



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.

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Conference Handouts Are Ready!

Our 2019 Conference on Oral Health speaker Power Points are now on [our website](#) for you to review. Check back at a later time as we continue to add conference photos. You can view some conference photos on our [Facebook page](#). If you attended the conference and would like to share pictures, you may do so by going to our [Facebook page](#) and use the hashtag OHK2k19.

OHK Conference In US Public Health Service Newsletter

Rear Admiral Timothy Ricks, DMD, MPH was one of our remarkable speakers at the 2019 Conference on Oral Health. He spent November 7 with the local oral health coalitions and the Dental Champions class IX



members. On November 8 he was our guest speaker and informed the conference attendees about the Surgeon General's priorities and influences that will impact the forthcoming second Surgeon General's Report on Oral Health. Dr. Ricks writes a monthly newsletter, *USPHS Chief Dental Officer/Dental Category Newsletter*. In this month's issue he included a summary about the two days he spent in Kansas. Read his [newsletter](#) and delightful comments! He also included an article about our very own Dental Champions Class IV member and previous board member, Dr. John Fales and his therapy dogs in his clinic.



OHK Demonstrates Oral Health Integration

Oral Health Kansas had a visit from a Kansas city based nurse interested in learning more about how oral health impacts overall health and the work we do to improve awareness of the importance of good oral health. In addition to learning about new resources for oral health integration and touring the Marian Dental Clinic to learn about their diabetes program, she also assisted Kathy with a hands-on oral

health activity at the Parent Leadership Conference hosted by the KDHE Bureau of Family Health last Friday. At least 65 parents had the opportunity to participate in the acid attack demonstration and helped them consider new strategies to keep their families cavity-free.



Adding A Dental Benefit To Medicare

Medicare is the primary source of health coverage for older adults and younger individuals with disabilities but does not offer a dental benefit. In an issue brief, [Creating an Oral Health Benefit in Medicare: A Statutory Analysis, Justice in Aging](#) provided an analysis of what statutory changes would be needed to add an oral health benefit in Medicare Part B. This paper builds on that issue brief and is the first in a series that will examine how to address disparities in access to care

and oral health outcomes among certain groups of Medicare beneficiaries, including people of color, younger individuals with disabilities, older adults with dementia and cognitive impairments, and nursing facility residents.



National Rural Health Day

In 2010, the National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health (NOSORH) set aside the third Thursday of every November as National Rural Health Day (NRHD) to applaud the ongoing efforts, contributions, and collaborations occurring in rural communities to address the unique

challenges in accessing and delivering health care services. Rural communities are wonderful places to live and work, which is why nearly 60 million people - one in five Americans - call them home. These rural communities also have unique healthcare needs. [National Rural Health Day](#) is an opportunity to celebrate the "Power of Rural", bringing to light the unique healthcare challenges that rural citizens face and showcasing the efforts of rural healthcare providers, State Offices of Rural Health and other rural stakeholders to address those challenges. Dental care access is also an issue. Without the proper dental care, it causes health issues in the overall body.

The [2017 Kansas Oral Health Snapshot](#) features data about the economic and educational status of county residents, as well as information about the oral health challenges and resources for each of our state's 105 counties. This report highlights the resources available and challenges facing each Kansas county in meeting the oral health needs of its residents.



For the past few years, Carolyn Weinhold has served as the Shawnee County Oral Health Coalition Chair. Today was the last day for her to serve. Carolyn has been a member of the coalition since its inception. She has also been instrumental in beginning the Brush, Book, Bed program for the Parents as Teachers Program and Shawnee County Health Department families.

Although today was Carolyn's last day as chair, she will continue to be involved with the coalition. If you're interested in being a part of the coalition, email us at info@oralhealthkansas.org to learn more.



Picture courtesy of Growing Futures Early Education in Overland Park, Kansas

Reserve Now For The End Of The Year

Get your reservation in before another month gets booked! Or [purchase](#) a Sugary Drink Display to have as your own!

What is a Sugary Drink Display? It's our drink display that has 10 popular beverages and shows how much sugar is in each. You can reserve a child drink display or an adult drink display for a month.

We will do our best to fulfill requests of less than 30 days but there is no guarantee.

There is no charge to use the Sugary Drink Display; postage is reimbursed if you send in your receipt. All we ask is for you to fill out our survey included in the display materials and provide us with feedback about the display. **Click [here](#) to make a reservation!**

Interested in purchasing a Sugary Drink Display? Click [here](#) to download our brochure.

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