



ORAL HEALTH KANSAS

ADVOCACY • PUBLIC AWARENESS • EDUCATION

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In This Issue

[Dental Champions Corner
Kansas included in 500 cities
project](#)
[Shop with us at AmazonSmile](#)
[2017 Kansas Mission of Mercy
Sugar Drink Display](#)
[Kansas House and Senate
Leadership Elections](#)
[Adult dental benefits highlighted
at KanCare forum](#)

Dental Champions Corner

Dental Champions Class VIII gathered in Wichita, Kansas last week where they explored results from a 360 peer-evaluation process. They also reviewed findings from individual assessments geared towards offering them insight into their leadership styles and preferences.

Kansas House and Senate Leadership Elections leadership roles

The members of the Kansas House of Representatives and Senate met in Topeka on December 5th to elect leadership positions for the 2017 session beginning on January 9th. The members of the Legislature elected leadership positions and in the coming days committee chair positions will be filled first and then committee membership assignments. It usually takes less than a week or so to make chairperson assignments and most committee assignments should be made before the Christmas holiday. Almost forty percent of the Kansas Legislature is new, and over half the Senate committee chairs are not returning as well as about one-third of the House chairs. There will be tremendous change in 2017.

In the House, the more conservative Republican candidate, Rep. Ron



Ron Alexander (above) Dental Champions Program Consultant, led the Dental Champions and facilitated lively discussion as they learned more about each other and how they can influence future achievements in Kansas.



Kansas included in 500 cities project

The [500 Cities Project](#) is a collaboration between Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and the CDC Foundation.

The purpose of the 500 Cities project is to provide city- and census tract-level estimates for chronic disease risk factors, health outcomes, and clinical preventive service use for the largest 500 cities in the United States.

The six Kansas cities that were selected are Kansas City, Topeka, Lawrence, Olathe, Overland Park, and Wichita. Kansas Health Institute provided a [link](#) for each cities data.

Ryckman, Jr., was elected Speaker, while by reputation more moderate/centrist Republicans won all the other leadership positions. In the Senate, President Susan Wagle clearly sided with more moderate Republicans and elected a new leadership team that includes moderate Republicans. Senate Democrats renewed their leadership assignments while House Democrats removed the former minority leader, and his replacement is well known for his more vigorous advocacy style.

It is still too early to determine the policy impact of the leadership elections on oral health policy. Both the House Speaker (former House Appropriations Chair) and Senate President (continuing into her second four-year term) are known quantities who, while critical of the current state revenue path, also represent the elected powers that have created and continued the current revenue and budget crisis. Whether that course changes now remains to be seen.

The Senate partisan split will be 31-9, with the Republican majority. The Democrat pick up of one seat actually under-represents the amount of change in the Senate, because fourteen incumbent conservative Republicans either chose not to run or were defeated. The 2017 House will have 85 Republicans and 40 Democrats, a change from the 2016 division of 97-28.





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2017 Kansas Mission of Mercy

The 2017 Kansas Mission of Mercy will be in Manhattan, Kansas on January 27-28. Below you will find more information.

FREE DENTAL SERVICES!!

JANUARY 27-28, 2017

LITTLE APPLE, BIG HEARTS!

JAN 27-28 Doors Open at 5:30 AM

National Guard Armory
721 Levee Dr • Manhattan, Kansas

**No Appointments - First Come, First Served
Children and Adults**

Patient Information:

- Continue taking any prescription medications as directed and bring them along so a dose is not missed.
- Bring a list of current medications, allergies, and health conditions.
- No eligibility, income, or residency requirements needed.
- Services include cleanings, fillings, and extractions...NO dentures.
- Nearly 800 patients will be treated each day so be prepared to wait several hours.
- Breakfast and lunch will be provided at no charge. Bring snacks and water.

A project of Kansas Dental Charitable Foundation Kansas Mission of Mercy KDA

Adult dental benefits highlighted at KanCare forum

On December 1, state officials convened the KanCare Annual Public Forum. During the meeting, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment updated stakeholders about services provided through KanCare (Medicaid managed care), the eligibility backlog, and other KanCare issues.

When KanCare was implemented in 2013, one of the signature additions to the Kansas Medicaid program was a preventive dental benefit for adults. Each of the three MCOs that was awarded a KanCare contract decided to offer preventive services such as dental cleanings and x-rays. Prior to this addition, adults served by Medicaid in Kansas had access only to extractions in emergency cases. The preventive dental benefit is a "value-added service," and KanCare officials noted at the December 1 meeting that the dental benefit remains one of the top five value-added services accessed by KanCare beneficiaries. They also highlighted the fact that utilization of the value-added services increased 32% from 2014 to 2015.

The addition of preventive adult dental services remains a significant step forward in meeting the overall health needs of KanCare beneficiaries, but more work remains to be done. In 2016, less than 9% of adults enrolled in KanCare used the preventive dental services. Adults who are covered by KanCare have



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!

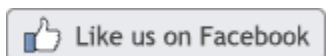
Our sugary drink display contains 10 popular beverages and shows how much sugar is in each. The display is free to use and we reimburse postage. You must sign up to reserve a sugary drink display. Reserve a display for your health fair, clinic, school event or child care!



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among the lowest incomes in the state, and most have lived without coverage of comprehensive dental services throughout their adult lives. When people are not able to take care of dental problems quickly, the problems escalate. A cavity can turn into a much more serious problem that can lead to a mouth full of decayed teeth. Adults who live with these kinds of problems need so much more than preventive services. If they can get their oral health under control, a preventive benefit will help them stay healthy in the long run. In the short run, though, they need access to fillings, crowns, and dentures in order to restore not only their oral health, but also their appearance and self-confidence.

To learn more about how you can help advocate for a comprehensive dental benefit for adults enrolled in KanCare, please contact Rachel Alexander at Oral Health Kansas. (ralexander@ohks.org).




Teeth for Tots workshop teaches about oral health for young children

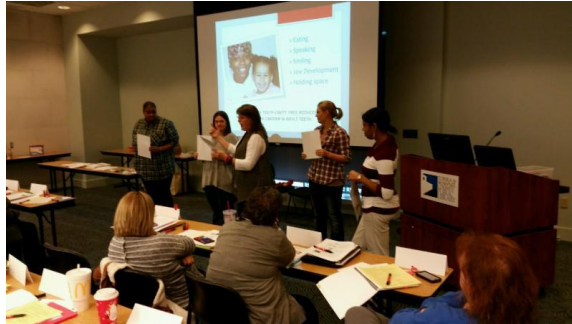
On Thursday, December 1, 30 early education professionals gathered at the Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library in Topeka, Kansas. The all-day

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training titled: "Teeth for Tots" was conducted by OHK staff members, Marcia Manter and Kathy Hunt. The workshop teaches the basics of oral health: teething, tooth decay, daily care, nutrition, first aid, and special considerations.



Kathy Hunt, demonstrating with participants



Marcia Manter is seen here talking to participants about the teething process