



# ORAL HEALTH KANSAS

ADVOCACY • PUBLIC AWARENESS • EDUCATION

Volume 8, Issue 11

March 15, 2017

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In her work with Kansas Head Start Association, Kathy Hunt assisted the community of Troy, Kansas with an oral health event designed for young children and their families.



## Grant is renewed to continue community coalition building

Oral Health Kansas is a part of a three-state project funded by the DentaQuest Foundation that just has been renewed for a third year. The project to continue to support the establishment and growth of community coalitions is a partnership with the Michigan Oral Health Coalition and the Wisconsin Oral Health Coalition.

The goal is to create a tri-state movement of innovation, advocacy and leadership to eradicate dental disease by 2020.

Through the project, OHK has supported communities with leadership training, coaching, technical assistance, seed money grants for small projects and a variety of educational resources.

Currently in Kansas there are oral health coalitions in the following counties: Butler, Johnson, Finney, Shawnee and Sedgwick. The coalitions decide what oral health issue they would like to address in their communities. Local and regional groups identify and implement

All Aboard the Cavity Free Express is a virtual train trip involving fun activities at each station stop that helps families increase their knowledge, skills, and confidence in adopting healthy behaviors that will keep their children cavity-free. Sixty-six people were impacted by this event, and 100% surveyed said they learned a lot and had fun doing it!



## EPA denies request to ban community water fluoridation

Last fall, a group opposed to community water fluoridation sent a request to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to ban the addition of fluoridating chemicals to drinking water. The EPA [denied the request](#). Here is their statement:

*""the petition has not set forth a*

strategies so that their residents experience good oral health.



If you are interested in joining a coalition or would like to start one in your area, contact our Community Coalitions Coordinator, Doug Bowman at 785-235-6039 or email him at: [dbowman@oralhealthkansas.org](mailto:dbowman@oralhealthkansas.org).

## Shop tomorrow on Amazon Smile and help OHK

Do you have a birthday coming up? Do you need to buy something for Spring Break or for an upcoming graduation?

**Tomorrow, March 16**, Amazon will donate 5% (10 times the usual donation rate) of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to Oral Health Kansas Inc.

Get started at [SmileAmazon](https://www.amazon.com/smile).



*scientifically defensible basis to conclude that any persons have suffered neurotoxic harm as a result of exposure to fluoride in the U.S. through the purposeful addition of fluoridation chemicals to drinking water or otherwise from fluoride exposure in the U.S."*



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## Reserve a sugary drink display for World Health Day

April 7 is World Health Day! This would be a great opportunity to reserve our sugary drink display! We already have some on reserve for April, so don't wait. Reserving yours ahead of time is crucial. [Sign up now!](#)

Our sugary drink display contains 10 popular beverages and shows how much sugar is in each. The display is free to use, up to a month and we reimburse postage.



ORAL HEALTH KANSAS

## GOP health reform bill signals major changes

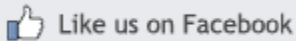
Last week, the House Republicans introduced a bill in Congress that will follow through with their pledge to "repeal and replace Obamacare." That promise was a major part of the 2016 Congressional and Presidential elections. The new bill known as the American Health Care Act changes many parts of the Affordable Care Act, also known as Obamacare, and it passed out of committee soon after being introduced. It will be taken up by the full House of Representatives by the end of March.

The American Health Care Act changes the how the tax credits offered to people who need to purchase health insurance work. It also allows insurance plans to offer different rates to people, based on their age, and it removes the mandate that all people purchase health insurance, which is known as the individual mandate. Perhaps the most significant change is altering how the Medicaid program is financed. Rather than the federal government paying a portion of all claims for Medicaid services, they would set a per-capita cap on how much money states receive to provide care for Medicaid beneficiaries. This a fundamental change in the Medicaid program and will serve to reduce the amount of money the federal government invests in this health insurance plan for the poorest Americans. Kaiser Health News is one of many news outlets that [shares additional details](#) about what is and is not included in the bill.

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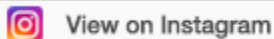
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This week, the nonpartisan [Congressional Budget Office \(CBO\)](#) [released its score of the bill](#). The score estimates the cost of the bill and how many people will have insurance coverage. The CBO estimates that 14 million Americans will lose health insurance coverage in 2018, and as many as 10 million more will lose coverage by 2026. The CBO score also and that the federal government will reduce Medicaid expenditures by nearly \$900 billion in the next ten years, primarily as a result of the switch to a per capita funding formula.

The [Children's Dental Health Project](#) [released an analysis](#) of the American Health Care Act's effect on dental services on March 14. They note that reducing federal Medicaid dollars, "could result in access issues for children, lower reimbursement rates for providers and/or the loss of dental benefits for adults."

Follow Oral Health Kansas and the Children's Dental Health Project to learn more about how the proposed legislation and other changes to the Affordable Care Act and Medicaid will affect dental services for children and adults in Kansas.

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