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Dental Champions Corner

Nominations are being accepted for the 2014 Outstanding Dental Champion Award. Past winners include Kathy Hunt, Amber Sellers and Greg Hill. Learn more

CHIP Reauthorization is Cost-Effective for Families

One of the most reliable sources of coverage for pediatric dental services is set to expire in just a year. Congress created the Children's Health Insurance Program

(CHIP) in 1997 as a way to provide affordable,

age-appropriate medical and dental care to low-income children. The program's funding expires next September, and Congress must take action to preserve CHIP coverage of dental and medical care for over 8 million children who are not eligible for Medicaid.

During the last fiscal year in Kansas, 56,650 children were enrolled in medical and dental coverage through CHIP, which is a part of the state's KanCare program. The U.S. House Committee on Energy and Commerce is considering legislation that would extend CHIP through 2019. If the legislation is not passed, these Kansas children will lose their CHIP coverage and will need to seek new coverage through the state exchange.

A recent study released by the Wakely Consulting Group, conducted for the Robert Wood Johnson



about previous winners and make your nomination on the [Oral Health Kansas website](#) today!



OHK Awards

Don't forget to submit your nominations for the annual Excellence in Oral Health Awards by Monday, September 29th. Submit your nominations [here](#). Visit our [awards page](#) for more information.



New OHK Tips and Tricks

Parents and children enjoy the convenience of juice boxes for school lunches and snacks, but many would be surprised by the sugar content in these drinks.



Check out our updated Tips and Tricks: [Tiny Drinks, Big Sugar](#) by

Foundation, offers insight into the differences in affordability between Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and plans offered through the state exchanges. This analysis focused on the value of CHIP benefits compared to the health plans offered in 35 state exchanges. The study highlighted the difference in cost-sharing fees between CHIP and plans offered on the exchanges. The analysis estimates that families' cost-sharing could increase by up to 10 times what they currently pay out-of-pocket under CHIP. These out-of-pocket expenses include deductibles, co-pays, and co-insurance. CHIP coverage caps child health and dental expenses at 5 percent of the family's income.

According to this study, CHIP plans offer better pediatric dental and vision than most exchange plans. In more than half of the states studied in this analysis, children would need to move to stand-alone dental plans to maintain comparable coverage. Read more about the Wakely study in this [Kaiser Health News Article](#).

Oral Health Kansas is joining scores of state and national oral health advocates in urging Congress to pass legislation to preserve CHIP through 2019. Learn more about CHIP reauthorization from the [Children's Dental Health Project](#).

Michigan Health Home Webinar

The Patient-Centered Health Home is a concept being implemented through a variety of approaches including full integration, co-location, shared financing, virtual linkages and facilitated referral and follow-up.

[The Michigan Oral Health Coalition](#) is hosting a webinar on September 9th that will focus on integrating oral health in the patient-centered health home. This presentation will describe how oral health can be integrated into overall primary care systems to improve health care quality and outcomes of the patients we serve, by illustrating promising practices from an example health center oral health program.

Register for the webinar [here](#).

Kathy Trilli, RDH, ECP II.

Save the date...

The 2014 Oral Health Kansas Conference will be November 6-8 at Wichita State University.



[Sponsorship](#) and [Exhibit space](#) are available. Learn more about the opportunities to participate on the Oral Health Kansas [website](#) or by sending an [email](#).

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Traveling Sugary Drink Display

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



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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