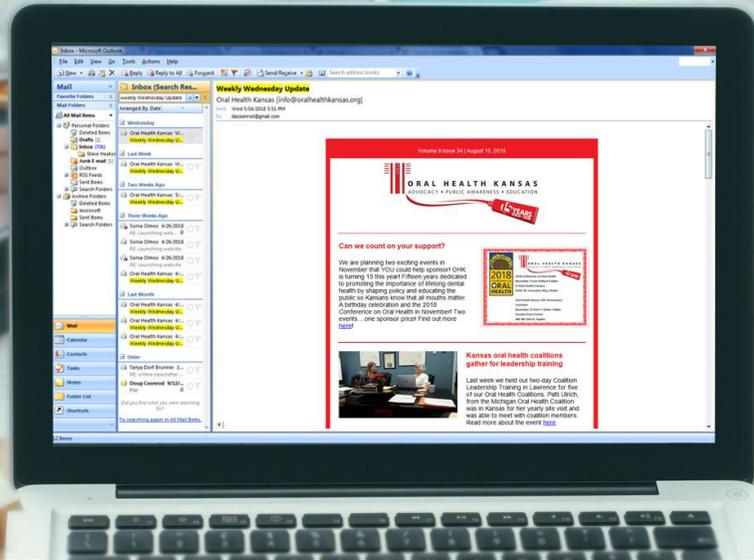




ORAL HEALTH KANSAS
ADVOCACY • PUBLIC AWARENESS • EDUCATION



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 13, 2019

Volume 10, Issue 11

Introducing Dental Champions Class 9 Members

We are thrilled to announce the members of the [Dental Champions Leadership Program](#) Class 9. They will be tasked with learning leadership, advocacy, and communications skills, and then developing their own initiative to improve access to dental care for pregnant women and children age 0 to 3. The members of the class include staff from safety net clinics, insurance companies, Head Start, private dental practice, and health departments.



The members of Class 9 are:

Jennifer Adhima-Project Eagle-*University of Kansas Medical Center*

Stephanie Augustine, RDH-*Reno County Head Start*

Bonnie Branson, RDH, PhD-*University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Dentistry*

Dayna Brinckman, DDS, CHCEF

Dawn Cubbison-*Aetna Better Health of Kansas*

Carrie Elting, RDH-*All Smiles Dental Care*

Debra Meisenheimer, BS, MS, CPC-*Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas*

Trina Morgan-*Kansas Children's Service League*

Stormy Newell, RDH-*Heart of Kansas Family Health Dental Clinic*

Shawn Oprisiu, RDH, BS, ECP III-*Southwest Boulevard Family Health Care*

Susan Shelite-*Sedgwick County Division of Health, Children's Dental Clinic*

Shannon Uehling-*Sunflower Health Plan*

The first class will launch March 22. [Teresa Schwab, Arnavon Strategies](#), will be the program facilitator.



2020 Budget Looking To Increase Medicaid Dental Reimbursement Rates

On Monday, the House Social Services Budget Committee recommended an increase in \$3MIL for reimbursement rates for dental providers enrolled in KanCare. Senate Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Health made a similar recommendation that day for an increase of \$12MIL. This morning, House Appropriations approved the recommendation from the House Social Services Budget Committee to increase dental reimbursement rates.

Tomorrow morning, Senate Ways and Means will hear the recommendation from the Subcommittee on Health and vote whether or not to move it forward to the full legislature. There is an URGENT need for advocacy! If this doesn't pass out of Senate Ways and Means, there's a chance we won't be able to raise reimbursement rates for dental providers and increase access to dental care in our state. They don't want to hear from OHK. They want to hear from constituents like YOU! Find out [here](#) who your Senator is and see if they are on the Senate Ways and Means Committee (listed below).

Senate Ways and Means

Sen. Larry Alley

Sen. Ed Berger

Sen. Rick Billinger

Sen. Kevin Braun

Sen. Jim Denning
Sen. Dan Goddard
Sen. Tom Hawk
Sen. Anthony Hensley
Sen. Dan Kerschen
Sen. Carolyn McGinn
Sen. Pat Pettey
Sen. John Skubal
Sen. Gene Suellentrop

Not sure what to say to your Senator? Utilize the guide below.

21. Introduce yourself and make sure to share you are a constituent. Constituent emails/calls get higher priority.
2. Share your support of increased reimbursement rates to help grow our dental provider network for our Medicaid beneficiaries. Utilize [this handout](#) to provide additional facts.
3. OPTIONAL: Share your's, your friend's, and/or your organization's experiences struggling to find a dentist enrolled in Medicaid.
4. Ask for their support of the subcommittee's recommendation to increase reimbursement rates for dental providers enrolled in KanCare.

Interested in Listening to Committee Hearings?

Majority of committee hearings now have technology to listen live no matter where you are! They are also archived on the website so you can replay hearings.

1. Go to www.kslegislature.org.
2. In the upper right hand corner, hover over 'Audio/Video'. In the dropdown list, select 'Statehouse Live & Archive'.
3. Scroll down the list of committees to find the one you are looking for. They are listed by time of hearing. To listen to archived hearings, select the day from the calendar and scroll to the time of the hearing.

Any questions can be directed to our Policy Director, Christi Nance, at cnance@ohks.org.



OHK Staff Attends MeQILA Kick-Off Meeting

Tanya Dorf Brunner and Christi Nance recently made a trip to the American Dental Association in Chicago for the Medicaid Quality Improvement Learning Academy (MeQILA) Kick-Off Meeting. MeQILA is hosted by the Dental Quality Alliance of the American Dental Association and provides states the opportunity to conduct a quality

improvement project focused on their Medicaid Dental Program. Kansas was one of three states selected to participate in the learning academy, along with Missouri and Ohio. Over the next year, OHK will work alongside the Community Care Network of Kansas, Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Kansas Dental Association, and Sunflower Health Plan to conduct a quality improvement project to increase access to dental care for children 5-20 years old on the Intellectual and Developmental Disability (IDD) waiver.



Watch Our Advocacy Update Webinars

We now have our Advocacy Update Calls on our website! Every other Friday at noon, we hold 30 minute advocacy update webinars. Our Policy Director, Christi Nance, will talk briefly about bills and hearings in the Capitol from the past two weeks. This is also an opportunity for you to ask questions.

The next call will be Friday, March 22 at 12pm. Click [here](#) to sign up!

To view previous webinar recordings, click [here](#).



Nursing Students Learn About Oral Health

Kathy Hunt, Dental Program Director at Oral Health Kansas, gave an interactive presentation to 70 senior Washburn Nursing students last week. The goal was to help them feel comfortable talking to their patients about how poor oral health can impact their overall health, what actions people can take to prevent disease in the mouth, and where to find affordable dental services. The students were very engaged and now have plans to find ways to integrate oral health into their new roles.

One of the questions asked was, "What one thing would you like to do in your personal or professional life as a result of hearing this information"? Students had interesting observations. Here are a few:

- To make sure parents of children are aware of how important it is to start good dental care from the very beginning and how to do that.
- Incorporate oral care/education into my nursing practice no matter what area I go into.
- Educate my patients, family, and friends on importance of oral health.

Sounds like these students are on the right track to integrate oral health with primary care!

Kansas Vape Free Schools Toolkit Is Now Available

With the rising number of students using e-cigarettes, this [Kansas Vape-Free Schools Toolkit](#) is a guide to help your school or school district become tobacco-free and e-cigarette-free. The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) released the guide in hopes of helping schools effectively implement, clearly communicate, regularly enforce and support a truly tobacco-free and e-cigarette-free campus. You can find more resources on the [KDHE Vape Free Schools website](#).

Kansas Vape-Free Schools Toolkit



Here are some quick facts from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on vaping:

- Most e-cigarettes contain nicotine-the addictive drug in regular cigarettes, cigars, and other tobacco products.
- Nicotine can harm the developing adolescent brain. The brain keeps developing until about age 25.
- Using nicotine in adolescence can harm the parts of the brain that control attention, learning, mood, and impulse control.

For more facts and helpful resources click [here](#) for the CDC's website.

Oral Health Kansas continues to be a part of the Tobacco 21 advocacy effort in Topeka and support other Kansas communities considering adopting Tobacco 21 ordinances.

Last week our Board Members had the opportunity to do a fun experiment using our Acid Attack Kits. Board members were amazed and found the demonstration to be effective in showing the process of what happens when acid attacks our teeth.



The Acid Attack Kit is a demonstration that epitomizes the saying that a picture is worth a thousand words. Seeing “acid” forming when “germs” in the mouth are processing “simple

carbs” is a game changer. Our message focuses on substituting no or low carb snacks and beverages between meals. [Contact us](#) for additional information on how to purchase an acid attack kit for your organization! (Picture below acid simulation)



Reserve A Sugary Drink Display

We are already getting reservations booked for 2020! Reserve your sugary drink display for the month you need it before they're booked!



What is a Sugary Drink Display? It's our drink display that has 10 popular beverages and shows how much sugar is in each. Make your reservation now! You can reserve a child drink display or an adult drink display for a month. Spots fill up quickly! 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? Great, email us at info@oralhealthkansas.org and we'll send you more info!

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