



WEEKLY WEDNESDAY UPDATE

The Weekly Wednesday Update is our newsletter which we email every Wednesday with oral health, health and policy updates from around the state and nationally.

To view past issues [click here](#).

Click here to sign up for our [Weekly Wednesday Update](#).

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2020 Session Kicks Off

The 2020 legislative session kicked off on Monday, and tonight Governor Kelly will deliver her second State of the State Address. The address will begin at 6:30 pm, and it will be broadcast on most local PBS stations and it will be broadcast on most local PBS stations and [streamed live on YouTube](#). She is expected to name

Medicaid Expansion as her top legislative priority. On January 9th she and Senate Majority Leader Jim Denning announced a [compromise on Medicaid Expansion](#), and that compromise bill ([SB 252](#)) was introduced this week. The House passed an expansion bill in 2019, and SB 252 has 22 co-sponsors in the Senate. Only 21 votes are needed in the Senate,

so the chances this bill will be passed and signed into law have increased. We will follow the bill as it progresses and keep you informed.

Last week Governor Kelly announced a reorganization of two state agencies. She will present a plan to the legislature to consolidate the Department on Aging and Disabilities Services and Department for Children and Families, as well as the juvenile services division at the Department of Corrections. The new agency will be called the Department of Human Services and will be designed to be a central location to serve Kansans. Governor Kelly said, "The creation of the new agency allows us to focus on prevention, so that we can get to these families before their situation becomes a crisis. The Department of Human Services will partner with communities across the state to create a single point of entry for those who need access to services for things like child welfare, mental health, economic support and juvenile justice."

Big issues expected to dominate at the Capitol this year include Medicaid Expansion, several Supreme Court issues, and tax policy. Oral Health Kansas will build on the momentum created in 2019 with the passage of the first Medicaid dental rate increase in almost twenty years by introducing and promoting the Kansas Oral Health Improvement Act.

The bill will:

1. Mandate the state have a State Oral Health Plan that is regularly updated and monitored
2. Increase Medicaid reimbursement rates at a level to incentivize providers to serve Medicaid beneficiaries
3. Establish a comprehensive adult dental benefit in Medicaid

Oral Health Kansas will keep you informed about the Kansas Oral Health Improvement Act, Medicaid Expansion, and many other issues throughout the legislative session. Tune in to our biweekly webinars to keep up with the latest activity. [Learn more about the webinars on our website.](#)



Ninth Dental Champions Class Graduates

The [ninth Dental Champions Leadership Program](#) graduated on Friday, January 10. The 13 member class met from March 2019 up until graduation day. The program included three phases: leadership development, understanding the issue, and developing initiatives. They attended the Kansas Leadership

Center's trainings and worked in Peer Learning Circles throughout the program. They worked on strategies for how to improve access to dental services for pregnant women and children ages 0 to 3. Although the group has graduated the work is not done. Members made plans on how to continue their work and how to stay involved.



Tell Us What You Think

The Our Weekly Wednesday Update (WWU) is in its 11th year! Each year we try to find ways to improve the WWU and we need your help. We would like to hear from you and your thoughts for the WWU. Questions such as how can we improve it, do you read the WWU, etc. Please take this [short survey](#) and let us know what you think!



Ninth Dental Champions Class Graduates

The Kansas Mission of Mercy for 2020 will be February 7-8 at Western State Bank Expo Center in Dodge City, Kansas. If you're interested in volunteering you will need

to [sign up](#). If you know someone who would like to participate in the services provided, there is a list of frequently asked questions that will be helpful to review BEFORE they go to the clinic. The clinic opens at 5:30 AM on both Friday and Saturday. Waiting in line, or determining how early to get in line, is up to the patient but it is **FIRST COME, FIRST SERVE**. [Click here](#) to review the questions.



Representative Marshall, picture courtesy of Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/RogerMarshallMO/>

Congressman Marshall Schedules Public Forums

Congressman Roger Marshall, M.D. is taking time out of his busy schedule and will be traveling across Kansas. He will be speaking with health care providers and hospital administrators to share his efforts to ensure the survival of rural hospitals, lower health care costs and learn what Kansans need from their health care providers. He will also be holding public forums in various communities.

When legislators are in your community, schedule a time to visit with them or attend a public forum.

Public forum stops for Representative Marshall

Wednesday, January 22

Dodge City - 4:15-5:15pm @ Western Kansas Medical Complex, Hospital Classroom

Thursday, January 23

Garden City - 7:30-8:30am @ St. Catherine Hospital, Classrooms A & B

Colby - 12:30-1:30pm @ Citizens Medical Center, Conference Room

Hays - 5:00-6:00pm @ Hays Medical Center, Hadley Room 2

For more information, or who to contact for questions, follow this link to WIBW in Topeka.



Junetta Everett, [Dental Champions Class II member](#) and Vice President of Professional Relations for Delta Dental of Kansas, became chair of the Wichita Regional Chamber of Commerce at the end of 2019. She is the first African American person to have this role. Last month, Junetta did an interview with the Wichita Eagle. If you haven't heard Junetta's background and history, it's an interesting one. [Read the interview](#) and find out what led her to where she is today!



Congratulations Junetta!



Reserve Now For The End Of The Year

Reserve your Sugary Drink Display before the months go by! Or purchase a Sugary Drink Display to have as your own! We will do our best to fulfill requests of less than 30 days but there is no guarantee. There is no charge to use the Sugary Drink Display; postage is reimbursed if you send in your receipt. All we ask is for you to fill out our survey included in the display materials and provide us with feedback about the display. **Click [here](#) to make a reservation!**

Interested in purchasing a Sugary Drink Display? Click [here](#) to download our brochure.



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