

# ORAL HEALTH KANSAS

ADVOCACY • PUBLIC AWARENESS • EDUCATION

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New in 2017! We have added a new section in our Weekly Wednesday Update, titled "Faces of OHK". We will feature different stories every week, doing awesome things! Check it out! The Faces of OHK that week could be yours!

## State of the State reveals priorities

On January 9, the 2017 Legislative Session commenced, and on January 10, Governor Sam Brownback presented his annual State of the State address to a joint session of the Legislature. The Governor discussed the state's economy, the Medicaid program, and dental services.

Brownback announced his budget will include approximately \$800,000 to begin the development of a dental school at the University of Kansas Medical Center, which has campuses in Kansas City, Wichita and Salina. Kansas does not have a dental school, but does have an agreement with the University of Missouri Kansas City to send approximately 20 Kansas students per year to their School of Dentistry with the benefit of in-state tuition. The idea of developing a dental school in Kansas has been debated for many years, most recently by a Board of Regents oral health task force in 2012. The report of

## Integrating dental health and primary health

A person's oral health has a major impact on health, medical costs and quality of life. Serious gum disease is associated with diabetes, heart disease and other medical conditions. Going to the dentist may be difficult when one doesn't have insurance to cover costs, therefore dental needs are postponed.

An experimental project in 14 counties in Oregon, is testing the benefits of having dental services in the most efficient setting, for example a WIC clinic. Integrating dental care and medical care could help prevent issues early that could lead to bigger problems as one ages with no care.

[Read](#) the article to find out what other states are doing to integrate dental services and primary care.



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## Get your posters for National Children's Dental Health Month

Next month is National Children's Dental Health Month. The American Dental Association (ADA) and American Dental Association (ADA) Foundation are providing posters with this year's theme, [Choose Tap Water for a Sparkling Smile](#).

These posters are helpful to have in clinics, classrooms, and many others.

the task force noted that a possible future dental school should be located in a rural setting in order to attract rural students to the field of dentistry.

Oral Health Kansas' 2017 policy priorities include supporting initiatives to increase access to oral healthcare providers, as well as recruitment and retention efforts to increase dental providers. Our priorities also include establishing comprehensive dental services for adults served by Medicaid and restoring the Medicaid rates paid to dental providers. Cuts to the already low Medicaid dental rates in 2016 led to a number of Kansas dentists not being able to continue providing services through Medicaid.

The Governor also re-committed to his position not to expand the Medicaid program through the Affordable Care Act. The state of Kansas has forfeited over \$1.6 billion since 2014 by not expanding the Medicaid program and leaving low-income, uninsured adults with no option for paying for their medical and dental services. Oral Health Kansas continues to stand with the coalition of organizations and Kansans who advocate that the Medicaid program be expanded to extend coverage to tens of thousands more people.





You will also receive 75% off shipping costs! Click [here](#) to find out how to order!

### Sugary Drink Display

Start the new year with a resolution to drink healthier beverages! One way to educate yourself and others about how much sugar is in drinks, is to reserve our popular sugary drink display.

Our sugary drink display contains 10 popular beverages and shows how much sugar is in each. The display is free to use, up to a month and we reimburse postage. You must sign up to reserve a sugary drink display. Reserve a display for your health fair, clinic, school event or child care!



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## Volunteer at KMOM!

The 2017 Kansas Mission of Mercy will be January 27-28 in Manhattan. The Kansas Dental Charitable Foundation is seeking both dental and non-dental volunteers for both days. Learn more and register to volunteer on the [foundation's website](#).

Oral Health Kansas will partner with the Kansas Dental Association to conduct a patient exit survey. If you are interested in volunteering to help with the survey, please register using the link above and note that you are volunteering with Oral Health Kansas. Please also let us know you are interested in helping by emailing us at [info@oralhealthkansas.org](mailto:info@oralhealthkansas.org).




Kansas Mission of Mercy  
*Making a Difference*

## Hurry! Early Bird rate ends on January 14th

### Providing quality dental care for people with dementia

An estimated 5.4 million Americans have some form of dementia. Many of those are coming to dental clinics every day. Oral Health Kansas is offering help to clinicians and others who provide support to people with dementia by

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providing an outstanding workshop that will improve confidence in providing quality dental experiences.

**Working with Persons with Dementia: Powerful, Positive, & Pleasurable Approaches for Successful Dental Hygiene Practices.**

Rita Jablonski-Jaudon, PhD, CRNP, FAAN., an Associate Professor at the University of Alabama at Birmingham delivers dynamic, useful, and humorous presentations that integrate clinical expertise (and common sense) with up-to-date research findings. When she presented at the 2015 OHK Annual Conference participants said she was fascinating and they could listen to her all day.

Here are some of the topics she will cover:

- The common faces of dementia
- The "why's" behind the "what"
- Overview of common medications used and their impact on care delivery
- Clinically tested techniques that prevent triggering symptoms and promote acceptance of care
- Resources (including free mouth care videos on YouTube) to share with colleagues and family caregivers.

Workshop details:

Saturday, January 21, 2017  
Delta Dental of Kansas, 1619 N.  
Waterfront Parkway, Wichita, Kansas  
9:00 am-12:30 pm. Registration begins  
at 8:30 am.

Early bird rate is \$45, with a special rate

of \$30 for Kansas Dental Hygienists Association members.

Don't miss out!



This opportunity is sponsored by Oral Health Kansas and the Wichita component of the Kansas Dental Hygienist's Association. It has been partially underwritten by Comfort Care Homes

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