



# ORAL HEALTH KANSAS

ADVOCACY • PUBLIC AWARENESS • EDUCATION

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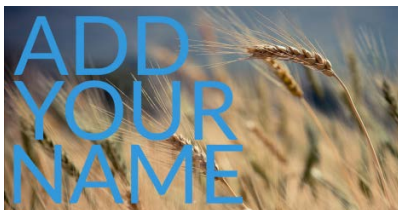
March 18, 2015

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## Advocate for Medicaid expansion in Kansas

Help advocate for Medicaid expansion in Kansas by **signing this petition** from ChangeKansas.



## Join In: WSU Dental Day

Wichita State University Advanced Education in General Dentistry

## Scores gather to push Medicaid Expansion

The House Health and Human Services Committee saw a record large crowd assemble today for the first of two days of hearings on Medicaid Expansion in Kansas. Over 170 people and organizations, including Oral Health Kansas, **submitted testimony** in favor of expanding the state's Medicaid program known as KanCare.

The Affordable Care Act allows states to expand their Medicaid programs to cover adults with incomes of up to 138 percent of the federal poverty level. Currently, low-income adults without children do not qualify for KanCare at all. Only adults with disabilities, who are elderly, or who are pregnant qualify for Medicaid. As many as 151,000 Kansans would be able to access health and dental care through KanCare if Kansas expands Medicaid. These adults, by and large, are the working poor - they work in food service, as CNAs, or in janitorial positions. They probably make minimum wage or a bit more, and that is not enough to pay for private health insurance in addition to basic living expenses.

If the Governor and the Legislature approve Medicaid Expansion, nearly half of the state's uninsured adults will be covered by KanCare. They also will have access to the KanCare preventive dental benefit, which is helping more Kansans than ever address their oral

Program is hosting a Dental Day for students interested in a career in dentistry. Dental Day is a great opportunity for students to gain hands-on experience in the field of dentistry and dental hygiene. This camp is geared toward high school students interested in the field of dentistry, including dental hygiene and dental assisting.



This program will be held Friday, June 26, and registration closes June 1st or until all spots are filled. Find out more about this opportunity at the [Dental Day website!](#)

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## Children's Dental Health Grant Opportunity

The [ADA Foundation](#) is accepting applications for the Samuel D. Harris Fund for Children's Dental Health. The grant program is named for noted pediatric dentist and philanthropist Dr. Samuel D. Harris who passed away in 2003 and is designed to bestow grants on organizations dedicated to

health needs.

The Kansas Hospital Association estimates \$3 billion would be injected into the state's economy and as many as 4,000 jobs created through expansion. Oral Health Kansas believes expanding KanCare is the right thing to do for Kansans and for our economy.

Please consider urging your legislators to support Medicaid Expansion and extend preventive dental care to low-income Kansans. Visit [www.openkansas.org](http://www.openkansas.org) to find your legislators and their contact information. Or, [contact Oral Health Kansas](#) for details about how to contact them.



A large crowd gathered for the House Health and Human Services Committee's hearing on Medicaid Expansion

## All Smiles at Valeo Ribbon Cutting

OHK staff attended a ribbon cutting and open house today to welcome new oral health services to Valeo Behavioral Health Services in Topeka. Healthy Smiles Dental Hygiene Clinic (an outreach program from Community Health Ministry, Wamego) will provide assessment and preventive dental services to Valeo consumers who are enrolled in their Health Home Initiative.

This collaborative effort assists people with severe mental illness in accessing needed dental services and managing dental anxiety. This project is funded in part by Topeka Community Foundation and Oral Health Kansas. Kathy Hunt and Krista Hahn of

fighting children's dental disease.for prenatal and postnatal oral health instruction for agencies that sponsor new parents and caregivers to reduce the incidence of early childhood caries. There will be 23 grants available of up to \$5000 each. The grant deadline is April 10th. This grant and other grants can be viewed [here](#).

## ADA Foundation®

Charitable Assistance | Access to Care | Research | Education

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## Traveling Sugary Drink Display

Don't forget to reserve our traveling sugary drink display for your event! Our display shows how much sugar is in a variety of your favorite drinks, emphasizing which drinks are good and bad for you.



This display is completely free, and return shipping costs are reimbursed by Oral Health Kansas. Learn more [on our website](#) and [email Sarah](#) if you are interested in hosting the display!

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Community Health Ministry both played an instrumental role in bringing these services to Valeo. For more information about the program, please contact Stacey Forgy (785-215-8872) at Valeo or Krista Hahn (785.456.7872) at Community Health Ministry.



## CMS Announces Special Enrollment Period for Tax Season

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced a special enrollment period (SEP) for individuals and families who did not have health coverage in 2014 and are subject to the fee or "shared responsibility payment" when they file their 2014 taxes in states which use the Federally-facilitated Marketplaces (FFM). This special enrollment period will allow those individuals and families who were unaware or didn't understand the implications of this new requirement to enroll in 2015 health insurance coverage through the FFM. This period of enrollment began March 15 and goes through April 30, 2015.

Kansans who want to find a Navigator or other assister in their area, can visit [www.insureks.org](http://www.insureks.org). These Cover Kansas Navigators have completed training with CMS, passed background checks and are available at trusted community organizations around our state.

Check out [this flyer from Cover Kansas](#) for more information and to see who is eligible for this enrollment period.

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