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2014 Conference Video

Here is the 2014 Conference video which highlights the work oral health leaders are doing across the state.



2014 Conference a Success

The 2014 Oral Health Kansas Conference "Oral Health Across the Lifespan" wrapped up this past weekend in Wichita. Participants gathered from over 10 counties across Kansas to learn and collaborate on topics concerning oral health.

The Thursday pre-conference began with a Dental Champions session focused on reconnecting with classmates and also featured a preview of the 7th Dental Champions class. That evening the Excellence in Oral Health Awards reception was held at the Delta Dental of Kansas. Many gathered to celebrate the following award winners:

Lifetime Achievement Award: Karen Finstad

Outstanding Organization: Delta Dental of Kansas Foundation

Outstanding Dentist: Dr. Lucynda Raben

Outstanding Policy Maker: Rep. Susan Concannon

Outstanding Community Leader: Dr. Allison Lesko

Dental Champions Corner

Jennifer Ferguson, RDH, (Class 6) recently gave a presentation at the 2014 Iowa Regional Dental Public Health Conference on the Extended Care Permit (ECP) dental hygienists in KS.



**DENTAL
CHAMPIONS**
Leadership Program
a program of Oral Health Kansas, Inc.

Mental Health First Aid Available

The 2014 Oral Health



A few Dental Champion Class 6 members at the awards reception

The Friday conference session featured topics ranging from best practices in rural Kansas dentistry to oral health equity. Keynote speaker Dr. Hugh Silk offered concrete guidance for both medical and dental professionals about how interprofessional integration works in practice.



Kathy Hunt introducing the panel for the best practices in rural Kansas dentistry discussion

The Saturday post-conference session offered a three hour continuing education course on mental and dental integration. An overview of conditions related to mental illness was presented as well as an outline of medications prescribed to individuals with mental diagnoses. The session ended with a discussion about how this knowledge can be applied in practical settings.

Kansas Saturday Post-Conference session showed why mental health is an integral part of practice in dental health. Interested in taking a Mental Health First Aid course? Find a course in your area [here](#).



Oral Health and Dementia Webinar

As adults age, experience frailty, and suffer from conditions such as dementia, the management of oral health care may become more difficult and pose challenges to care providers and family.



This webinar on **December 10th**,



Thomas Pletcher facilitating the conversation at the Saturday post-conference session

Access conference presentations and other material [here!](#)

Awards Spotlight

On Thursday evening at the Delta Dental of Kansas headquarters in Wichita, Karen Finstad was awarded the Excellence in Oral Health Lifetime Achievement Award.

For ten years, Karen Finstad put her heart, soul and considerable energy into improving the oral health of Kansans as executive director of the Delta Dental of Kansas Foundation. Over these years, Karen guided the investment of \$6.6 million involving 111 organizations, serving the oral health needs of millions of Kansans. She worked tirelessly to start many programs, including the Grow Your Own Dentist program that supports and guides young people who are interested in a dental career. Karen also collaborated with Correction Care Solutions (CCS), the United Methodist Health Ministries Fund (UMHMF), The Kansas Association for the Medically Underserved (KAMU) and the Kansas Department of Corrections to start the Dental Laboratory Technician Program. This program teaches inmates how to make dentures for area safety net clinics, allowing them to confidently learn a skill that benefits many underserved individuals.

We are proud to honor Karen for her hard work and

1 - 2 pm ET will discuss key oral health problems for older adults with dementia and interprofessional assessment and treatment strategies. This webinar is put on my NICHE, Nurses Improving Care for Healthsystem Elders. There is no cost and it qualifies for 1 Nursing Contact Hour.
[Sign up here!](#)

Traveling Sugary Drink Display

Reserve our traveling Sugary Drink Display for your business or event! Reservations are made for one month at a time. Return postage is covered by Oral Health Kansas. [E-mail Sarah here](#) if you would like to make reservation.

Join Our Mailing List!

dedication to the oral health of Kansans.



Karen and her family at the awards reception at Delta Dental of Kansas Foundation

CMS Oral Health Initiative

We learned last week that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) selected Kansas for one of the technical assistance projects related to their oral health initiative. The KanCare program will work with several stakeholders, including Oral Health Kansas, to increase the number of kids on Medicaid and CHIP who receive a preventive dental service and a dental sealant. Through this project, Kansas will receive national technical assistance to develop a plan to achieve that goal. We are thrilled that Kansas was selected.

CMS.gov
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

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

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