



ORAL HEALTH KANSAS

ADVOCACY • PUBLIC AWARENESS • EDUCATION

Volume 7, Issue 3

January 20, 2016

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Webinar: Dental Care Approaches for Adults with Disabilities

"Dental Care Approaches for Adults with Disabilities" is a free continuing education course for dental professionals who wish to improve their skills in caring for adults with special health care needs (ASHCN). No prior skill level or knowledge is required to attend.

[Find out more information and sign up.](#)

State of State address: No Medicaid expansion

On January 12, Governor Sam Brownback delivered his annual State of the State address to a joint session of the Kansas Legislature. During the speech the Governor made it clear he is not in favor of expanding the state's Medicaid program known as KanCare.

Kansas remains one of nineteen states that has not expanded its Medicaid program. Just last week, Louisiana became the 31st state to expand Medicaid. The Kansas Hospital Association has led recent advocacy efforts to convince lawmakers that KanCare should be expanded. [According to the Kansas Hospital Association's website](#), Kansas has missed out on over \$900 million in federal funds since 2014 by not expanding our Medicaid program.



Free Dental Care for Kids

For the month of February, Concorde Career College In Kansas City, Missouri, is providing free dental services to kids ages 1-18 through the [Give Kids A Smile Program](#).



Clinic seeks Bilingual Registered Dental Hygienist

Turner House Children's Clinic seeks Bilingual Registered Dental Hygienist for their new clinic. This person must hold a current license as a Dental Hygienist in the state of Kansas with one-two years of previous experience, and will provide optimal dental hygiene care three to four days a week in a pediatric dental clinic and portable services in Kansas City, Kansas public schools.

[Find out how to apply!](#)



The [KHI News Service reported on the State of the State address](#) and noted that over 150,000 Kansans remain uninsured because the KanCare program has not been expanded.

In his address, the Governor referred to the closure of a hospital in Independence. KHI News Service quoted him as saying, "It was Obamacare that cut Medicare reimbursements to rural hospitals. It was Obamacare that caused the problem. We should not expand Obamacare to solve the problem."

The Affordable Care Act was designed to dramatically reduce subsidies paid to hospitals that serve uninsured people and provide Medicaid coverage for low-income people instead. The US Supreme Court made Medicaid expansion optional for states when it ruled that the states cannot be required to expand their eligibility for their Medicaid programs.

During the State of the State address, Governor Brownback asked Lt. Governor Colyer to head a work group to study the challenges of providing health care in rural areas. This working group was proposed as an alternative to expanding KanCare. The [Rural Health Working](#)

KMOM is next week! Volunteer!

Register to volunteer for Kansas Mission of Mercy (KMOM) on January 29-30. If you wish to volunteer, go to the [Kansas Dental Charitable Foundation](#) website to find out more!



January 29-30, 2016

Drink Display

Reserve a drink display for this year as soon as you can. Our reservation slots fill up fast! Our month of February is booked! But we have other months available.

The drink display is free for you to use and shipping costs are reimbursed. To reserve a drink display, [email us!](#)



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Group members were announced on January 13 by the Lt. Governor.

Last fall, Oral Health Kansas wrote to Governor Brownback and all members of the Legislature urging them to expand KanCare. Expanding eligibility to low-income adults would ensure they are able to access KanCare's preventive dental benefit.

Oral Health Kansas and Sheltered Living to partner in 2016

Sheltered Living, Inc. is a Topeka-based organization dedicated to serving people with intellectual disabilities. This year, Sheltered Living will partner with Oral Health Kansas on a project to educate staff and consumers about oral health.

Through a grant from Delta Dental of Kansas, Sheltered Living plans to host a series of educational workshops in 2016. Oral Health Kansas staff will engage staff and consumers in discussion and activities that allow them to learn how to take immediate action to improve and maintain their oral health.

The new project will help raise the awareness of the importance of good oral health for people with intellectual disabilities, while giving staff the confidence they need to provide follow-up education and assistance for their clients in working towards better oral and overall health.

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 View on **Instagram**



Sign up for Health Insurance

Open Enrollment for health insurance ends on January 31. [Cover Kansas](#) is available to answer your questions and help you find health insurance to meet your needs. Navigators and certified staff are available in your area to assist you.

Currently 92,380 people in Kansas have enrolled in health insurance!



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