



**ORAL HEALTH KANSAS**  
ADVOCACY • PUBLIC AWARENESS • EDUCATION

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## New Year, New Look

The Weekly Wednesday Update has a new look for 2015!

### In This Issue

[Dental Champions Corner](#)

[EC Tyree Clinic Position Opening](#)

[Join In: HPV Vaccination](#)

[Stakeholder Meeting](#)

[Traveling Sugary Drink Display](#)

[2015 Legislative Session Preview](#)

[Awards Spotlight](#)

[Great Books for Children's Dental](#)

[Health Month](#)

## Dental Champions Corner

A few slots remain in Dental Champions Class 7! Class 7 will focus on preserving water fluoridation in communities across Kansas. If you or anyone you know is interested in this opportunity, [email Sarah](#) today!



## EC Tyree Clinic

## 2015 Legislative Session Preview

by Stuart J. Little, Little Government Relations

The 2015 legislative session began on Monday, January 12th. The Governor will make his State of the State speech on Thursday, January 15th, and the Governor's proposed budget should be publically available by Friday of this week. The biggest challenge facing the Governor and the Legislature will be how they address the substantial revenue deficit in the current year and future years. There will be policy debates about a variety of issues, but the budget will be the biggest challenge.

The 2015 Legislature faces a \$280 million revenue shortfall in the current fiscal year, which ends on June 30. They also face a shortfall of \$436 million in FY 2016 that could be as high as \$640 million if the Governor's proposed solutions in the current fiscal year are implemented. Suffice it to say there are challenges, and we will have to monitor the various proposed solutions as they are revealed.

The 2015 and 2016 Legislatures will be faced with several options, assuming there is not massive economic growth and recovery looming in the coming months: reduce spending to budget within existing revenue; make adjustments to revenue; or both. The most important thing to note is that the makeup of the 2015 Legislature largely similar to the Legislature that approved the tax cuts and the budget.

## Position Opening

The E C Tyree Clinic is looking for a PRN hygienist that would work with their school outreach program. The ideal candidate will have an ECP license or ability to obtain it, compassion for patients, self-starter, and flexible. This position has the potential to become permanent. Please send resume to [sjames-boyd@tyreeclinic.com](mailto:sjames-boyd@tyreeclinic.com).



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## Join In: HPV Vaccination Stakeholder Meeting

Oral human papillomavirus (HPV) infection has been linked to a variety of oral health issues including oral lesions and oral cancer. Kansas Foundation for Medical Care (KFMC) will be hosting a webinar February 3rd from 12 - 1:30 CST featuring Dr. Terry Tsue, an otolaryngologist who has extensive knowledge on this subject. We are excited about this new opportunity to work with KFMC on oral health in the future! [Join the webinar](#) today!



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## Traveling Sugary Drink Display

Don't forget to reserve our traveling sugary drink display for your event! Our display shows how much sugar

As usual with the Legislature, final resolution for the current and next fiscal years will most likely be a combination of efficiencies/savings, budget reductions, and very likely some changes in tax policy. Increased taxes are not likely, but some modification to current tax policy, such as slowing the further reductions in individual income tax cuts, or other issues such as exemptions and deductions is possible. There likely will be no new taxes passed by this Legislature, except possibly tobacco or alcohol taxes.

State budget reductions could affect public health and oral health programs. The issue of Medicaid expansion also is getting some attention ahead of a soon-to-be-released proposal from the Kansas Hospital Association and the appeal of possible increased revenue in Kansas due to expansion. If the Kansas Medicaid program is expanded, tens of thousands of low-income adults would gain access to the preventive dental benefit and to emergency dental services.

Oral Health Kansas will share regular updates about the 2015 Legislative Session in the Weekly Wednesday Update. The [2015 Oral Health Kansas Public Policy Priorities](#) can be found on our website.

## Awards Spotlight

With the holidays behind us, we are continuing our Awards Spotlight to share the stories of the outstanding people who make Oral Health Kansas a reality. Delta Dental Foundation of Kansas was awarded our Outstanding Organization award at the Excellence in Oral Health Awards ceremony last November.

Throughout their 11-year existence, the foundation has granted and gifted \$9.8 million. These contributions built educational programs, expanded safety net clinics, encouraged new dentists to enter rural areas, and provided thousands of toothbrush kits. The Foundation has since been dissolved, but Delta Dental of Kansas, the sole donor to the Foundation, will continue making significant charitable gifts to improve oral health in Kansas.

We thank them for their support of Oral Health Kansas and the significant contributions they made throughout their 11 years.

is in a variety of your favorite drinks, emphasizing which drinks are good and bad for you.



This display is completely free, and return shipping costs are reimbursed by Oral Health Kansas. Learn more [on our website](#) and [email Sarah](#) if you are interested in hosting the display!

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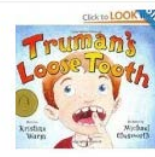
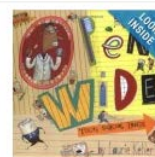
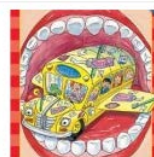
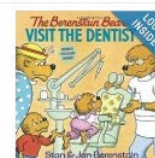
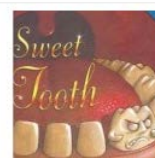
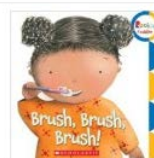
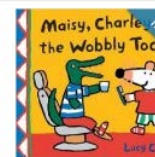
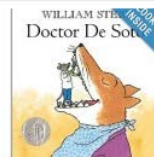
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## Great Books for Children's Dental Health Month

Looking for some great books to help reinforce learning about taking care of your teeth? Check out these recommendations and more from [Real Life at Home](#). Stay tuned for more during February, Children's Dental Health Month!



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