

**From:** Oral Health Kansas [jparnell@oralhealthkansas.org]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 30, 2011 3:51 PM  
**To:** jparnell@oralhealthkansas.org  
**Subject:** Oral Health Kansas Weekly Wednesday Update



Volume 2, Issue 60

November 30, 2011

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**CDC to Keep  
Division of  
Oral Health,  
Plans for  
Downgrading  
Have Been**

### Meet Our New Intern

Blake Bryant is a 22-year-old senior from Independence, KS. Blake attends Washburn University and is majoring in Corporate Communications with minors in French and Cultural Leadership. He is vice president of programming and membership development for Sigma Phi Epsilon, as well as a senior fellow in the Leadership Institute. Bryant also is involved in Lambda Pi Eta, Mortar Board, Sagamore Society, Washburn Alumni Association and French Club.

He volunteers with the Easter Seals Capper Foundation, Race against Breast Cancer and Greater Topeka's 20 Under 40 selection committee. Bryant has also volunteered as a student facilitator with the Youth and Women's Empowerment Association. He is a Ruck Leadership Institute scholar and was on the president's honor roll. His work experience as a Psychosocial Rehabilitation Supervisor for three years left him with the knowledge to look past the disorder or the label that clients have and to see them as people first, Blake is focused on being people first.

Bryant will be conducting research, designing and implementing an oral health workshop for children with Autism as well as gathering ideas and producing short articles that will be sent out to partner organizations for publication. Blake likes being outdoors, meeting and speaking with new people, nutrition, acting on stage, and planning events. Blake will be an intern with OHK through May of 2012.

## Stopped

Earlier this month the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced that the agency will keep its Division of Oral Health. Until this announcement, the Division of Oral Health was to be downgraded as a branch of another division, which marks the second attempt by CDC leaders to do so within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). By maintaining the Division of Oral Health as its own separate entity, the importance of oral health within the HHS and CDC has been reinforced.

To read the full article [CLICK HERE](#) or to read the CDC's Oral Health Strategic Plan for 2011-2014 [CLICK HERE](#)

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## Tobacco and Baseball

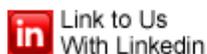
Last week, Major League Baseball (MLB) and the players' union announced new restrictions on the use of tobacco products on and off the field, starting with the 2012 season.

They will not be allowed to carry tobacco during baseball games or use tobacco whenever they may be in front of fans. At the very least, this will change the image of baseball players as tobacco chewers!

This announcement is the first time smokeless tobacco use has ever been addressed in professional baseball! Her is what will be in the new 5-year contract:

1. Players can no longer bring tobacco products onto the field, in their pockets or on their person.
2. Players can longer use tobacco products during televised interviews, during autograph signings, or at any event where fans will be present.
3. Major League Baseball and the Major League Baseball Players Association (MLBPA) will partner with The Partnership at [www.drugfree.org](http://www.drugfree.org) on a national public service announcement campaign that will feature notable players.
4. MLBPA will create a Tobacco Cessation Center for the players, providing resources and assistance to educate players and help them quit. Players will also now receive oral cancer screenings as part of their annual physicals.

If you have an idea, story or suggestion for a Oral Health Kansas Weekly Wednesday Update please send an email to [jparnell@oralhealthkansas.org](mailto:jparnell@oralhealthkansas.org)



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