



## 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](#).

### November 10, 2021

Volume 12, Issue 43



## Another Successful Conference on Oral Health

On November 4 and 5, we held our Conference on Oral Health. This was our 14th annual conference and the second time we held it virtually. Over 100 people registered and participated in the conference events. Registering for the conference allows you to watch the recordings at your leisure and many attendees are doing just that! Thank

you to the OHK staff and Conference Planning Committee members, Robyne Goates, Bonnie Branson, Debra Meisenheimer, Trina Morgan, Shawn Oprisiu, Niki Sadler and Whitney Zamora for planning the conference all year long and making it a success!

A warm thank you to our speakers who made time to plan and execute their presentations to bring you an informative and astounding session! Thank you to our sponsors for their generous contribution to the conference and support of OHK. We could not put this event together without them: Delta Dental of Kansas, CareQuest Institute, Aetna Better Health of Kansas, Health Forward Foundation, OPEN, and Sunflower Health Plan.



## New Report: Estimating the Cost of Medicaid Adult Dental Benefits in Kansas

Ensuring people have the financial capacity to pay for dental care is one of the most important ways to reach equity for people who are dentally underserved. Kansas is one of a handful of states that still does not provide dental benefits for adults enrolled in Medicaid. We are at an important moment now in the fight to get access to adult dental services. One of the Conference on Oral Health sessions we were excited to host was *Medicaid Adult Dental Benefits in Kansas*. During the session we heard about experiences other states have had in making this policy change and heard about a new study, *Estimating the Cost of Introducing Comprehensive Medicaid Adult Dental Benefits in Kansas*. In 2021, Oral Health Kansas collaborated with the American Dental Association's Health Policy Institute to prepare a two-page report utilizing Kansas data to show the costs and savings associated with the introduction of comprehensive adult dental benefits in the Kansas Medicaid program. The report found the net cost translates to \$0.51 per enrollee per month in state funds. The full report can be found [here](#).



## New Advocacy Toolkit Debut

During the Conference on Oral Health, we held a Skill Building Pre-Conference session to debut a [new advocacy toolkit](#) that can help dental professionals, students, public health workers, and many others, learn the basics of being an advocate for better oral health. The toolkit was a project between Whitney Zamora, Oral Health Kansas board member, and Christi Wells, Oral

Health Kansas Policy Director. The toolkit is also broken up into separate videos for you to choose a topic of interest to you. For example, during this session, **79%** of the attendees did not know who their legislator was. The toolkit has a section on how to find your legislator or even how to make a phone call to your legislator.

[Representative Susan Concannon](#) also joined the conference session and spoke about her experiences with her constituents and provided us with examples of the best ways to communicate with her. Did you know she prefers you to text her rather than call or send an email? She hears from so many people that sometimes it's just easier to read a text and respond. Keep in mind each legislator is different and you may need to ask your legislator what their preference of communication is.

Download the advocacy toolkit [here](#) or [watch the videos](#) to learn about the ways to advocate!



## Extended Care Permit III Course

The University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Dentistry has announced an Extended Care Permit (ECP) III course will begin in January 2022. This program is offered as an on-line course and will conclude with a practical lab component and competency exam held on-site at the dental school. Upon completion of the course, the student must apply separately to the Kansas Dental Board for the

ECP III certification. Learn more [here](#)!



## Community Health Specialist Job Opening

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment is seeking a Community Health Specialist representing western/north central Kansas to join the Community Health Promotion team. To apply and see full position details using Job ID 201081 at [KDHE Careers](#). The position states it is in Ellis County, but it is open to anyone in Salina, Great Bend, Hays, Colby, Garden City, Dodge City or surrounding areas.

The closing date is November 21.



## Upcoming Events

- Webinar series: Integrating Race Conversations into Healthy Patient-Provider Interactions, 3rd Friday of every month at 12:00pm CST. Find more information [here](#).
- Webinar: Pregnancy and Dental Care Go Together, November 16 and 18, from 12 to 3 pm CST each day. Please [RSVP now](#).
- Webinar: How to Talk to Vaccine Hesitant People, November 18, 6:00 pm CST. Register [here](#).
- Webinar: Managing Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) with Dental and Oral Health, December 8, 8:00pm-10:00pm CST. Register [here](#).



We enjoyed the first virtual Dental Champions Battle Royale on November 4. The event was open to anyone who wanted to attend and it was a blast! We played trivia, hosted by [Michelle](#)

[Strange, RDH](#). We learned how to make the Cider Mill Sour, a drink created especially for us by Bourbonist [Bryan Love, II](#). If you want to try to make it, [here are the ingredients and instructions](#)! Thank you to everyone who attended and to our Dental Champions Battle Royale Work Group: Barb Conant (Class 6), Amy Seery (Class 7), Amber Sellers (Class 4) and Shannon Uehling (Class 9). They planned the event from beginning to end. It was so much fun and people are still complimenting us!



## 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.



## Follow Us



**Oral Health Kansas** • PO BOX 4567Topeka, KS 66604  
785.235.6039 phone • 785.233.5564 fax [info@oralhealthkansas.org](mailto:info@oralhealthkansas.org)  
Copyright 2021