



# ORAL HEALTH KANSAS

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## OHK Joins RevUp Kansas

A broad-based group of Kansas organizations have formed a coalition calling for the restoration of state revenue to protect the economic stability of Kansas and its communities. The goal of the group is to work together to advocate for tax fairness to maintain the quality of life in Kansas communities and businesses. The Oral Health Kansas Board of Directors has voted to join RevUp Kansas because Medicaid expansion is a critical part of our policy agenda, and it will be possible if state revenues are restored.

Learn more about RevUp Kansas on their [Facebook page](#).

## RDP Bills Heard in House and Senate Committees

The Registered Dental Practitioner bills, **SB 49** and **HB 2079**, each got a hearing in its respective health committee this week. Both hearings were standing room-only, and included a flood of testimony on both sides of the issue. The legislation would allow the licensing of a dental professional with a scope of practice between a hygienist and a dentist, who is authorized to perform a limited scope of more advanced dental procedures. [Click here](#) to see Oral Health Kansas' testimony.

Legislators in both chambers peppered conferees with questions, though it was unclear if the votes existed in either committee to move the legislation forward. Turnaround Day, when most bills automatically die if they haven't left their house of origin, is Friday, February 27th. At this time, it does not look like the committees will work to move either bill before the deadline. The [Kansas Dental Project](#) is coordinating advocacy on these bills. If you have questions about the process, we encourage you to get in touch with them!

Read more about the hearings and the bills' outlook in this article from the [Kansas Health Institute News Service](#).



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## Tobacco Cessation Training Event

Learn how to make tobacco cessation part of regular health care practice on Thursday, March 12 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. This training will be available in-person in Overland Park and via webcast in Garden City, Hays, Pittsburg, Salina and Wichita.



Presenters from KU Med, KDHE and Wichita State School of Nursing will address current trends in cessation intervention, e-cigarettes, motivational interviewing and the KS Tobacco Quitline. Continuing education credits are available for physicians, ARPNs, nurses, respiratory therapists and social workers. The registration fee is \$10 by March 9 or \$20 after March 9.

For more information or to register visit [www.kumc.edu/AHECcalendar](http://www.kumc.edu/AHECcalendar).

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## Traveling Sugary Drink Display

Don't forget to reserve our traveling sugary drink display for your event! Our display shows how much sugar is in a variety of your favorite drinks, emphasizing which drinks



## Wyandotte County Community Forum a Success

Oral Health Kansas hosted the first in a series of community forums on Monday in Wyandotte County. The conversation centered around the gaps in coverage and how they affect access to care. Some attendees brought up issues with providers being misinformed about what public plans will cover and the continued need for more providers who will see KanCare beneficiaries and provide specialized services such as sedation dentistry for children and people with disabilities. Several connections also sparked new relationships and ideas-- some exchanged business cards and promised to continue the conversation.

Oral Health Kansas would like to thank Turner House Children's Clinic for opening up their facilities for the gathering and letting the group tour their ever-expanding operation.

**Sign up** for a community forum near you! We are continuing to add locations for our forums. If you are interesting in hosting a forum in your hometown, **email Sarah** today!

are good and bad for you.



This display is completely free, and return shipping costs are reimbursed by Oral Health Kansas. Learn more [on our website](#) and [email Sarah](#) if you are interested in hosting the display!

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Turner House Children's Clinic Executive Director Janet Burton gave a tour of their renovated dental clinic

## 8th Annual Give Kids a Smile Day

The Wichita-Sedgwick County Oral Health Coalition will host the 8th Annual Give Kids a Smile Day on Saturday, March 7, from 7:30 am to 3:30 pm. This event offers free dental services for children ages 3 to 12 who live in Butler, Harvey, Reno, Sedgwick, Sumner, and Harper counties who do not have dental insurance. This event will be held at the GraceMed Clinic located at 1122 N. Topeka, Wichita, KS 67214. To make a reservation, call 316-882-1922 (English) or 316-882-1966 (Spanish).

Check out their [Facebook page](#) for more information!



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