

Oral Health Kansas Weekly Wednesday Update

1 message

Oral Health Kansas <tdorf@oralhealthkansas.org>

Wed, Jun 11, 2014 at 1:26 PM

Reply-To: tdorf@oralhealthkansas.org

To: caroline.stern@du.edu



Volume 5, Issue 22

June 11, 2014

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CHIP Reauthorization is an Urgent Need



The Children's Dental Health Project (CDHP) is reporting today that legislation will be introduced in the U.S. Senate this week to reauthorize the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) through 2019. CHIP works in concert with most

state Medicaid programs, including Kansas, by providing dental and medical coverage for low-income children and pregnant women. Unfortunately, CHIP's future is up in the air because the program's funding expires on September 30, 2015. Unless Congress passes legislation to extend funding, nearly 50,000 Kansas children who rely on CHIP for dental and medical care will lose access to this comprehensive, affordable health coverage.

The Children's Dental Health Project has produced an issue brief exploring why the program is so critical and deserves continued funding. The issue brief is [available on the CDHP website](#).

The CHIP reauthorization legislation, championed by Senator



Kathy Hunt (Class 1) was one of six presenters at the DentaQuest Foundation's Midwest Oral Health Connection Convening in Chicago last week. She, along with five people from nearby states, discussed the work already in progress to address the big goals the DentaQuest Foundation has set. Those goals are known as [Oral Health 2020](#). One of the DentaQuest Foundation's goals is to eradicate dental disease in young children. Kathy talked about the work she has done through Kansas Cavity-Free Kids to reduce the number of Kansas children with dental disease.



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New
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Rockfeller (D-WV), makes some modest but important improvements in the bill by giving states additional incentives to improve their program in order to draw down a bonus payment. For several years, CHIP has provided "performance incentives" in the form of bonus payments to states that make significant progress reaching eligible-but-unenrolled children in Medicaid. The funds help to encourage states to adopt improvements to their program. Sen. Rockfeller adds additional categories and they include some important areas for dental services:

- A performance incentive to offer supplemental dental coverage to kids who are dentally uninsured/underinsured
- A performance incentive to ensure than any coverage of pregnant women through CHIP include dental coverage

The legislation also explicitly requires that dental costs be tracked (in addition to medical costs) in order to ensure that a family does not exceed the 5% income cost-sharing limit.

Oral Health Kansas and CDHP remain very concerned about the future of CHIP. If the program expires, access to guaranteed, affordable and meaningful dental coverage will be lost for millions of children. Please consider contacting your member of Congress to urge CHIP reauthorization.

Senator Pat Roberts
109 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington DC, 20510
[202-224-4774](tel:202-224-4774)
[Email form](#)

Senator Jerry Moran
Russell Senate Office Building Room 361A
Washington DC, 20510
[202-224-6521](tel:202-224-6521)
[Email form](#)

Congressman Tim Huelskamp (1st District)
129 Cannon HOB
Washington DC, 20515
Phone [202-225-2715](tel:202-225-2715)
[Email form](#)

Congresswoman Lynn Jenkins (2nd District)
1027 Longworth HOB
Washington DC, 20515
Phone [202-225-6601](tel:202-225-6601)
[Email form](#)

Congressman Kevin Yoder (3rd District)
215 Cannon HOB
Washington DC, 20515



Visit our updated Safety Net Dental Clinics page! You can find safety net clinics in your region and information such as which clinics provide services for people with disabilities. [Click here to see more safety net clinic information!](#)

Save the Date...

The 2014 Oral Health Kansas Conference will be November 6-8 at Wichita State University. Sessions this year will focus on

Phone [202-225-2865](tel:202-225-2865)
[Email form](#)

Congressman Mike Pompeo (4th District)
107 Cannon HOB
Washington DC, 20515
Phone [202-225-6216](tel:202-225-6216)
[Email form](#)

KDA Hires Communications Coordinator

Brian Bookwalter joined the Kansas Dental Association on June 9 as the new Communications Coordinator. He was most recently with a Topeka-based advertising agency. Brian brings a wealth of knowledge publishing, videography, graphic and web design and to the KDA team. Welcome! To read more about Brian and his involvement at the KDA, [click here](#).



Traveling Sugary Drink Display



Reserve our traveling Sugary Drink Display for your business or event! Displays are available from June onward and reservations are made for one month at a time. Return postage is covered by Oral Health Kansas. [E-mail Caroline here](#) if you would like to make a reservation.

issues related to "Oral
Health Across the Life
Span."

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If you have an idea, story or suggestion for a Oral Health Kansas Weekly
Wednesday Update please contact us at info@oralhealthkansas.org.

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Oral Health Kansas | 800 SW Jackson | Ste. 1120 | Topeka | KS | 66612

