



# ORAL HEALTH KANSAS

ADVOCACY • PUBLIC AWARENESS • EDUCATION

Volume 8, Issue 50

December 13, 2017

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Heartland Healthy Neighborhoods is the community health coalition in Topeka and Shawnee County, Kansas. The monthly workgroup meetings focus on mobilizing people, ideas and resources around topics and issues identified in the Community Health Needs Assessment and the Community Health Improvement Plan.

## Children's Health Can't Wait

**Congress has not renewed federal funding for the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)**, which expired September 30th. Without CHIP reauthorization, the state is planning to move all CHIP children into the Medicaid program. When Kansas CHIP funding expires in March 2018, it will [cost the state](#) \$38 million to cover these children until the end of the fiscal year, June 30th.

Kansas cannot afford to not reauthorize CHIP. Contact your congress members TODAY to let them know NOW is the time to act on CHIP funding and ensure nearly 40,000 Kansas children keep their health and dental insurance.

### How can you help?

- **Sign** your organization onto [this letter](#) by **Friday, December 15th at 5PM CDT** to tell Congress to extend CHIP now.
- **Contact** [your congress members](#) and express the urgent need for CHIP Reauthorization.
- Call Scripts can be found [here](#).

This week, they had their annual celebration and shared all of the wonderful work the groups have accomplished. Congratulations HHN!

Kathy Hunt, OHK's Dental Program director, represents Oral Health Kansas and sits on the Healthy Babies working group.



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## 2018 Kansas Mission of Mercy

On February 9-10, the Kansas Mission of Mercy will be held in Hutchinson. Doors open at 4:30 am and is first come first served.

Please share the [KMOM flyer](#) and [KMOM flyer in Spanish](#).



Kansas Mission of Mercy  
*Making a Difference*

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## Sugary Drink Display

Our sugary drink display is a perfect example to share with your family why it's important to watch what you drink! The sugary drink display has 10 popular beverages and shows how much sugar is in each. We also include some of our [Tips](#)

- Email and Letter templates can be found [here](#)

-**Tweet** at your congress members using #FundCHIPNow and #ExtendCHIP.



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## Help Stop the Health Care Repeal in the Tax Bill

House and Senate Republicans have reached an agreement on their tax bill, with a potential vote as early as Monday. This bill includes a harmful provision to remove the individual mandate for the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Without the individual mandate, healthy individuals may choose not to purchase health insurance, forcing an increase in premiums for the individuals with pre-existing conditions who need consistent health coverage. The tax bill could increase the federal deficit by nearly \$1.5 trillion, cause 13 million people to lose coverage, and increase premiums by 10 percent.

[and Tricks](#) fact sheets and brush your teeth mirror clings! The display is free to use for up to a month, and we reimburse postage!



Send your reservation request ahead of time to ensure you will have one on hold! [Email us!](#)



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Contact [your congress members](#) and tell them to vote no on the tax bill and protect health care.



## Comfort Dental Care Day Coming Up!

Comfort Dental will be hosting the 34th annual [Care Day](#) Saturday, December 23, 2017, offering free dental care to those in need. The hours are 7:30am - 11:30am. All Comfort Dental general dentistry offices throughout 11 states are participating including Kansas.

Beginning in Colorado in 1984, Comfort Dental has offered free dental care on Christmas Eve Day. This year it's a day earlier. Care Day was started as a way of improving accessibility to dental care to those in most need. On Care Day, all services are free to anyone. Patients are **helped on a first-come, first-served basis** receiving a variety of basic dental care from cleanings to extractions. More serious dental problems are handled on a case-by-base basis and at the discretion

of the individual dentist.

Click [here](#) to view offices in Kansas.



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