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Subject: Oral Health Kansas Weekly Wednesday Update

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ORAL HEALTH KANSAS

Weekly Wednesday Update

*Our Mission:
To improve oral health
in Kansas through
advocacy,
public awareness
and education.*

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Dental Champions Corner:

Through the Dental Champions program, class members learn that leadership is an activity, rather than a position.

2014 Legislative Session Begins

The 2014 Legislative Session convened on Monday, January 13th. Legislators will be able to consider bills that did not pass last year as well as introduce new bills and consider new ideas this year. 2014 is an election year for all members of the Kansas House of Representatives and all statewide elected officials, including the Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State, Treasurer and Insurance Commissioner. Because it is an election year, and because issues like school finance will loom large this year, the 2014 session likely will be an interesting one.



Oral Health Kansas' policy priorities this year focus on access to dental providers, increasing

Progress on difficult issues can be made only with collective action and leadership exercised at every level. Learn more about the Kansas Leadership Center model of leadership education in a short video on the new Dental Champions website: www.ksdentalchampions.org



Join the Medicaid Expansion movement

By expanding Medicaid, low-income Kansans will have access to health coverage, and there is potential to undo the profound health disparities in our state. As it currently stands, uninsured Kansans are far likelier to develop serious health complications or die younger from disease that are too often preventable. By gaining health insurance through Medicaid, we would add health coverage for as many as 100,000 Kansans within five years who otherwise would remain uninsured.

Join advocates in telling Kansas lawmakers about the importance of Medicaid expansion in Kansas by signing the petition today.

financial capacity to pay for dental services, improving public oral health, and increasing awareness among policymakers of the importance of oral health. Following are the priorities for this year. Watch for them on our website soon as well.

- Support Registered Dental Practitioner legislation.
- Support recruitment and retention efforts to increase dental providers in underserved areas.
- Support policies to enhance the Extended Care Permit law.
- Support efforts to make better use of the current school dental screening law to promote dental care among children.
- Advocate expanding access to KanCare.
- Promote fair implementation of the children's dental benefit in the Affordable Care Act.
- Advocate with the KanCare managed care organizations for inclusion of a comprehensive dental benefit for all Kansas Medicaid beneficiaries.
- Provide general oral health information to individual legislators and committees as appropriate.
- Convene the Oral Health Caucus to arm legislative supporters with information about oral health policy and generate more awareness of the issue among legislators.
- Preserve existing community water fluoridation in Kansas.
- Support the existing statewide indoor smoking ban and efforts to reduce access to tobacco products.
- Advocate including oral health questions in the eligibility determination tools in the aging, disabilities, and early childhood service systems, so that care plans account for oral health.

KMOM Registration is Open

Volunteer registration for the Kansas Mission of Mercy (KMOM) in Dodge City is now open! The 13th annual event will take place on February

[Sign the petition here.](#)



Did You Know...

Chewing gum after meals can protect your teeth! Chewing increases saliva production, which can then help neutralize the acidic environment of the mouth created by broken down foods.

[Read more from the ADA on chewing gum](#)



[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

28 - March 1 at the Western State Bank Expo Center.



Kansas Mission of Mercy
Making a Difference

[Register here to volunteer at KMOM 2014.](#)

Job Opening: Executive Director of Delta Dental of Kansas Foundation


Delta Dental of Kansas Foundation is a non-profit, charitable organization established in 2003 by Delta Dental of Kansas, the largest dental benefits administrator in the state of Kansas. The Foundation is committed to proactively improving the oral health of Kansas residents by "thinking big," focusing on prevention and investing in innovative approaches.


The position is a full-time permanent position with requirements for some evening and weekend work. The Executive Director reports to the Board of Directors for the Delta Dental of Kansas Foundation and is responsible for the operation of the Foundation's programs, the management of the Foundation's fiscal resources, and for the provision of quality services to the community.

Four to six years experience in directing community action, charitable giving programs, and grant administration is requested. Demonstrated communications and negotiation skills required; must be detail oriented. Requires experience in event coordination and nonprofit management. Must have experience in developing and maintaining a budget, strong PC skills and a Bachelor's degree are required.

To apply, please contact Vice President of Human Resources Kara Hunt, khunt@deltadentalks.com.

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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