



# ORAL HEALTH KANSAS

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## Children's Dental Health Month

February will begin National Children's Dental Health (NCDH) month. This month is a great time to educate teachers, parents, children and many more, on the importance of oral health for children! The slogan this year is Sugar Wars. Find activities to share with others about NCDH month. Here is a calendar to help children keep track of their brushing!

## Bridge to a Healthy Kansas: a Medicaid expansion plan

A proposal written by the Kansas Hospital Association (KHA), introduced a medicaid expansion bill called a Bridge to Healthy Kansas, was introduced in the House committee this week. The plan is similar to Indiana's medicaid expansion plan. The Bridge to a Healthy Kansas plan is budget neutral, hence it does not need State General Funds. It will not be an additional cost to Kansas taxpayers and will likely be a net gain for Kansas. The plan is not free care for consumers and it does hold them accountable. Below is an outline of the plan:

Eligibility requirements -

- The program covers participants who: Are legal residents or U.S. citizens and full-time residents of the state of Kansas



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## 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](#).



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## Proposals for tobacco use and behavioral health

Kansas Health Foundation (KHF) is seeking a request for proposals aimed to support community mental health centers, substance abuse treatment facilities, and other stakeholders in the behavioral health system in Kansas to help clients be tobacco-free. [Here](#) is more information.



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## KMOM this week

The Kansas Mission of Mercy

Work 20+ hours per week; those who do not work at least 20 hours a week must be involved in work training, or they must be a student or a stay-at-home parent to be eligible

- Demonstrate personal responsibility by paying a portion of the cost of their health care
- Preventive care - the program covers qualifying preventive care at no expense to participants
- Federal funding - the program is funded in part by federal funds as set forth in the Affordable Care Act (ACA), and the program will automatically terminate if federal funding is reduced below the requirements set forth in the ACA

The Bridge to a Healthy Kansas would benefit working families. These are gas station cashiers, day care workers, waitresses, health care workers and bus drivers. This would help more people in the community maintain healthy lives and keep health care costs down.



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## OIG Report shows kids not receiving all required dental services

(KMOM) begins Friday, January 29. Remind people in your communities if they need dental services, this is first come, first serve.



January 29-30, 2016

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### Hope for transparency

Open Kansas, held a press conference today at the statehouse, introducing their initiative to give the people of Kansas straightforward access to public record, public meetings, and a government that works for everyone in the light of day. Legislators such as Representative John Wilson and Representative John Rubin spoke in support and signed the petition as well. [Click here](#) for more information or to sign the pledge.



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### Drink Display

Reserve a drink display for this year as soon as you can. Our reservation slots fill up fast! Our

This week the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Inspector General released a report about dental services for children who are enrolled in Medicaid programs. The majority of low-income children in the United States have Medicaid coverage for dental care, and this report showed that 75% of children enrolled in Medicaid in four states are not receiving all the required childhood dental services. The report's authors noted, "Access to dental care for children with Medicaid has been a longstanding concern. When children lack dental care, untreated decay and infection in their mouths can result in preventable emergency room visits or more complicated and expensive dental and medical interventions later in life."

Medicaid programs (known as KanCare in Kansas) include a mandatory program for children called Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT). Through EPSDT, state Medicaid programs are required to cover all medical-necessary dental services on a schedule that is specified in each state's policies. The report showed that children enrolled in Medicaid in California, Indiana, Louisiana, and Maryland did not receive all the required services. The authors cited several challenges in providing all the services on the appropriate schedule, including shortages of Medicaid dental providers and challenges in teaching families about the importance of routine dental care for their children.

The OIG made eight recommendations states can implement to improve the number of Medicaid-enrolled children who are receiving the required dental services. One recommendation is that states should analyze the effects of Medicaid payments on access to dental

month of February is booked! Sign up before our other months get booked.

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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providers. Medicaid payment rates typically are far lower than those of private insurance plans. In Kansas, the Medicaid rates are generally less than half as much as private insurance rates. Another recommendation was that states improve education for families about the importance of dental care. Kansas has focused on this strategy for many years, and the Kansas Head Start Association and Oral Health Kansas have been at the forefront of creating educational materials and programs for underserved populations, including children. Many such resources can be found on our website under the "Resources" tab: [www.oralhealthkansas.org](http://www.oralhealthkansas.org).

While Kansas was not a part of this OIG study, our state is working on increasing the number of children enrolled in Medicaid who receive dental services. Kansas is one of five states participating in an Oral Health Initiative sponsored by the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Through the Oral Health Initiative, the Bureau of Oral Health, Medicaid program, KanCare managed care organizations, and advocacy groups like Oral Health Kansas are partnering on ways to increase the number of children who receive a preventive dental service each year, as well as the number of children who receive dental sealants.



**New year.....new sign**

OHK is excited to introduce our new, snazzy office sign. If you are in the area, stop by our office, say hi and check it out! Thank you to Fast Signs in Topeka for doing such a great job.



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