

## 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.*

Volume 4, Issue 6

February 20, 2013

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## Oral Health Kansas Office Closed

The Oral Health Kansas office will be closed Thursday February 21st due to the inclement weather conditions.

## February is Children's Dental Health Month

February is Children's Dental Health Month and Oral Health Kansas wants to help spread the word about the importance of oral health in children. Developing good habits at an early age and scheduling regular dental visits helps children get a good start on a lifetime of healthy teeth and gums. Whether you're a member of the dental team, a teacher or a parent, The [American Dental Association](#) has a packet of games, puzzles, coloring sheets and a smile calendar. [CLICK HERE](#) to print out the collection and grab your markers! You'll be on the road to a healthy smile in no time.

### **Here are a few tips to help keep children's teeth healthy:**

#### **Start Early**

Begin caring for your child's teeth soon after they are born. After each feeding, gently wipe the gums with a soft, damp cloth.

#### **Establish Good Habits Early**

Once the first tooth appears, begin brushing and flossing your child's teeth. Children should not use toothpaste with fluoride until they have

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Get Oral Health Kansas news wherever you are!

Be sure to find us on your favorite social media platform:

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And be sure to share with your friends.

**Dental  
Champions  
Corner**

**Class 6 Application  
Deadline Extended!**

Oral Health Kansas has extended the deadline to apply for the 6th Dental Champions Leadership Program class to February 28.

Applicants will be notified by March 15 of

the ability to spit it out instead of swallowing it.

**Early Dental Visits**

Children should have their first dental visit about six months after the tooth appears.

**Help Fight Decay**

Fluoridated water is an effective way to prevent tooth decay. Sealants are another way to help fight decay.

**Protect The Teeth**

A mouth guard is a must for anyone playing sports.

**To learn more and to find exciting activities for Children's Dental Health Month visit the following links from Oral Health Kansas [HERE](#) or [HERE](#).**

**Tooth Brushing Contest Winners**

From September to December of last year, Oral Health Kansas held a "Tooth Brushing is Fun Contest" where classrooms could submit pictures of their students brushing their teeth, a short story (real or made up) about the importance of tooth brushing, going to the dentist, taking good care of their teeth, dealing with a tooth problem or anything else that shows how to make tooth brushing FUN!

Over the next few weeks we will show you the entries from the winning classrooms!

This week we feature 2 winning classrooms, the preschoolers from Cooper Early Education Center who submitted videos of them singing and brushing their teeth and Mrs. Roux's kindergartners from Walton Rural Life Center who submitted a video showing how toothbrushing is fun!

Thank you to Maggie Smet and Nancy Martin from the local oral health coalition in Harvey County for delivering the prizes to the students!

To view a slideshow of them receiving their prizes [CLICK HERE](#).

their acceptance in the class. The session schedule remains the same.

To learn more about Dental Champions Class 6 and apply, please visit the Oral Health Kansas [website](#).

We are pleased to announce that the Delta Dental of Kansas Foundation has joined the United Methodist Health Ministry Fund as a funder for Class 6.

Without the support of these two funding partners, the Dental Champions Leadership Program would not be possible. Thank you to our generous sponsors!



a program of Oral Health Kansas, Inc.

## Weekly Wednesday Update Survey

Oral Health Kansas has been sharing regular updates through our Weekly Wednesday Updates. We hope you have found these to be valuable.

We would like to have your input as we plan our update topics for 2013.

Please take just a few



Thanks to the generous donation from the Delta Dental of Kansas Foundation, Oral Health Kansas was able to award 10 classrooms as the winners with one being the grand prize winner.



Delta Dental of Kansas Foundation

## Anti Water Fluoridation Bill Introduced

This week the Kansas Legislature introduced a bill that would require notices be included on water bills saying "ingested fluoride lowers the I.Q. in children." [HB 2372](#) decries the health benefits of water fluoridation as well. The bill was introduced at the request of an anti-fluoridation activist from Wichita, but lawmakers have indicated they do not have an interest in acting on the bill this year.

Details about the [bill](#) are available in this story from the Kansas Health Institute. Oral Health Kansas will continue to monitor this bill, as well as other efforts to weaken water fluoridation policies in the state.

## Economic Benefits of Medicaid Expansion

On Monday of this week, the Kansas Hospital Association (KHA) released an economic impact study that showed that Medicaid expansion in Kansas would result in a \$3 billion boost to the state's economy and 4,000 new jobs. The jobs would not just be in hospitals and clinics, but also in industries that support the state's health care industry. KHA's CEO Tom Bell said, "I think from our perspective, it's not unlike the state landing a huge federal contract. That's the way we look at it, as an opportunity for our state."

moments to respond to a brief survey at [www.surveymonkey.com](http://www.surveymonkey.com)

If you encounter any trouble with the survey, please let us know.

## Traveling Drink Display

Currently the OHK traveling library drink displays are on display at the [West Wyandotte Library](#) and the [Corinth Branch Library](#) in Johnson County.

If you are interested in having the drink display on display in your area, send an email to [Julie](#).



## Job Opening

Turner House Children's Clinic is seeking a registered dental hygienist with a Kansas license and an Extended Care Permit I or II to provide school-based and in-clinic dental hygiene services. Turner House is a nonprofit pediatric primary care clinic dedicated to providing high quality health care as a Patient-Centered Medical Home to underserved and uninsured children in Kansas City, Kansas.

For more information [CLICK HERE](#)

A summary of the KHA report concludes, "The increases in employment and economic activity will occur both within the health care sector as well as in other sectors of the state economy. While Medicaid costs will increase, the state will realize additional state tax revenues that should offset a portion of the higher Medicaid costs. In addition, there are other potential offsetting state health care savings that could further reduce overall state costs, so from 2014 through 2020 there would be a net savings to the state's budget."

Read more about the KHA economic impact study in this [Kansas Health Institute story](#).

This week Kansas lawmakers considered the option of expanding the Medicaid program next year under the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The ACA allows states to expand Medicaid eligibility to low-income adults without children. This population currently is not covered by Medicaid, but would be under Medicaid expansion. The federal government would pay for 90% of the cost of services for this expansion population.

Last week the Governor's office released their estimate of the cost to expand Medicaid in Kansas. This week the Governor's estimate, along with the estimate prepared by the Kansas Health Institute (KHI) and another from the libertarian think tank Kansas Policy Institute (KPI), were discussed in hearings in the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee and in a forum sponsored by KHI and KPI. The state estimates the state cost of expanding Medicaid from 2014 through 2023 would be about \$600 million. KPI's estimate is similar at about \$625 million. KHI's estimate is lower at about \$177 million. The key differences in the projections are the estimates of how many people who would become eligible for Medicaid would truly enroll in the program. Details about the forums this week are available from the [Kansas Health Institute](#).

Governor Brownback has not made a decision yet on whether to expand Medicaid in Kansas. A handful of Republic Governors recently announced their decisions to expand their states' Medicaid programs, including Arizona, Michigan and Florida.

Oral Health Kansas is supportive of expanding the Kansas Medicaid program in 2014 as envisioned in the Affordable Care Act. Through Medicaid Expansion, over 120,000 very low-income Kansas adults would be able to receive Medicaid services, including the new preventive dental benefit, with a greatly enhanced federal matching rate. The opportunities to cost effectively meet the dental and medical needs of adults in poverty are available through Medicaid Expansion.

## KanCare Legislative Oversight Advances

Today the House Health and Human Services Committee advanced HB 2025 to the full House of Representatives. This bill will establish legislative oversight of the new privatized Medicaid program known as KanCare. A similar bill was considered last year, but failed on the last

## Did You Know???

Fluoride helps teeth retain calcium, which keeps them strong and slows the production of acids that attack teeth.

[Delta Dental](#)

## SAVE THE DATE!

Join us in November to celebrate Oral Health Kansas' 10th anniversary at the:

**2013 Oral Health Kansas Conference**  
Johnson County Community College  
November 7-8, 2013

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

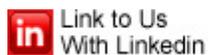
day of the Legislative Session.

The Committee strengthened HB 2025 today with several amendments to increase the Oversight Committee's scope of responsibility. Amendments will increase the number of meetings throughout the year, add members of the House and Senate health committees, and add data the committee will review, such as the adequacy of the Medicaid provider networks. Oral Health Kansas testified in favor of the bill and suggested some of the amendments that were adopted today.

The final amendment to the bill re-named the oversight committee in memory of Rep. Bob Bethell, who championed the bill on the last day of the 2012 Legislative Session. Just an hour late he was tragically killed in a car accident. Renaming the committee in his memory will honor the work he did to ensure the Medicaid program has good legislative oversight.

(In a related move, Oral Health Kansas re-named our Outstanding Policy Maker Award in Rep. Bethell's memory to honor his outstanding contributions to the Kansas oral health community.)

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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