

Julie Parnell

From: Oral Health Kansas <jparnell@oralhealthkansas.org>  
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ORAL HEALTH KANSAS  
Weekly Wednesday Update

*Our Mission:  
To improve oral health  
in Kansas through  
advocacy,  
public awareness  
and education.*

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### In This Issue

[New projections  
show more  
Kansans will  
enroll in Medicaid](#)

[Legislative  
Leadership  
Elections](#)

### OHK Website Links

[Home](#)

[Our History](#)

[Dental](#)

[Champions](#)

[Partnerships](#)

[Community](#)

[Coalitions](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[Legislative Alerts](#)

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

**TV Star  
Larry**

## New projections show more Kansans will enroll in Medicaid

This week the Kansas Health Institute released a new [estimate](#) on the impact of the Medicaid expansion planned in the Affordable Care Act. The June 2012 U.S. Supreme Court decision made the Medicaid eligibility expansion optional for states. Medicaid expansion would allow all people whose income is lower than 138% of the Federal Poverty Level to receive Medicaid coverage. According to the Congressional Budget Office, covering the lowest income Americans on Medicaid will be more cost effective than covering them with subsidies through the Affordable Care Act's Insurance Exchange.

While Kansas lawmakers have not yet decided if Medicaid expansion will be implemented in our state, the Kansas Health Institute's (KHI) new study shows that the increased public awareness of the availability of health insurance through the Exchange will naturally result in more people who are already eligible for Medicaid, including thousands of children, signing up for the program beginning in 2014. The new KHI report shows that nearly 118,000 Kansas children will move into our Medicaid program. The report also projects approximately 75,000 low-income Kansas adults would sign up for Medicaid benefits if the Medicaid expansion occurs in our state.

If Medicaid expansion is implemented in Kansas, 100% of the costs of the expansion population (low-income adults) would be covered by the

## Hagman Dies of oral cancer

Last week the star of TV shows "Dallas" and "I Dream of Jeannie" Larry Hagman [died of oral cancer](#). People who are diagnosed with oral cancer early are able to successfully fight the disease. November is Mouth Cancer Awareness Month in the United Kingdom, and we hope the sad passing of this TV star will help everyone remember the importance of oral cancer both now and throughout the year. Get your screening to be sure you stay safe and healthy.

## Dental Champions Corner

federal government until 2017. The state's share of the cost would settle to 10% by 2020.

All children covered by Medicaid have access to a comprehensive set of dental benefits, while all adults covered in Kansas have access to emergency dental care. Beginning in 2013, adults also will have access to preventive dental care through the new KanCare (Medicaid managed care) program. This means if Medicaid expansion occurs in Kansas, an additional 75,000 Kansans would have access to preventive dental benefits.

## ACA will change how people have access to dental insurance

One of the key provisions of the Affordable Care Act is a guarantee that all children will have access to dental insurance. This provision marks the first time in our nation's history that all children will be able to access dental care. A new report from [Medscape News](#) shares two perspectives on how the provision for children's dental insurance could affect the dental insurance status of both children and adults. Some say the provision could cause adults to drop their dental insurance coverage, but others say new rules governing the health benefits offered under the ACA will ensure that the affordability of the new dental benefits will result in more Americans being covered by dental insurance. Children's Dental Health Project policy analyst Colin Reusch said, "For too long dental has been considered separately. We would love to see the mouth be put back in the body." The intent behind the ACA's children's dental benefits is just that.

Watch future Weekly Wednesday Updates for additional news about the new ACA rules regarding the essential health benefits.

## Legislative Leadership Elections

### Leadership Elections

Members and member-elects of the 2013 Legislature met in Topeka on December 3 to vote on new leadership for the House and Senate. The House and Senate broke into partisan caucuses and voted through secret ballot to elect all leadership positions. Most leadership positions in the House and Senate had no incumbent as the prior leaders had either retired, been defeated in the election, or chose not to seek leadership posts. These votes will be finalized when the full Legislature returns and is sworn in on January 14.

In the House in the main leadership races, Ray Merrick (R-Stillwell)

## **Class 6 Applications to begin!**

Over the past eight years five Dental Champions Leadership Program classes have graduated. 89 Kansans have joined the diverse network of state-level Dental Champions with a progressive vision for oral health in Kansas. This month the application process for the sixth class will begin. Watch for news about how to apply for the sixth class coming soon!

## **SAVE THE DATE**

2013 Oral Health Kansas Conference will be held in Johnson County November 7th & 8th, 2013

was elected Speaker of the House over Arlen Siegfried (R-Olathe) and Lance Kinzer (R-Olathe). Speaker Pro-Temp will be Peggy Mast (R-El Dorado) who defeated Steve Brunk (R-Wichita) and Richard Proehl (R-Parsons). The Majority Leader will be Jene Vickrey (R-Louisburg) who defeated Marc Rhoades (R-Newton).

On the Democratic side in the House, Paul Davis (D-Lawrence) was unanimously reelected Minority Leader. Tom Burroughs (D-Kansas City) defeated Jim Ward (D-Wichita) for Assistant Minority Leader. Julie Menghini (D-Pittsburg) was elected Caucus Whip over Gail Finney (D-Wichita) and Ed Trimmer (D-Winfield).

In the Kansas Senate, Susan Wagle (R-Wichita) defeated Steve Abrams (R-Arkansas City) for Senate President. Jeff King (R-Independence) beat Garrett Love (R-Montezuma) and Les Donovan (R-Wichita) for Vice President. Terry Bruce (R-Hutchinson) was the unanimous choice for Majority Leaders. Julia Lynn (R-Olathe) defeated Dennis Pyle (R-Hiawatha) for Assistant Majority Leader.

Senate Democrats will continue to be lead by Anthony Hensley (D-Topeka) who defeated Tom Holland (D-Baldwin City) for Minority Leader. Marci Francisco (D-Lawrence) unseated Laura Kelly (D-Topeka) as Assistant Minority Leader.

## **Impact of Leadership Elections**

The outcome of leadership elections is important because new leadership in the House and Senate will appoint all committee chairs and committee members. In both the House and Senate the elections have produced more conservative leadership. These new elected officials will control the budget process and what bills get hearings and are acted upon on the chamber floors. It is anticipated both chambers will be working in greater cooperation with the Brownback administration during the 2013 legislative session. With a 92-33 majority in the House and 32-8 majority in the Senate, and with diminished moderate Republican influence in both chambers, the new Republican legislative leadership should be able to more smoothly operation with the Governor's office to pass a budget and policy legislation.

In the coming weeks the new House and Senate leadership will begin making the assignment of Committee Chairs and the membership of committees. In the Senate, because of the number of new Senators and the defeat of many moderate Republicans, almost all committee chairs will be new. House Chairs will not change as much, but there certainly will be many new faces running committees. As committee assignments are made in the coming weeks, we will provide additional information.

## **Changes for Health Issues and Committees**

The 2013 legislative session will present some significant changes for

## Did You Know?

Spearmint Sparkle?

Peppermint Breeze?

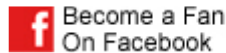
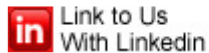
Eggshell Shine?

The next time your dental hygienist asks you to pick a flavor, consider this - the ancient Romans used a mixture of bones, eggshells and oyster shells and honey to clean their teeth! We recommend you stick with the paste.

[CLICK HERE](#)

the health field. In addition to the large number of new House members and new Senators, the composition of the committees will change a great deal. In the House Health Committee, nine of the nineteen members from 2012 will not return including the Chair Brenda Landwehr. In the Senate, five of the nine members of the Public Health and Welfare Committee will not be back. The current Chair Vickie Schmidt will not be reappointed. Both committees will have new members and could face a tremendous number of policy issues. Any issues related to KanCare, the Affordable Care Act, or other health issues will all be handled by this relatively new group of people both led by new Chairs. In the budget process, the House Appropriations Committee may not change much but the Senate Ways and Means Committee will be very different. Seven of the thirteen members will not be back. When the session begins and the Governor presents his policy agenda, we will have a better sense of topics we will have to address this year. It is clear that the new legislative leadership will likely raise a number of policy issues that have not passed in prior years.

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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