 dental providers. • Support recruitment and retention efforts to increase dental providers and their compensation. • Advocate for policies to grow the reach of Extended Care Permit hygienists into additional underserved communities, including teledental services. • Support initiatives to increase access to oral healthcare providers. 		
Increase financial capacity to pay for dental services	Reduce financial barriers associated with professional dental care. Full dental benefits for all Medicaid enrollees are a priority.	Partner and take the lead.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate for a comprehensive dental benefit for all KanCare beneficiaries. • Promote consumer awareness of the pediatric dental policies available on insureks.org and advocate for affordable implementation of this coverage. • Advocate for an increase in tobacco tax in order to preserve and increase funding for health and oral health. • Encourage elimination of administrative barriers for dental providers participating in KanCare. • Advocate for expansion of KanCare. 		
Improve Public Oral Health	Engage in activities to increase the oral health of all Kansans using evidence-based public health strategies.	Support and advocate. Take the lead when appropriate.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preserve existing community water fluoridation in Kansas. • Explore legislation or policy change to utilize funding for oral health items, such as toothbrushes and toothpaste. • Encourage expansion of oral health data collection and reporting under KanCare. • Explore legislation to modify the “Other Tobacco Products” tax definition • Support efforts to reduce use of tobacco products, including restricting access to tobacco among minors. • Advocate that plans of care account for oral health by including related questions on eligibility determination tools in the aging, disabilities, and early childhood service systems. • Encourage all early childhood organizations and agencies to align their policies by adopting the completion of a first dental visit by age one. 		