

# ORAL HEALTH KANSAS

ADVOCACY • PUBLIC AWARENESS • EDUCATION

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Thank you to Comfort Care Homes of Wichita for underwriting the January 21st workshop, "Providing Mouth Care for Persons with Dementia," a dental continuing education program sponsored by Kansas Dental Hygienist Association's Wichita Component and Oral Health Kansas.

## Lots of activity in the Legislative Session

The Kansas Legislature is in its third week, and activity is increasing every day. Following is a short summary of the major activity affecting oral health policy.

### **CMS denies KanCare extension**

Late last week state officials released a letter from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) stating that the Kansas Medicaid program known as KanCare is substantively out of compliance with federal Medicaid regulations. The letter directs the state of Kansas to prepare a corrective action plan with stakeholder input by February 17. CMS received numerous complaints about the KanCare program from consumers, providers and advocates, and federal officials conducted an on-site review of the program in October 2016 that confirmed many of the complaints they had received. CMS findings include: state officials have not managed the program with the required



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### OHK office closed Friday

The Oral Health Kansas office will be closed on Friday, January 27. Staff will be volunteering at the Kansas Mission of Mercy (KMOM) in Manhattan and will not be available to receive phone calls.



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### Webinar on Strategic Planning in your community

This is a third of webinar series offered by Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA). Strategic and Action Planning + Growing and Sustaining Your Results will be on January 31, 2017, 12-1:30 pm (CST). This webinar will provide information on creating a framework for change. The

level of transparency or responded to public feedback adequately; provider network adequacy has not been monitored sufficiently; and the state does not have a comprehensive system for reporting, tracking and trending critical incidents.

CMS' letter is in response to state officials' request to extend the KanCare program for one year before submitting a formal renewal. That request was denied. Kansas Department of Health and Environment Secretary Dr. Susan Mosier testified before House and Senate health committees this week about the CMS decision. [The Wichita Eagle](#) reported that Mosier "contended that the federal audit contained 'statements of opinion rather statements of fact' and accused federal investigators of an overreliance on anecdotal evidence." No details have been shared yet about what state officials' next steps are in response to the CMS letter.

### Medicaid Expansion bill scheduled for hearing

This week we learned that [HB 2064](#) has been scheduled for a hearing in the House Health and Human Services Committee. The hearing will stretch across three days. Neutral testimony will be heard on February 6; proponent testimony will be heard on February 8; and opponent testimony will be heard on February 9. Because a very large number of people and organizations are planning to testify, most people will be asked to provide written-only testimony. If you will be in Topeka on any of the hearing days, please plan to attend the

webinar is helpful for new coalitions or coalitions that would like to brainstorm new ideas.

For more information and to sign up, click [here](#)!



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### Reserve a sugary drink display now!

Our sugary drink display is so popular, all of our February slots are booked! Don't wait to reserve yours for the upcoming months. We have a limited amount of drink displays therefore reserving yours ahead of time is crucial for a guaranteed slot. [Sign up now!](#)

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. Reserve a display for your health fair, clinic, school event or child care!



committee hearing at 1:30 to share your support for Medicaid expansion. If you have questions about attending a hearing or would like to provide written testimony, please contact the Oral Health Kansas office at [info@oralhealthkansas.org](mailto:info@oralhealthkansas.org).

### Dental Therapist bill introduced

A new bill proposing the creation of a dental therapist was introduced late last week in the House Health and Human Services Committee. [HB 2139](#) will establish a midlevel dental model in Kansas. The bill's introduction coincided with the annual day at the Capitol for the Kansas Dental Project, which is leading the advocacy effort on the dental therapist model. The day at the Capitol was January 25, and approximately 160 people gathered at the Capitol to promote the legislation. No plans have been announced to hold a hearing on the bill yet.



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### Nursing home residents to lose dental care

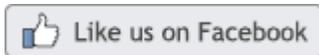
This week, Sterling Dental decided to discontinue providing dental services for more than 350 nursing home residents in Kansas. The [Kansas News Service](#) reported that the company sends dentists to nursing homes to provide the dental care residents need. Because



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thousands of people's applications for Medicaid have not been approved yet, Sterling Dental is no longer able to provide the services. The dental services are designed for Medicaid beneficiaries, and the state has had a backlog of Medicaid applications for over a year. Progress has been made on the backlog, but thousands of applications remain on the backlog.

Seniors face many challenges in accessing dental care, because it is not a service that is covered by Medicare and is only covered by some Medicaid programs. The loss of dental services to this group of seniors is a blow, and the fact that it is the result of a lengthy backlog in Medicaid applications shows that the administrative challenge is having a real impact on low-income Kansans.



## Oral health & dementia well attended

Rita Jablonski-Jaudon, Ph.D. RN, CRNP, returned to Kansas last weekend to conduct a continuing education seminar on her specialty: "Mouth Care for People with Dementia." Dr. Jablonski-Jaudon is internationally-renowned for her research on improving the lives of older adults with dementia.

She discussed evidence-based practical and respectful approaches to providing oral health care to people who often initially resist daily toothbrushing and flossing. The Wichita (or Sedgwick County) Component of Kansas Dental Hygienists' Association partnered with Oral Health Kansas to host the workshop after hearing her presentation at Oral Health Kansas' 2015 Conference in Johnson County. More than sixty-five professionals attended this past weekend, including dental hygienists, dental hygiene students and nurses.

Thank you Rita for another wonderful session!



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