



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](#).

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Left to right: Whitney Zamora, Christi Wells and Susan Concannon

What Does Advocacy Mean?

Do you know what it means to be an advocate? Did you know you may already be an advocate and you may need some skill building? The 2021 Conference on Oral Health is going to provide a FREE Preconference Skill Building session on Friday, November 5 at 8:00am. Speakers Whitney Zamora, Oral Health Kansas board member, and Christi Wells, Oral Health Kansas Policy Director, will

Oral Health Kansas board member, and Christi Wells, Oral Health Kansas Policy Director, will

be joined by Representative Susan Concannon to describe the best ways to educate policymakers about oral health. Full conference schedule is below:

Thursday, November 4

8:00 am

Skill Building Pre-Conference Session: Introduction to Public Oral Health

Bonnie Branson, RDH, PhD, University of Arkansas-Fort Smith

9:00 am

Welcome Remarks

Sonja Armbruster, MA, Wichita State University Department of Public Health Services

9:15 am

Social Justice in Dental Care

Eleanor Fleming, PhD, DDS, MPH, FICD, Meharry Medical College

Lonnie Walker, Jr., MBA, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas

10:15 am

Break with the Exhibitors

10:45 am

People with Disabilities: Barriers to Dental Care and How You Can Help

Trina Morgan, Moderator, Kansas Children's Service League

Barbie Vartanian, Project Accessible Oral Health

Tami Allen, Families Together

Kathy Hunt, RDH, ECP II, Oral Health Kansas

11:45 am

Closing Remarks

Tanya Dorf Brunner, MS, Oral Health Kansas

6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

Dental Champions Battle Royale: Virtual Reception and Trivia Contest

Friday, November 5

8:00 am

Skill Building Pre-Conference Session: Introduction to Oral Health Advocacy

Whitney Zamora, RDH, MPH Candidate, University of California-Berkley

Christi Wells, MPH, Oral Health Kansas

Rep. Susan Concannon

9:00 am

Welcome Remarks

Sonja Armbruster, MA, Wichita State University Department of Public Health Services

9:15 am**New Ways of Delivering Dental Care**

David Jordan, MPA, Moderator, United Methodist Health Ministry Fund
CareQuest Institute for Oral Health

Jennifer Findley, Kansas Hospital Association

Melanie Simmer-Beck, RDH, PhD, University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Dentistry

10:15 am**Break with the Exhibitors****10:45****Opportunities to Improve Public Policy in Kansas**

Stuart Little, PhD, Little Government Relations

11:15**Improving Lives with Medicaid Adult Dental Benefits**

Sarah Bedard Holland, MS, Moderator, Virginia Health Catalyst

Marko Vujicic, PhD, American Dental Association Health Policy Institute

Sarah Clark, MPH, University of Michigan Child Health Evaluation and Research Center

12:15**Closing Remarks and Call to Action**

Tanya Dorf Brunner, MS, Oral Health Kansas

Register [here!](#)



Free Cocktails and Trivia Reception

The Dental Champions Alumni Battle

Royale **FREE** reception is scheduled for 6pm on

November 4. We have opened up the event to

EVERYONE! Come enjoy a fun evening of friendly trivia

and learn how to make new cocktails. Have a chance at a

door prize. Take home a \$30 gift card prize if you win a

trivia round. Meet some Dental Champions and learn

what the program is about. Enjoy an evening of laughter! [Register now!](#)



Halloween Can Be a Sticky Situation

Halloween candy is a sweet treat! And a TREAT is what it should be. Eating sugary foods and sticky candy can lead to tooth decay and consequently it's best to limit the amounts of sugary sweets consumed. If you're giving out Halloween treats this year, hand out candy that are less likely to cause damage. Chocolate and candy bars melt in your mouth easier than hard, sticky candy does. Sugarless gum and other candies tend to be less sticky and not as hard or acidic as other candies. They also have less sugar content. Sugar-free candies are a great alternative for children as well. Do you want to do something other than candy? Why not give out bubbles, stickers or Pop It Fidget Toy as an alternative to candy! After eating sugary treats, remember to rinse away the candy by drinking tap water.



KanCare Ombudsman Wants to Hear from You

The [KanCare Ombudsman Office](#) helps Medicaid members and applicants with problems regarding their services, coverage, access and rights (for example: answering questions, resolving issues, understanding

letters from KanCare, etc.)

The Ombudsman Office is asking members, applicants, providers and other stakeholders to respond to a survey to find out what our stakeholders think about how they are doing their job so they can make improvements. Survey deadline is Friday, November 5. The KanCare Ombudsman Office will also have five listening sessions by conference call to accomplish the following:

- Share information about the KanCare Ombudsman Office
- Ask stakeholders questions about how the office is doing (Note: stakeholders include members, applicants, providers and others)
- Have a question and answer time for participants
- Click [here](#) to view listening session dates in November



Protecting Our Children's Brains Should Be a No-Brainer

Roughly half of a million American kids tested had lead in their blood. Here in Kansas, 65% of children tested had lead in their blood. And, while alarming, this health threat is not surprising. All too often, our schools are built with faucets, fountains and plumbing containing enough lead to leach into our kids' drinking water.

Knowing that even low levels of lead are linked to learning and developmental disabilities, it's clear that we need to get the lead out of our schools. And what better time to demonstrate that we should be doing everything we can to reduce our kids' exposure to lead than National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week.

Fortunately there is a simple and effective step our school district can take right now: replacing fountains with water bottle stations equipped with filters certified to remove lead. Protecting our children's brains should be a no-brainer. Working together with our local school leaders, we can get the lead out.

Learn more about how to get involved with advocating to install filtered bottle filling stations in schools through our [Thirsty for Health program](#) or contact us at info@oralhealthkansas.org.



Open Enrollment Starts Next Week

Open Enrollment in the Marketplace for 2022 health insurance starts November 1. Enroll by December 15, 2021 for coverage that starts on January 1, 2022. You can preview what 2022 plans with price estimates without logging in. Click [here](#) to learn what you need to

know. Oral Health Kansas shared some tips about how to select dental coverage through the Marketplace on our [website](#).

Upcoming Events

- 2021 Conference on Oral Health, presented by Oral Health Kansas, November 4 and 5. Register [here](#).



- Webinar series: Integrating Race Conversations into Healthy Patient-Provider Interactions, 3rd Friday of every month at 12:00pm CST. Find more information [here](#) .
- Webinar: Managing Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) with Dental and Oral Health, December 8, 8:00pm-10:00pm CST. Register [here](#).
- Webinar: Take 60: Medicaid Adult Beneficiaries Emergency Department Visits for Non-Traumatic Dental Conditions, Tuesday November 9th, 2:00-3:00 PM CST. Register [here](#).



The American Dental Association (ADA) Board of Trustees honored Rear Adm. Timothy L. Ricks, D.M.D., chief dental officer for the US Public Health Service, with the ADA Distinguished Service Award at SmileCon in Las Vegas. The Distinguished Service Award is



the highest honor given by the ADA Board of Trustees. After 20 years of public health service, Dr. Ricks is considered the nation's top oral health official, serving as chief dental officer for the U.S. Public Health Service along with his full-time role as the deputy director of the Indian Health Service (IHS) Division of Oral Health. In his role as chief dental officer, Dr. Ricks advises the Office of the Surgeon General and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) on the recruitment, assignment, deployment, retention and career development of oral health professionals. He is also responsible for overseeing the development of the second-ever Surgeon General's Report on Oral Health, as well as chairs the USPHS Oral Health Coordinating Committee.

Rear Admiral Timothy Ricks joined the Conference on Oral Health in 2019, visiting with our oral health coalitions and Dental Champions Leadership members as well as presenting on the Surgeon General's report on Oral Health.



Sugary Drink Display Sanitation

Out of an abundance of caution, we are suspending use of the Sugary Drink Display until further notice.



During this time, hand washing and social distancing is on everyone's mind. We want everyone to have the comfort of knowing we sanitize our sugary drink displays. They are wiped down and cleaned off after they have been returned.

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