



ORAL HEALTH KANSAS

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In This Issue

[Faces of OHK](#)

[Free dental care in February](#)

[Sugary Drink Display](#)

[Update from Under the Dome](#)

[Do you have old magazines?](#)



On January 23, OHK Staffers Christi Nance and Tanya Dorf Brunner met with staff from each of the Kansas Congressional delegation's offices. We thanked each for supporting the six-year expansion of CHIP and asked for support to create a dental benefit in the Medicare program.

Update from Under the Dome

Today Kansas bids farewell to Governor Sam Brownback. After seven years in office, he is leaving today to become the U.S. Ambassador of Religious Freedom. [Brownback is the fifth Kansas Governor to leave office early.](#) He followed Kathleen Sebelius who also left in her seventh year in order to become U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services. Lt. Governor Jeff Colyer took the oath of office at 3 pm today and will serve out the remainder of Brownback's term. He is running for election to that office this November, and either Dr. Colyer or one of at least 20 other gubernatorial candidates will become the next Governor of Kansas in January 2019.

KanCare 2.0

Dr. Colyer has been a key player in the administration's efforts to create and launch KanCare, the state's Medicaid managed care program. KanCare is in a transition period of its own, as it expires



Free Dental Care in February

Give Kids a Smile will be providing free dental hygiene services to local children from underserved families.

For more information call (816) 595-2079 or click [here](#).



Sugary Drink Display

Our sugary drink displays are so popular, we can't keep them on our shelves! Reservations fill up **FAST!**

The sugary drink display has 10 popular beverages and shows how much sugar is in each. We

in December 2018, and managed care companies have entered bids to provide services under KanCare 2.0, which would begin in January 2019. Last Wednesday, Governor Brownback announced the state would halt the process to usher in KanCare 2.0, which involves not only awarding new contracts to managed care organizations, but also receiving federal approval to continue the program. Legislative leaders have expressed concern about transitioning to KanCare 2.0 and introduced [SB 300](#) to require the administration to secure legislative approval before making significant changes to KanCare, among other things. SB 300 received a hearing on January 30, but action on the bill has not been scheduled.

Dental therapy bills

Last week the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee introduced two bills to establish a dental therapist model. [SB 308](#) is similar to bills introduced in recent years, and [SB 312](#) is being called a compromise bill. It includes a slightly different set of procedures that can be provided by a dental therapist and changes the supervision level for several of them from general to direct. SB 312 will receive a hearing on February 1, and Oral Health Kansas will testify in support, as we have on previous dental therapy bills.

When Public Health and Welfare Committee Chair Senator Vicki Schmidt introduced SB 312 she described the bill as the result of many years spent gathering information and input from interested organizations in an effort to advance access to oral health care. She

also include some of our [Tips and Tricks](#) fact sheets and brush your teeth mirror clings! The display is free to use for up to a month, and we reimburse postage! Use a sugary drink display in your office, school, health fair, school camps and more!



Send your reservation request ahead of time to ensure you will have one on hold! [Email us!](#)



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said, "This is a Kansas solution to the issue of expanding access to dental care...Like most compromises, some will say it goes too far, while others will argue it doesn't go far enough."



Do You Have Old Magazines?

[Kansas Mission of Mercy \(KMOM\)](#) is Friday, February 9 and Saturday, February 10 in Hutchinson. OHK staff will be volunteering both days and are asking for used magazines! Patients at KMOM sometimes have a long wait after treatment, whether they're waiting for a family member to finish up or for a ride to come. We would like to have a stack of magazines to offer them while they're waiting.

If you have magazines you no longer need, please [let us know](#) and we can arrange for pick up or you can drop them off at our office: 800 SW Jackson St., Suite 1120, Topeka.

View our videos on 

 View on Instagram



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