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To: 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.*

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Oral Health Kansas Launches Legislative Oral Health Caucus

On March 8 the first meeting of the new Oral Health Caucus in the Kansas Legislature was held at the State Capitol. The Caucus is chaired by Rep. Bob Bethell (R-Alden). Seven legislators participated in the first meeting where they heard a presentation about a highly successful partnership in Southeast Kansas to provide dental services to school children. Krista Postai, CEO of the Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas, and Dr. Brian Smith, Superintendent of the Galena Public Schools, discussed the partnership that began in 2007. Galena ranks as the poorest school district in the state, and students there had poor oral health until the partnership began. Now there is an annual on-site dental clinic in Galena sponsored by the Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas, and the district students have some of the best oral health in the state.

The Oral Health Caucus will offer legislators the chance to explore a range of oral health issues in a more casual setting, and future programs will highlight other successful oral health programs in the state. Another meeting of the Caucus tentatively is set for the Veto Session, which commences at the end of April.

The [Kansas Health Institute](#) published a story about the

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 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](#)

Caucus, and the story received national attention on March 9 when it was featured in the Kaiser Health News daily report.

New Oral Health Campaign

The Kansas Health Foundation has launched a new campaign to increase awareness of the importance of oral health. The campaign is called "Truth About Teeth" and features a new [website](#), a Facebook app, and billboard, radio and print ads. The campaign will draw attention to the need for all Kansans to have access to a dental provider, a way to pay for services and access to preventive measures.

For more information, please read the [Wichita Eagle's story](#) about the campaign.

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 the new Big Mouth exhibit at [Exploration Place](#) sponsored by Dental Dental of Kansas Foundation.



HB 2631 Passes out of the Senate Committee

Today [HB 2631](#) passed out of the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee. This bill includes a proposal for an Extended Care Permit (ECP) III. Under the ECP III proposal, hygienists who have practiced for 2000 hours and received 18

[HERE](#)

Did You Know???

Kansas seniors rank 18th NATIONALLY for total tooth loss.

(www.truthaboutteeth.org and Kansas Health Foundation)

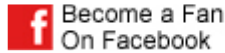
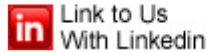
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hours of specified education would be able to perform certain services including, removing decay using hand instruments, placing temporary fillings, and adjusting dentures. The ECP IIIs would work under general supervision of a dentist.

HB 2631 also includes the Kids Oral Health Improvement provision ([included in SB 326](#)), an amendment to the charitable practice act, and a provision to increase the number of seats at UMKC School of Dentistry for Kansas students.

HB 2361 passed the House of Representatives on February 22, 2012, by a vote of 120-3. Today the bill was amended to include a provision that the ECP III must notify the patient or guardian that he or she should see a dentist as a follow-up to the care provided. (The language of the amendment was not available at press time.) After passing out of the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee today, HB 2631 now will move to the full Senate for consideration.

If you have an idea, story or suggestion for a Oral Health Kansas Weekly Wednesday Update please send an email to jparnell@oralhealthkansas.org



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