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Subject: Oral Health Kansas Weekly Wednesday Update

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ORAL HEALTH KANSAS

Weekly Wednesday Update

*Our Mission:  
To improve oral health  
in Kansas through  
advocacy,  
public awareness  
and education.*

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## Dental Champions Corner:

Thank you to Debbie Allen (Class 5) for taking the lead on sharing our sugary drink display throughout the Dodge

## Conference and Hotel Early Bird Deadlines EXTENDED!

Registration for the 2013 Oral Health Kansas Conference is open. On November 7 and 8, join your friends and colleagues at Johnson County Community College to learn about state and national trends in oral health and the economics of the future dental care delivery system. National experts on water fluoridation advocacy efforts will be on hand to share their insights.

A full list of conference sessions is available on the [Oral Health Kansas website](#). The link to register on-line also is available on the website. A group discount of 10% is available for two or more people attending from the same organization. **Early bird rates are available until October 17.**

City area dental offices.

Look for an update each week about where it is.



## Traveling Sugary Beverage Display

In October, the Oral Health Kansas traveling sugary drink displays will be on display at the Sublette Elementary School and Dr. Richard Stein's office in Dodge City.



If you are interested in having the drink display on display in your area, send an email

# Brush with

# Greatness



Celebrating a Decade of Advancing  
Oral Health in Kansas

The conference will feature a reception with tours of the Johnson County Community College dental hygiene clinic and will include nine dental continuing education credits.

Hotel rooms are available at the Hawthorne Suites by Wyndham Overland Park, 11400 College Boulevard. Please call 913-344-8100 to reserve your room now. Ask for the special "Oral Health Kansas" rate of \$89 per night. The special rate is available until October 17.

Call 785-235-6039 or email [info@oralhealthkansas.org](mailto:info@oralhealthkansas.org) with any questions.

## KanCare Legislative Oversight Committee Convenes

On October 7, the legislative committee charged with oversight of the state's new Medicaid managed care program, KanCare, convened for the first time. The Robert G. (Bob) Bethell Joint Committee on Home and Community Based Services and KanCare Oversight held a day-long hearing with presentations from state officials, managed care organization (MCO) representatives, and consumers and advocates. Much of the day's conversation centered on timeliness of provider payments and requirements for prior authorizations.

Oral Health Kansas board member Kathy Hunt provided [testimony](#) sharing many experiences providers have had with dental services under KanCare, including significant barriers Head Start providers face in continuing to serve as dental providers as they did prior to the KanCare transition. She also reported on variances between the MCOs in

to [Tanya](#).

Drink displays are available for hosting in November and December!

## Thanks to Conference Sponsors!

Oral Health Kansas thanks the following organizations for sponsoring the 2013 Conference November 7-8 in Johnson County:

**Delta Dental of Kansas Foundation**

**Comfort Dental**

**Bureau of Oral Health**

**DentaQuest**

Contact [Oral Health Kansas](#) to learn how to join in November the celebration of Oral Health Kansas' 10th anniversary with continuing education and networking opportunities!

## Did You Know...

In Kansas, any individual or family may buy coverage through the Health Insurance Marketplace. The only people who can't are those who aren't legally in the United States or who

which dental codes can be used by Head Starts. The Oral Health Kansas testimony also reported on many challenges private practice dental providers are facing in claims denials and new requirements for prior authorization.

Read more about the legislative hearing in this [Kansas Health Institute article](#). The committee is authorized to meet one more time this fall, but a date has not been announced.

## New Report Card on Oral Health of Older Americans Released

Oral Health America released a new report this week about the oral health of older Americans. "[State of Decay](#)" ranks the states in five categories related to the oral health of their elderly residents:

1. Edentulism
2. Community water fluoridation
3. Adult Medicaid dental benefits
4. Dental needs being met in dental shortage areas
5. A current State Oral Health Plan that addresses oral health for older people

Kansas received a high mark only for having a current State Oral Health plan in place that addresses oral health of our older residents. The total score for Kansas is 55.7, which is a rating of "Fair." Our neighboring states of Colorado, Nebraska and Missouri all ranked higher than Kansas.



Each of the issues identified by Oral Health America is a priority for Oral Health Kansas. Many are being addressed through our [Oral Health 2014 project](#). We will continue to work on a variety of policy and financing models to improve the oral health of older Kansans, and

are incarcerated .

Small employers (employers with 50 or fewer employees) may buy health insurance for their employees through the SHOP Marketplace for Small Businesses.



Learn more about the Kansas Health Insurance Marketplace at [www.insureks.org](http://www.insureks.org).

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

we invite those who are interested in oral health for older people to join us.

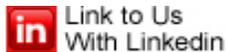
## ACA Educational Tour Continues through October 22

Insurance Commissioner Sandy Praeger's state tour to educate Kansans about the Affordable Care Act and how to use the law's new online marketplace to purchase health coverage and qualify for federal subsidies will continue through October 22.

October 16: Garden City  
October 17: Liberal  
October 22: Kansas City

A full list of the dates and times for the consumer education meetings is available below and on the insurance department website at [www.insureks.org](http://www.insureks.org).

If you have an idea, story or suggestion for a Oral Health Kansas Weekly Wednesday Update please contact us at [info@oralhealthkansas.org](mailto:info@oralhealthkansas.org).



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