



ORAL HEALTH KANSAS

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Dental Champions Corner

Sonja Armbruster (Class V) is the Director of the new Center for Public Health Initiatives at Wichita State University. Recently, Wichita State's Center for Community Support and Research (CCSR) changed its name to the Community Engagement Institute and transformed to include six individual centers. The Center for Public Health Initiatives is one of the six centers and works to improve the public health system in Kansas by empowering people, developing organizations and strengthening systems.

Missouri approves Medicaid adult dental program

This week, Missouri Governor Jay Nixon announced that funding is in place for the state's new Medicaid adult dental benefit. The state collected \$35 million in delinquent taxes which will fund both the new adult dental benefit and a one percent increase in the rates paid to Medicaid providers.

Over 280,000 Missouri adults will have access to the new benefit, which will cover preventive services, restorative services, periodontal treatment, oral surgery, extractions, radiographs, pain evaluation and relief, infection control, and general anesthesia. Prior to

In a press release, Governor Nixon said, "Healthy communities are strong communities, so I'm pleased that the dollars are available to fund these services, while keeping the budget in balance,"

Congratulations Sonja!



KMOM Volunteer Registration Open

The volunteer registration for Kansas Mission of Mercy (KMOM) is now open. If you wish to volunteer, go to the [Kansas Dental Charitable Foundation](#) website to find out more!

Click [here](#) for KMOM event information.



January 29-30, 2016

Healthy New Year's Resolutions

American Academy of Pediatrics released a list of [healthy](#)

He went on to say, "Moving forward, these kinds of services are simply too critical to be put at risk by funding them with one-time sources of revenue. That's why it's important that we continue to keep our fiscal discipline for the remainder of this fiscal year, so that next year's budget can include ongoing and sustainable funding for developmental disability providers - and others who care for our most vulnerable citizens."



The Kansas Medicaid program known as KanCare covers emergency dental services for adults. Preventive dental services such as an exam and cleanings are offered to adults enrolled in KanCare by the state's contracted managed care organizations Sunflower Health Plan, Amerigroup and United Healthcare.

Dental benefits for adults enrolled in Medicaid programs are considered to be optional services, and Kansas has not had a full benefit for all adults enrolled in Medicaid/KanCare. In FY 2011, Kansas spent \$1.4 million SGF on emergency dental services for approximately 12,000 adults. In that year, the Medicaid program estimated it would cost \$4.3 million SGF to offer a full dental benefit for over 198,000 adults.

To get involved in advocating for a dental benefit for Kansans enrolled in KanCare, contact [Rachel Alexander at Oral Health Kansas](#).

resolutions for kids. For kids age 5-12, one of the resolutions was to drink water daily. Since younger kids are not able to create their own resolutions, its important for parents to share these ideas with their kids, as well as follow the ideas themselves.



Oral Health Fact Sheet

The ADA Health Policy Institute has released fact sheets for every U.S. state analyzing dental care utilization, supply of dentists, Medicaid participation, reimbursement rates, sealant use and who has access to fluoridated drinking water. Click to view our [state's oral health report](#).

ADA American Dental Association®
America's leading advocate for oral health

Drink Display

2016 is here! Reserve a drink display for this year as soon as you can. Our reservation slots fill up fast!

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



Medicaid Expansion considered at Johnson County forum

On January 5, about 300 people, gathered at the Johnson County Community College to learn about Medicaid expansion and how the conservative state of Indiana was able to expand its program a year ago. This forum was similar to a Wichita forum in November 2015.

Doug Leonard, President of the Indiana Hospital Association, spoke about the Medicaid expansion process in Indiana, the Healthy Indiana Plan (HIP) 2.0. The plan requires consumers to pay a minimal monthly contribution toward their coverage based on their income. The state cigarette tax and an assessment on providers funds HIP.

Leonard reminded Kansans that expanding Medicaid is not helping "able bodied citizens." He told the forum attendees that you really have to put a name with a face and you can't turn your backs on them. "These are real people. People who are employed."

Senator Laura Kelly drew an analogy about the state's responsibilities, "We have a responsibility to educate everyone. We also have a responsibility to provide health care for all".

The KHI News Service and Heartland Health Monitor reported on the forum and noted that the theme of the event was, "If policymakers in deep-red Indiana can do it, so can their equally conservative counterparts in Kansas."



ORAL HEALTH KANSAS

800 SW Jackson, Suite 1120
Topeka, Kansas 66612
785-235-6039

info@oralhealthkansas.org

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Photo of Tom Bell of the Kansas Hospital Association by Mike Sherry/Heartland Health Monitor .

Although it was not confirmed whether KanCare expansion would be a topic for the 2016 legislative session, forum attendees encouraged a continued discussion. Kansas is one of the 20 states that has not expanded its Medicaid program.

Cover Kansas: Open Enrollment ends January 31

Cover Kansas can help you explore your health insurance options, create a Marketplace account, compare plans, look at prices, and enroll in the health insurance plan you feel best meets your needs.

Open Enrollment ends January 31, 2016. To find a certified Navigator near you go to www.coverks.org, enter your zip code, and call to schedule an appointment. Their services are provided free of charge and provided by unbiased Navigators who are happy to answer your questions and help you enroll.

The logo for Cover Kansas features the word "Cover" in a white sans-serif font, followed by a stylized white figure of a person with arms raised, and then the word "ansas" in a white sans-serif font. The entire logo is set against a dark green background with a bokeh effect of light spots. The logo is contained within a white rectangular frame that is part of a larger beige-colored structure.

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Oral Health Kansas | 800 SW Jackson | Ste. 1120 | Topeka | KS | 66612