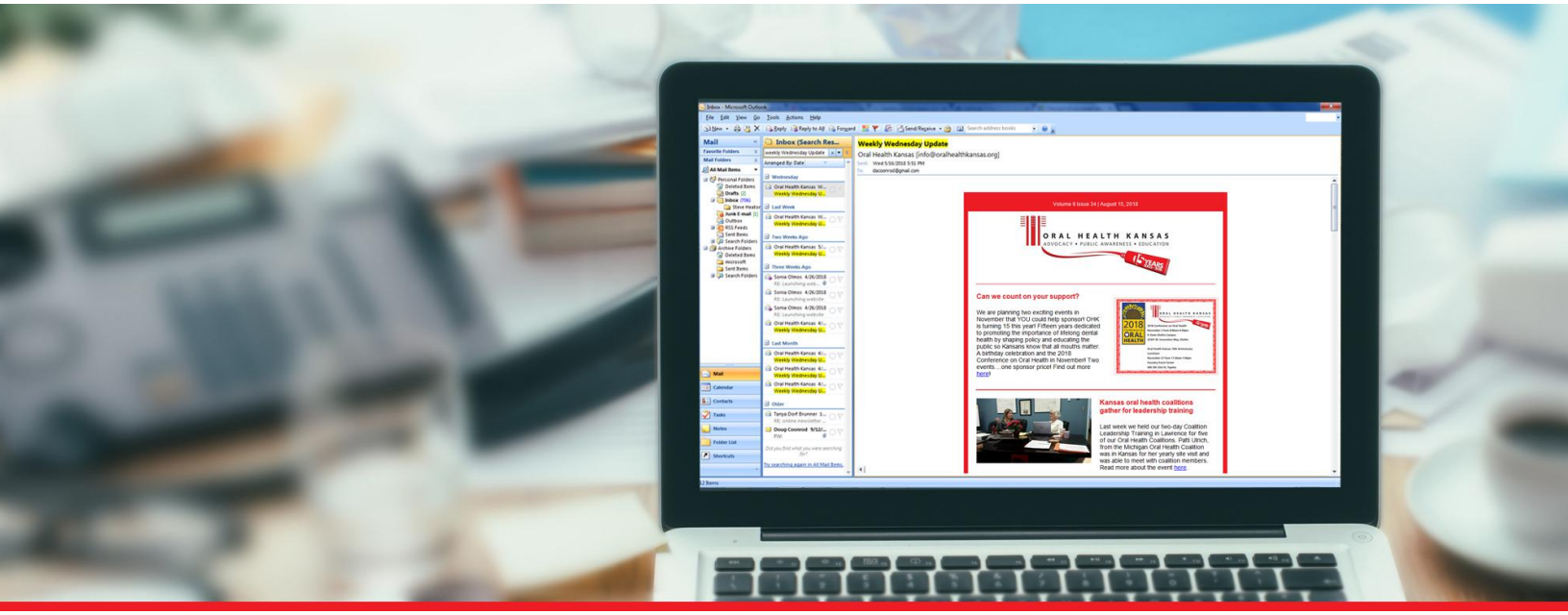
ORAL HEALTH KANSAS
ADVOCACY • PUBLIC AWARENESS • EDUCATION



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**.

January 30, 2019

Volume 10, Issue 5

Good Bye! Hello!

Moving Into Our New Home

This week Oral Health Kansas has been busy moving into our new home at 712 S. Kansas Ave., Suite 412, in Topeka, 66603. We are excited about our new adventure and the possibilities.

Please be patient with us in returning emails and messages while we continue our move.

Thank You for Your Surgeon General Comments!

Last Friday, public comments were due to The National Institute on Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR) on the upcoming Surgeon General's Report on Oral Health. Oral Health Kansas submitted comments and we want to thank you for your submitted comments as well! These comments will help NIDCR as they lead the project to produce this report and will ensure the report is focused on oral health issues happening across the nation. Thank you for your continued commitment to improving the oral health of Kansas! Oral Health Kansas comments can be found here.

Advocacy Updates Coming Soon!

Legislative session can often be confusing to follow, especially when things in the Capitol can change so quickly. Oral Health Kansas is here to help! OHK wants to be a resource for oral health advocates like you who want to stay up-to-date and know when to take action. Starting next week, we will be introducing a 30-minute webinar that will include advocacy updates as well as space for questions about the legislative session, bills, and how to be an advocate. Keep an eye on your inbox for more information on how to register for these webinars!

Medicaid Expansion Introduced

Yesterday was Kansas' 158th birthday and what better way to celebrate than a bill to expand the Medicaid program in Kansas! The bill, endorsed by Governor Laura Kelly, was introduced on Tuesday in the House Appropriations Committee and the Senate Ways and Means Committee. SB 54 and HB 2102would both expand the current Medicaid program to cover those under age 65 whose income doesn't exceed 133% of the federal poverty level, resulting in increased coverage for an estimated 150,000 Kansans.

Health Action 2019 Conference

Last week, OHK staff member, Christi Nance, attended the 24th annual Health Action 2019 Conference in Washington, D.C. This conference, hosted by Families USA, brings together health advocates and leaders from across the nation to connect, share stories, learn from one another, and renew our commitment to improving health care for all. Christi was able to hear from speakers such as Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, Stacey Abrams, and Maryland Attorney General Brian Frosh. She attended sessions focused on transforming the health care system, organizing campaigns, and insights from senior-level congressional staff on opportunities to advance health care policy in a new Congress. To view some of the presentation's from Health Action 2019, check out Families USA's facebook page here.

Notify Your Patients About Expanded Benefits

Smoking a single cigarette is the same as breathing in over 4,000 chemicals including: formaldehyde, carbon monoxide, ammonia, and arsenic. For KanCare recipients, there are now benefits available to help with tobacco cessation. Expanded KanCare benefits provide recipients opportunities to quit. Use this information to help your patients find resources to quit.

Expanded benefits include:

Medications: Comprehensive, barrier-free coverage of all FDA-approved medications:

- Chantix, Bupropion, all nicotine replacements (patch, gum, lozenge, inhaler, nasal spray)
- Evidence-based combinations of medications (e.g., concurrent patch/lozenge)
- No prior authorization or copays

Counseling:

- Comprehensive, barrier-free coverage of all FDA-approved medications:
- Individual (Billing Codes 99406/99407)
- Group Counseling (Billing Code s9453)

To learn about the benefits, read more here and download the Newsletter Copy for Partner Provider Organizations.

Kansas Dental Hygienists Association Advocacy Day

Today the Kansas Dental Hygienists' Association (KDHA) sponsored a Day at the Capitol to promote the dental therapist model and the bill that was introduced on January 15. SB 11 mirrors the bill that passed the Senate in 2018. At least 75 people braved the polar vortex to talk to legislators about the bill. Oral Health Kansas board member and KDHA legislative chair Janette Delinger briefed the group on the history of the bill before everyone began their legislative visits. A hearing on the bill has not been scheduled yet.

How Does Community Water Fluoridation Work

The Campaign for Dental Health have updated their posters, *How Fluoridation Works*. These easy to read posters explain the importance of drinking fluoridated water. Water is an easy, inexpensive, and healthy way to protect our teeth. You can download the posters in English and/or Spanish by clicking here.

To learn about fluoride in Kansas, visit the Fluoride in Kansas website.

Give Kids A Smile in February

Concorde Career Institute, 3217 Broadway St., Kansas City, Missouri, will have a Give Kids a Smile event. Give Kids a Smile is an event to provide FREE dental hygiene services to local children (ages 1-18) from under-served families.

Dental services include: Comprehensive exam by a dentist, dental cleaning X-rays and fluoride treatments

Call 816-595-2079 for more info and click here!

Welcome wishes to our new members for our Board of Directors, Jonalan Smith and Melanie Simmer Beck. Jonalan Smith is the Chief Opperating Officer with Sunflower Health Plan and Melanie Simmer-Beck, RDH, Ph.D, is a professor at the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Dentistry.

We are excited to have their expertise at our table!

Reserve A Sugary Drink Display For March

Our Sugary Drink Display is so popular the month of February is BOOKED! Make your March reservation now! What is a Sugary Drink Display? It's our drink display that has 10 popular beverages and shows how much sugar is in each. You can reserve a child drink display or an adult drink display for a month. Spots fill up quickly! We will do our best to fulfill requests of less than 30 days but there is no guarantee.

Interested in purchasing a Sugary Drink Display? Great, email us at info@oralhealthkansas.org and we'll send you more info!

Follow Us

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