

WEEKLY WEDNESDAY UPDATE

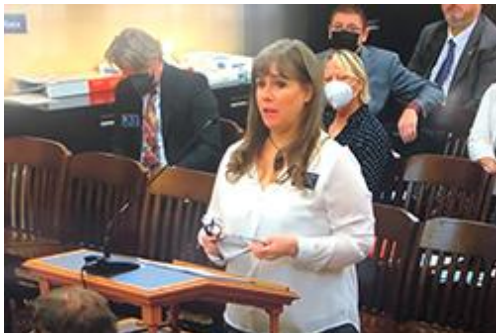
The Weekly Wednesday Update is our newsletter which we email every Wednesday with oral health, health and policy updates from around the state and nationally.

To view past issues [click here](#).

Click here to sign up for our [Weekly Wednesday Update](#).

December 15, 2021

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Medicaid Adult Dental Discussed at December KanCare Oversight Committee

On Monday, Oral Health Kansas Executive Director, Tanya Dorf-Brunner, delivered verbal testimony at the Bob Bethell Joint Committee on Home and Community Based Services and KanCare Oversight. This committee consists of members from both the House and the Senate and is tasked with overseeing the

state's Medicaid program. Our testimony previewed Tuesday's presentation covering a new report on the cost of introducing adult dental benefits to KanCare as well as thanked the committee for their work to increase the reimbursement rates for Medicaid dental providers.

Marko Vujicic, Chief Economist & Vice President of the American Dental Association's Health Policy Institute (HPI), joined the committee on Tuesday to share the importance of comprehensive dental coverage as well as an overview of the full report on [Estimating the Cost of Introducing Comprehensive Medicaid Adult Dental Benefits in Kansas](#). This report was produced as a collaboration between OHK and HPI to show the costs and savings associated with the introduction of comprehensive adult dental benefits in the Kansas Medicaid program. The study found the net cost of such a benefit translates to \$0.51 per enrollee per month in state funds. Recordings of the [Monday testimony](#) and [Tuesday presentation](#) are available on the Kansas Legislature's YouTube page.

Before the Committee concluded its work, Rep. Barbara Ballard (D-Lawrence) renewed a recommendation the 2021 Legislature made to study the unmet dental needs for seniors and other living in rural areas. Rep. Susan Concannon (R-Beloit) mentioned that Tanya Dorf Brunner has been added to a working group within the Senior Care Task Force that she chairs, and that the working group will be studying unmet dental needs. Oral Health Kansas looks forward to being a part of this legislative conversation and to advocating for [SB 227](#) to establish Medicaid adult dental benefits in 2022.



Let OHK Help Entertain Your Kids!

Winter break is quickly approaching! Oral Health Kansas offers many activities on our website that can entertain kiddos while they're home for the holiday season. Check out the list below!

- [Super Smiles for Your Child](#) - This is an interactive website with fun videos, songs, games, and more! Make sure to scroll down to the hidden picture coloring pages toward the bottom of the page!
- [Acid Attack](#) - Watch this video of our hands-on Acid Attack Kit to learn how snacks, drinks, and meals impacts oral health.
- Enjoy some of the healthy snacks and drink recipes listed in the Healthy Eating section on our [Consumers webpage](#).



Oral Health Kansas Signs On to Support Postpartum Access to Care

Oral Health Kansas recently [signed on to a letter](#), drafted by United Methodist Health Ministry Fund, to the Kansas delegation in the U.S. Senate urging them to support key provisions in the Build Back Better Act that will address inequities in our state, including health coverage for postpartum women. The Build Back Better Act makes critical investments in making health care more affordable for all Kansans, which will support the health of all Kansans, especially mothers and children.

To learn how the Build Back Better Act benefits Kansans, check out the [podcast episode from the Kansas Reflector](#) that focused on how the transformative policy proposal would impact health, child care, persistent poverty and address longstanding racial and gender inequities.



Recognizing Human Trafficking in Dental Patients

Human trafficking is a global health problem that impacts us right at home here in Kansas. Dental professionals are in a unique position to identify signs of victimizations, offer treatment, and provide resources and referrals. Trafficked children and adults rarely self-identify so it's important for healthcare professionals to know the red flags to look for. *Decisions in Dentistry* has developed a list of red flags for identifying human trafficking including work conditions, psychological signs, physical signs, lack of autonomy, lack of connectedness, and more. The article also includes assessment questions and resources. Dental professionals have the opportunity to play an important role in identifying and lending support to victims, and being prepared to identify, respond, and refer for intervention could be the key to saving victims. Learn more in the *Decisions in Dentistry* article [here](#).

Pandemics and the Impact on Dentistry

The [December issue](#) of The Journal of the American Dental Association includes its first [Oral Science Trends article](#), which covers the history of past pandemics and the COVID-19 pandemic and how it has affected the dental profession, according to ADA News.



Recommendations for dental practices going forward include adoption of modified infection control measures, teledentistry and point-of-care diagnostics. JADA Editor-in-Chief Tim Wright, D.D.S., said the Oral Science Trends articles will include invited reviews "by leaders who can explain where our current biomedical and clinical sciences are leading to impactful changes in our ability to provide care and improve health." Full

Story: [ADA News](#)



Amber Sellers, Dental Champions Alumni Class IV and former OHK Board Member, was sworn in at the Lawrence City Commission meeting last week! We are so proud of Amber and cannot wait to watch her leadership in this new role. Congratulations, Amber! (Read more about Amber's historical election [here](#).)



Sugary Drink Display Sanitation

Out of an abundance of caution, we are suspending use of the Sugary Drink Display until further notice.

During this time, hand washing and social distancing is on everyone's mind. We want everyone to have the comfort of knowing we sanitize our sugary drink displays. They are wiped down and cleaned off after they have been returned.



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