

ORAL HEALTH KANSAS

ADVOCACY • PUBLIC AWARENESS • EDUCATION

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Tobacco Treatment Specialist (TTS) Core Training

The University of Kansas Medical Center is partnering with Healthy Communities Wyandotte to bring the highly reputable Tobacco Treatment Specialist (TTS) training from the University of Massachusetts to Kansas.

To find out how to register, click [here](#).



Shop with us on

Excellence in Oral Health Awards Presented

On November 3, 2016, Oral Health Kansas held the annual Excellence in Oral Health Awards at the DoubleTree Hotel in Overland Park. Each year Oral Health Kansas recognizes outstanding individuals and organizations who contribute significantly to improving the oral health of all Kansans.

Following are the 2016 Excellence in Oral Health Awards honorees:

Outstanding Dental Champion: Kevin Robertson, MPA, CAE, Kansas Dental Association in Topeka

AmazonSmile

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Give a little.... ...help a lot!

With your help, we are able to advocate for better oral health for Kansans in Topeka, educate people with disabilities about how to take good care of their teeth, share ways caregivers can help children stay cavity-free, and so much more.

- \$25 will ship the sugary drink display to one health department
- \$50 will publish one issue of the Weekly Wednesday Update
- \$100 will educate stakeholders in one community about water fluoridation
- \$250 will send a staff member to four meetings with a local oral health coalition
- \$500 will support two



The Outstanding Dental Champion Award recognizes the outstanding work a Dental Champion has done as a direct result of participating in the Dental Champions Leadership Program. This year the award pays tribute to a person who has been at the hub of the Kansas oral health community for nearly 20 years and who was a member of the first Dental Champions class.

Outstanding Community Leader: Nick Rogers, DDS, Rogers Family Dentistry in Arkansas City



The Outstanding Community Leader is a

health educators to attend a "Teeth for Tots" workshop

- \$1000 will provide an "All Aboard the Cavity-Free Express" event for 15 families

To donate click [here](#).

WE appreciate your continued support!



Sugary Drink Display

School breaks will be coming up soon but don't forget to reserve your drink display for when school is in session again!

Our sugary drink display contains 10 popular beverages and shows how much sugar is in each. The display is free to use, up to a month and we reimburse postage. You must sign up to reserve a sugary drink display. Reserve a display for your health fair, clinic, school event or child care!



person who is distinguished from others in excellence, who goes beyond the call of duty and is committed to improving the oral health of Kansans. The 2016 honoree has been a water fluoridation champion for his community and for the state, and by doing so is an example to us all.

Outstanding Organization: Comfort Care Homes, Inc. in Wichita



The Outstanding Organization is a group that is distinguished from others in excellence in promoting oral health awareness in Kansas. The 2016 honoree was honored for promoting oral health innovative ways that are making a meaningful difference for many people with dementia.

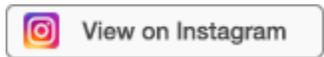
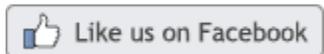


In Kansas, over 65% of residents have access to fluoridated drinking water, and



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the Kansas Bureau of Oral Health and Oral Health Kansas partnered to present several communities with awards recognizing their commitment to quality in community water fluoridation.

Congratulations to all of the Kansas waterdepartments that achieved quality incommunity water fluoridation in 2015!

- Ellsworth Co. RWD 1
- Fort Riley
- Garden City
- City of Gardner
- City of Garnett
- Kansas City Board of Public Utilities
- City of Lincoln
- City of Maize
- City of Manhattan
- Marais Des Cygnes Public Utility Authority
- City of Marion
- City of Olathe
- Osage City
- City of Ottawa
- City of Pittsburg
- Public Wholesale WSD 4
- Public Wholesale WSD 5
- City of Salina
- City of Topeka
- City of Wellington

Dentists lead charge to reverse Medicaid cuts

On July 1 of this year, Governor Brownback enacted a four percent rate cut to Medicaid (KanCare) providers. The rate cut dealt another blow to a dental provider network that already struggled

with the low rates and high level of administrative work. The Medicaid rates paid for dental services have not increased since 2001, which means they have remained around 40% of the cost to provide the services.

Since July, news sources have been reporting on the effect the new rate cut is having on the dental provider network, which includes the decision several dentists in western Kansas have made to stop accepting Medicaid. This week the KHI News Service reported that the crisis facing Medicaid dental providers is raising the profile of the rate cut and may spur the 2017 Kansas Legislature to reverse the cuts quickly. It may be too late for some providers, though, which means thousands of low-income Kansans will have a harder time finding a dental provider that accepts Medicaid.

In November, Oral Health Kansas provided testimony to the KanCare Oversight Committee about the effect of the four percent rate cut. We told committee members, "It is time to not only reverse the cuts, but consider the effect the historically low rates are having on the scant dental services offered through KanCare. Further eroding the KanCare dental provider network will put beneficiaries at risk of serious illness, which will cost not only more money, but even lives."

[Read more](#) from the KHI News Service about the effect the rate cuts is having on dentists and what legislators are considering as they prepare for the 2017 Session.



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