

## **Julie Parnell**

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**From:** Oral Health Kansas <jparnell@oralhealthkansas.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 29, 2012 2:50 PM  
**To:** jparnell@oralhealthkansas.org  
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**Our Mission:**  
To improve oral health  
in Kansas through  
advocacy,  
public awareness  
and education.

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### **In This Issue**

[KDHE Loan Re-Payment Program](#)

[KDA and Delta Dental Launch Loan Repayment Program](#)

[Did You Know???](#)

[2012 Oral Health Kansas Conference](#)

[Kansas Legislature's Turnaround Week](#)

["A Costly Dental Destination"](#)

[Give Kids a Smile](#)

### **OHK Website Links**

[Home](#)

[Our History](#)

[Dental Champions](#)

[Partnerships](#)

[Community](#)

[C Coalitions](#)

[Contact Us](#)

## **Kansas Legislature's Turnaround Week**

Today the Kansas Legislature convened for the second part of the 2012 Legislative Session. They took three days off after last week's "turnaround week." At the turnaround deadline all bills in each chamber must be passed in order to be considered by the opposite chamber. (Bills in certain committees, including the budget committees, are exempt from this rule.) Turnaround week marked a lot of action on dental bills Oral Health Kansas has been following closely. [Click Here](#) to read a summary of the legislative activity in the first part of the 2012 Session.

## **"A Costly Dental Destination"**

This week the Pew Children's Dental Campaign released a new report about emergency room usage for dental pain entitled, "A Costly Dental Destination." The report mirrors the message Oral Health Kansas has been sharing: people who experience extreme dental pain resort to emergency rooms when they do not have a way to pay for a dentist or when they cannot find a dentist.

Over 17,500 visits are made to Kansas emergency rooms each year by people with dental pain. The only services that can be provided in the emergency room are prescriptions for antibiotics and/or pain medication.

Emergency rooms are not the appropriate place for people with dental problems, because the symptoms of the dental disease can be addressed, but the cause cannot. Thousands of Kansans

## Legislative Alerts

### Bureau of Oral Health 2012 Dental Professional Loan Re-Payment Program

Applications are now available for the 2012 Bureau of Oral Health Dental Professional Loan Re-payment program.

Eligible dentists and dental hygienists can receive up to \$30,000 to apply to their educational debt. Details of the program are attached to this email and also available [HERE](#).

#### **APPLICATIONS ARE DUE 4/6/2012**

Questions should be directed to [Dr. Weno](#) at the Bureau of Oral Health.

### KDA and Delta Dental Launch Loan Repayment Program

This month the Kansas Dental Association and the Delta Dental of Kansas Foundation announced the formation of KIND: The Kansas Initiative for New Dentists.

Through the generosity of the Delta Dental of Kansas Foundation, KIND will provide two \$50,000 grants to dental school

are left with no solutions to their dental problems.



Read the [Pew issue brief](#) and the [Washington Post](#) article for more information. Visit [Oral Health Kansas' Facebook page](#) if you have a story to share about people resorting to emergency rooms when they have no way to get the dental services they need.

### Oral Health Kansas Tooth brushing Contest

Earlier this year Oral Health Kansas held a tooth brushing contest with our local coalitions. The local coalitions were to hand out fliers to schools within their coalition county for classrooms to submit pictures of their students brushing their teeth, writing a story or anything else that showed how tooth brushing is fun.

Teachers of the winning classrooms will receive DVDs, Supplies to create a an oral health bulletin board in their classroom or school, oral health books for kids, toothbrushes, toothpaste and floss for each student in the classroom. Toothbrushes, toothpaste and floss were provided by the Delta Dental of Kansas Foundation.

The Steelman Super Heroes from Garden City Kansas

graduates who set up practice in the "dental deserts" of the state. These are communities that do not have a dentist within 20 miles. Applications for the KIND program will be accepted until May 15.

To learn more  
[CLICK HERE](#)

## Did You Know???

**Nearly 40% of preschool children drink close to 9 ounces of soda a day!**

(Massachusetts Dental Society)

## 2012 Oral Health Kansas Conference

Make plans now to attend the 2012 Oral Health Kansas Conference September 13-14 at the [Hotel at Old Town](#) in Wichita, Kansas.

The Conference will feature a special reception with a new exhibit at [Exploration Place](#).

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Submission by Ms. Steelman

Tooth Brushing is Fun!



Submission by Ms. Vanek

## Congratulations to our winners!

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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