

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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November 11, 2020

Volume 11, Issue 45

Conference On Oral Health Wraps Up

The 2020 Conference on Oral Health concluded last week with about 120 people taking part in two days of sessions about health equity, social determinants of health, care integration, serving people with disabilities, public policy, and racial justice. Speakers from across Kansas and as far away as Florida shared insight and challenged attendees to meet people where they are, re-consider labels, and open our circles to more and diverse people.



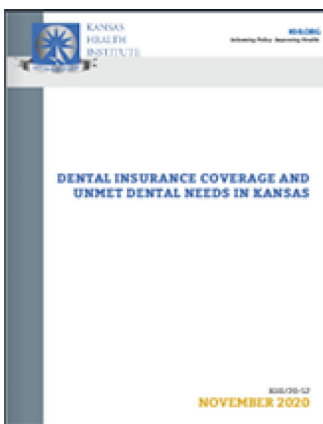
We are grateful to Delta Dental of Kansas, Health Forward Foundation, DentaQuest Partnership, Aetna Better Health of Kansas, Kansas Dental Association, Alliance for a Healthy Kansas, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas, and National Alliance on Mental Illness of Kansas for sponsoring and exhibiting at the event. It truly would not have been possible without all of these valuable organizations. Attendees enjoyed the goodies from the sponsors and exhibitors they received in their conference “swag bags” by mail.

We also had the chance to honor three outstanding Kansans with the Excellence in Oral Health Awards. See the Faces story below to learn more about them.

This was Oral Health Kansas’ first virtual event, and we appreciated everyone’s patience as we learned how to make the best use of the technology. We were thrilled to receive many compliments, including this one: “I’ve been to a lot of virtual conferences this year and this session is the best. So powerful and speaks to the soul.”

Attendees who missed a session can still access all of the recorded presentations on the Whova app. They will be available for six months. The Kansas Dental Board approved the conference for 7 continuing education hours, and they will continue to be available to anyone who views the conference over the next six months. If you missed your chance to register for the event, send us a message at info@oralhealthkansas.org to learn how you can view it.

Thank you to everyone who participated, sponsored, exhibited, and volunteered for the 2020 Conference on Oral Health! We look forward to seeing you again next fall, and we hope we will be able to meet in person again.



NEW REPORT: Dental Insurance Coverage And Unmet Dental Needs In Kansas

Over the last year, Oral Health Kansas and the Kansas Health Institute collaborated to develop a new report to bring you up-to-date research on dental insurance coverage and unmet dental needs in Kansas!

Key study findings included:

- 64.0% of Kansans reported having dental insurance
- Children identifying as Hispanic were two times more likely to not have dental insurance compared to children identifying as non-Hispanic white

- 40% of Kansans age 65 or older had not had a dental visit within the last year

The study results will help to identify future policy and research implications to continue increasing access to dental care in our state.

View the full report on the Oral Health Kansas [website](#). Phillip Steiner, Analyst for the Kansas Health Institute, presented the report at the Conference on Oral Health. To see the presentation, click [here](#).



National Oral Health Conference Call For Proposals

The 2021 National Oral Health Conference will mark the 22nd joint meeting of the Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors (ASTDD) and the American Association of Public Health Dentistry (AAPHD). The virtual seminars dates are April 16, 23 and 30. The Planning Committee for the 2021 NOHC invites proposals for 60-minute seminars addressing the following areas related to dental public health:

- medical/dental integration;
- oral health programs/practices/health promotion;
- new and emerging research in oral health;
- policy/advocacy;
- surveillance/epidemiology;
- social determinants of oral health;
- diversity/equity/inclusion;
- global oral health.

Session proposals must be submitted electronically. No manual submissions will be accepted. Be sure to complete all the submission tasks -- This includes contact information and credentials for all speakers. Only completed submissions will be reviewed by the Planning Committee. [Click here](#) Submission Guidelines. [Click here](#) to begin your submission. Link is: <https://www.abstractscorecard.com/cfp/submit/login.asp?EventKey=YAZHPGXB>. Any questions may be directed to the **NOHC office**. Link is: abstracts@nationaloralhealthconference.com. *Submission deadline is 11:45pm EST, December 7, 2020. **This invitation is not for individual General Poster or Roundtable abstracts. The requests for General Poster and Roundtable abstracts will be issued in a separate call.** Please share this announcement with your colleagues for the 2021 NOHC "The Premier Meeting for Dental Public Health."*



Webinar To Advocate For KanCare Expansion

The [Alliance for a Healthy Kansas](#) is helping to organize a physician-focused advocacy training webinar with the Kansas City Medical Society Foundation, the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, the Community Health Council of Wyandotte County and Vibrant Health. The webinar is on Thursday, November 12 at 6:30pm.

Discussion topics include:

- Forecasting the 2021 legislative session regarding expansion of KanCare (Medicaid)
- Tailoring your messages to legislators
- Presenting effective testimony
- Engaging with statewide organizations Advocacy considerations in the time of COVID-19

Click [here](#) to register!



Each year we recognize our Excellence in Oral Health Award winners in person and present them with a plaque. This year, we were not able to be in person but the winners were recognized

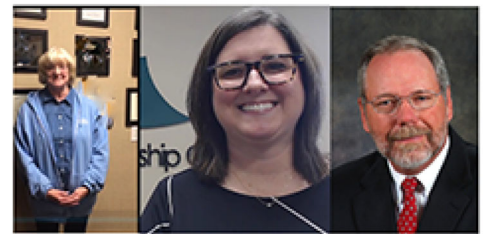
virtually during the Conference on Oral Health on Friday, October 30 and Friday, November 6. Learn more about each award winner by clicking on their names below. The winners are:

Outstanding Community Leader/Volunteer: [Carol Logan](#)

Outstanding Dentist: [Emily Day, DDS](#)

Outstanding Policy Maker: [Representative Will Carpenter](#)

Congratulations to the winners!



From left to right: Carol Logan, Emily Day and Representative Will Carpenter

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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