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Sent: Wednesday, March 16, 2011 5:16 PM
To: jparnell@oralhealthkansas.org
Subject: Oral Health Kansas Weekly Wednesday Update



ORAL HEALTH KANSAS
Weekly Wednesday Update

*Our Mission:
To improve oral health
in Kansas through
advocacy,
public awareness
and education.*

Volume 2, Issue 13

March 16, 2011

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**2011
Legislative
Session
Update**

Clean Indoor Air Act Hearing

The House Health and Human Services held a hearing on March 16 on two bills that would amend the state's current Clean Indoor Air Act. One bill would remove the exemption in the current law that allows smoking in state-owned casinos. The other would create a new exemption that would allow smoking in any bar that sells lottery tickets.

Oral Health Kansas, along with a host of Clean Indoor Air advocates, provided testimony in support of the current law. The law not only benefits all Kansans by providing a smoke-free environment, but can serve as a way to "de-normalize smoking" for people who do smoke. The Mayo Clinic's Nicotine Dependence Center has shown through studies that "de-normalizing smoking" with a smoking ban decreases the urge to smoke in many individuals and can help lead to successful quitting.

The Kansas Health Institute's news service reported this week that the outlook for successfully amending the current law are unlikely this year:
<http://www.khi.org/news/2011/mar/15/repeal-unlikely-changes-being-proposed-smoke-free/>

As more information becomes available on the prospects for a change in the Clean Indoor Air Act, we will share it.

This Legislative Session has been very busy. From advocating for a dental benefit for all Kansas Medicaid beneficiaries, to getting children who are eligible to be seen by ECP hygienists in schools actually seen by the ECP hygienists, as well as expanding and strengthening the dental workforce in Kansas, and many more. For a 2011 Legislative Session Summary [CLICK HERE](#). Copies of the testimony presented by Oral Health Kansas throughout this Legislative Session are available on our website under the Legislative Alerts section.

Champions Project

Next week the Delta Dental of Kansas Foundation will launch a "Champions Project." Through this project, people will have the chance to help a few organizations

KDHE Bureau of Oral Health Loan Repayment Program

The KDHE Bureau of Oral Health announces that applications are currently being accepted for their loan repayment program designed to provide loan repayment assistance for clinicians practicing in underserved areas or to underserved populations who would not qualify for other types of assistance (i.e., National Health Service Corps or State Loan Repayment). Clinicians receive assistance on a prorated scale starting at a minimum of 16 hours per week working at an eligible site. Dentists and dental hygienists are eligible. A one year commitment is required and funding is not guaranteed beyond one year.

Funding is limited and applications will be accepted through April 15, 2011.

For more information and to submit an application please [CLICK HERE](#) or contact Daniel Lassley at dlassley@kdheks.gov or (785) 296-1314.

11th Kansas Non-Traditional Occupations Statewide Scholarship Competition

Kansas Non-Traditional Occupations Scholarship is a statewide competition to award scholarships to high school and community college students interested in gender non-traditional occupations. Those are defined as occupations or fields of work for which individuals from one gender comprise less than 25% of the individuals employed.

Eligible applicants include college students and high school seniors who are currently enrolled or will be enrolled in a gender nontraditional career technical education program. More information and an application [CLICK HERE](#)

Applicant ideas include:
Kansas female students interested in becoming a dentist
Kansas male students interested in becoming a dental

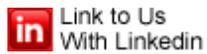
compete for small, one-time grants. Watch for details about how you can support Oral Health Kansas's grant proposal!

assistant or dental hygienist

The application deadline is April 1, 2011.

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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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