



# ORAL HEALTH KANSAS

ADVOCACY • PUBLIC AWARENESS • EDUCATION

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Congratulations to the City of Parsons on [securing a grant from the National Association of County and City Health Officials](#) to purchase the equipment needed to resume water fluoridation. Parsons was notified last month about the grant award, and the [City Commission confirmed the plan to fluoridate](#). The city has been working toward this plan for five years.

## 2018 Legislative Session Begins



The 2018 legislative session began on Monday, January 8th. As the second year in a legislative biennium, or two-year cycle, all bills that remained under consideration when we adjourned the 2017 session may be considered in the 2018 session. The Kansas Health Institute (KHI) recently released a [2018 Kansas Legislative Preview](#) detailing health issues we may see before the legislature this year.

Medicaid Expansion - The expansion of



## 2018 Kansas Mission of Mercy

On February 9-10, the Kansas Mission of Mercy will be held in Hutchinson. Doors open at 4:30 am and is first come first served.

Please share the [KMOM flyer](#) and [KMOM flyer in Spanish](#).

Are you interested in volunteering? OHK staff will be conducting exit surveys on both days. If you would like to help out, [email us](#).

For other volunteer opportunities at KMOM, click [here](#).



Kansas Mission of Mercy  
*Making a Difference*

## New Years resolutions.... healthy teeth

With the new year started and holiday snacking is over, why not create a simple new year's resolution: healthy teeth!

Follow [this list of simple tips](#) to keep your mouth healthy!

Medicaid is an issue we saw arise in the 2017 legislative session and will likely be pursued in 2018. HB2044, which expanded Medicaid, passed both the House and Senate, but was vetoed by Governor Brownback in March 2017. Unfortunately, the House failed to override the veto and the bill died. If the state expanded Medicaid, KHI estimated that approximately 152,000 Kansans would be newly enrolled in KanCare.

KanCare - KanCare2.0 will be an issue we see a lot of discussion around this year. The State began the process of renewing the Medicaid (KanCare) system when the request for proposal for managed care companies to bid was released in November 2017. The bids have been submitted and the state will select vendors by June and awards announced by July 1. The winning vendors will provide services in a five-year contract beginning January 1, 2019. Many advocates, as well as legislators, are concerned that the state should be trying to fix our current KanCare system and delay KanCare2.0 before we go through the renewal process.

Telehealth - In October 2017, a Joint Health Committee on Telemedicine met and after two days of hearings announced they would introduce new legislation for the 2018 session that will require insurance companies to reimburse the same amount for in-person and telehealth services. Telehealth could be a great opportunity to ensure underserved communities receive the medical and dental services they need.

Throughout the session, Oral Health Kansas will continue to advocate for



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## Sugary Drink Display

Our sugary drink display's are so popular, we can't keep them on our shelves! The sugary drink display has 10 popular beverages and shows how much sugar is in each. We also include some of our [Tips and Tricks](#) fact sheets and brush your teeth mirror clings! The display is free to use for up to a month, and we reimburse postage! Use a sugary drink display in your office, school, health fair, school camps and more!



Send your reservation request ahead of time to ensure you will have one on hold! [Email us!](#)

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increased access to providers, increased financial capacity to pay for dental services, and improved public oral health. Topics you will hear us advocating for include: comprehensive adult dental benefits, teledentistry, increased reimbursement rates, dental therapy, tobacco tax, and more. We will also continue to advocate for federal policies, such as the reauthorization of the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

Oral Health Kansas will share regular updates about the 2018 Legislative Session in the Weekly Wednesday Update. The complete list of our [2018 Oral Health Kansas Public Policy Priorities](#) can be found on our website.

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## Leavenworth County Oral Health Coalition Participates In Training

The new community oral health coalition in Leavenworth County has started 2018 with a bang. Today about 30 early childhood professionals attended an introductory training on [Brush, Book, Bed](#), done by Doug Bowman, OHK Community Coalition Coordinator. Several agencies were present including Parents as Teachers, Tiny-K, Head Start, and the local health department. What a great way to start the New Year!

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If you are interested in becoming involved in the Leavenworth County oral health coalition, [contact Doug](#).

## USD #268 Begins Thirsty For Health Project

Our Water Access Manager, Kelly, toured the Cheney USD 268 school buildings and conducted a water point assessment. USD 268 has recently joined the [Thirsty for Health project](#). Cheney Elementary School's principal, Sherri Conrad, showed him around to each location where they stopped and talked with teachers, principals and the superintendent.

Cheney schools are excited to implement the Thirsty for Health project and help their students drink more water!

