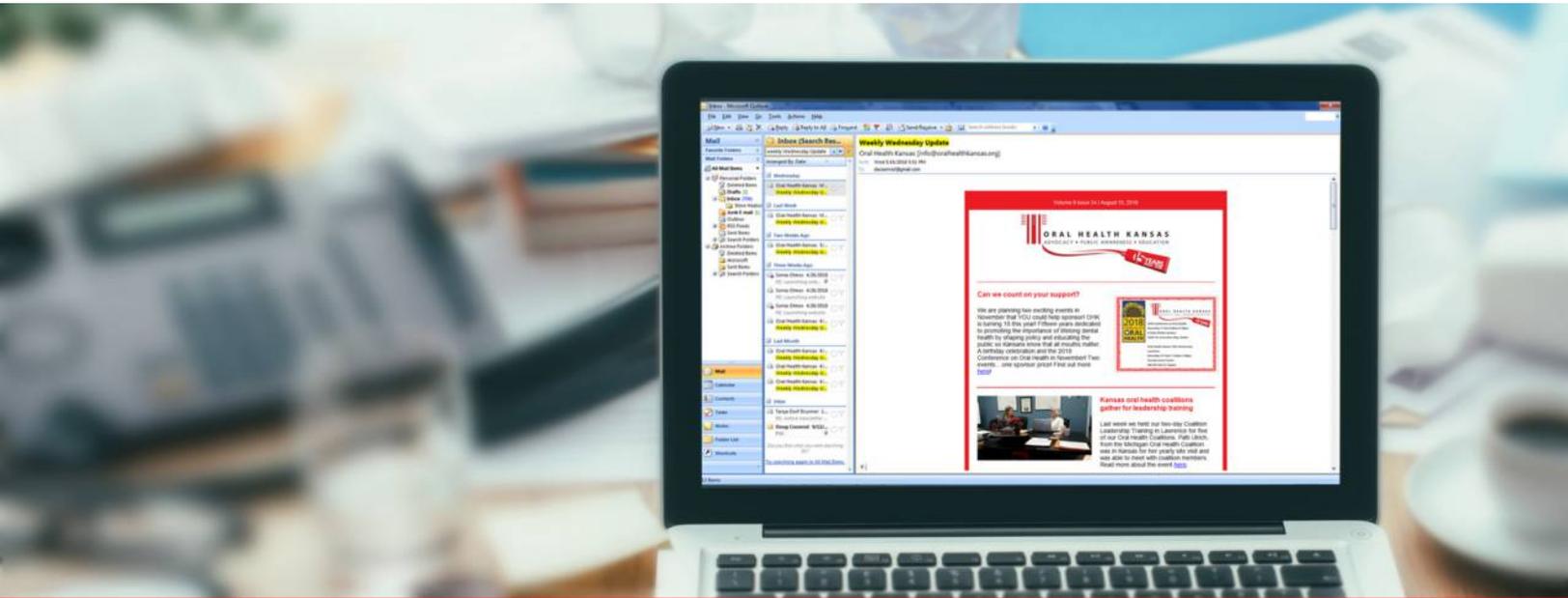




ORAL HEALTH KANSAS
ADVOCACY • PUBLIC AWARENESS • EDUCATION



WEEKLY WEDNESDAY UPDATE

The Weekly Wednesday Update is our newsletter which we email every Wednesday with oral health, health and policy updates from around the state and nationally.

To view past issues [click here](#).

Click here to sign up for our [Weekly Wednesday Update](#).

March 11, 2020

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Save The Date!

We are excited to announce the date for the 2020 Conference on Oral Health will be held on Friday, November 13. The Conference Planning Committee is eagerly making arrangements and will announce the location soon! For now, mark November 13 on your calendar and watch for more updates!



Updates From The Kansas Statehouse

Kansas Oral Health Improvement Act

Last Tuesday, [Oral Health Kansas testified](#) before the House Social Services Budget Committee seeking funding for the components in the Kansas Oral Health Improvement Act, [SB 349](#). On Monday, the Committee passed a recommended dental budget for the Kansas Department of Health and Environment that included \$3 million all funds to support increased dental reimbursement rates. The Committee passed a similar increase last year, but the increase was only sufficient in maintaining our dental provider network but not necessarily growing it. We are hopeful that an additional increase in reimbursement rates will bring the rates to a level to cover the cost of services for providers. Oral Health Kansas will be testifying in tomorrow's Senate Ways and Means Subcommittee on Health hearing asking for them to include increased reimbursement rates in their recommended budget for KDHE.

Tobacco 21

Last Thursday, House Federal and State Affairs Committee held a hearing on [HB 2563](#) which would support implementation and enforcement of the federal increase of tobacco age from 18 to 21, as well as include a flavor ban for electronic cigarettes. The most controversial component of the bill was the exclusion of menthol, or mint, flavoring in the flavor ban. This menthol exemption led to many health advocacy groups opposing the bill, including Tobacco Free Kansas Coalition, Kansas Academy of Pediatrics, American Cancer Society, and more. Many vape shop owners turned out to also oppose the bill stating the flavored e-liquids would prevent individuals from using electronic cigarettes as smoking cessation devices and would hurt business. Proponents of the bill, including the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce and Kansas National Education Association, state there are many important pieces of the bill that will help decrease use of electronic cigarettes in our state. This includes the removal of a youth penalty, an increase in the retailer license fee to support enforcement, and the flavor ban, even with the menthol exemption. The Kansas News Service covered the story [here](#).

Oral Health Kansas submitted neutral testimony, feeling the menthol exemption was not enough to kill the bill but recommending that menthol be included in the flavor ban. You can read OHK's full testimony [here](#).

ACTION: If you feel strongly about this bill, we encourage you to reach out to members on the House Federal and State Affairs Committee to encourage them to take action on the bill. The list of committee members can be found [here](#), along with their contact information.

Medicaid Expansion

Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee have been debating Medicaid Expansion, [SB 252](#), for weeks now. They are scheduled to have discussion and action on the bill tomorrow at 9:30AM.



Oral Health Kansas Presents At Local Task Force Meeting

Earlier today, Kathy Hunt and Christi Wells, OHK staff members, presented to the Butler County Child & Family Development Task Force in El Dorado, KS. They shared the various educational resources and services that our

organization provides, as well as advocacy updates on oral health issues at both the federal and state level. Task Force members had the opportunity to use our acid attack model to learn hands on how acid impacts our oral health. They were surprised to see how each sip of a sugary drink can negatively harm their teeth! Find more information about the acid attack model [here!](#)



Give Kids A Smile At Concorde Career College

During the months of February and March, Concorde Career College is hosting Give Kids A Smile. Give Kids a Smile is an event to provide FREE dental hygiene services to local children (ages 1-18) from under-served families. This event is part of the American Dental Association's Give Kids a Smile Program. Concorde Career College is located at 3217 Broadway St., Kansas City, Missouri. Click [here](#) for the flyer with more information!



Last week, the Kansas City Star spoke with Oral Health Kansas' executive director, Tanya Dorf Brunner, to learn more about the urgent need for dental care in the state of Kansas. This year, OHK introduced the

Kansas Oral Health Improvement Act, SB349, which calls for a statewide oral health plan. It would also increase Medicaid dental reimbursement rates and offer dental benefits to recipients of KanCare, the program that administers Medicaid in Kansas.

"People without insurance, people in poverty, just have to work so much harder than anybody else to figure out how to get any kind of dental or health care," said Tanya Dorf Brunner, executive director of the non-profit advocacy group, Oral Health Kansas, in Topeka. Read the full story [here](#).





Sugary Drink Display Reservations

Reserve your Sugary Drink Display before the months go by! Or purchase a Sugary Drink Display to have as your own!



What is a Sugary Drink Display? It's our drink display that has 10 popular beverages and shows how much sugar is in each. You can reserve a child drink display or an adult drink display for up to a month.

We will do our best to fulfill requests of less than 30 days but there is no guarantee.

There is no charge to use the Sugary Drink Display; postage is reimbursed if you send in your receipt. All we ask is for you to fill out our survey included in the display materials and provide us with feedback about the display. [Click here to make a reservation!](#)

Interested in purchasing a Sugary Drink Display? [Click here](#) to download our brochure.

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