



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 20, 2019

Volume 10, Issue 12



Continued Advocacy Efforts To Increase Medicaid Dental Reimbursement Rates

Last week, both the House Appropriations and Senate Ways and Means approved an increase in reimbursement rates for dental providers enrolled in KanCare. House Appropriations approved \$1.3 million from the state general fund for dental rates, and Senate Ways and Means approved an

increase in reimbursement rates to 50% resulting in around \$2.8 million from the state general fund. Senate Ways and Means has passed the budget out of their committee, including the increased dental rates and it will head to the full Senate in the next couple weeks. House Appropriations is expected to pass the budget out of committee this week before it will head to the full House. Be on the lookout for advocacy alerts over the next couple months to ensure this makes it into the final 2020 budget!



Join Call On Prescribing Pain Medications

Project Echo is hosting a series of calls to address prescribing medication to pain patients. Project ECHO (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes) uses free web-based video conferencing technology to mentor. The University of Kansas Medical Center brings you Project ECHO, a tele-mentoring program to offer you additional educational resources to help care for your patients with chronic conditions.

This opportunity provides discussion on what to do with pain patients, scenarios that may occur and learn from the Interdisciplinary Team. It helps you become part of a community, share expertise across a network and determine when to use opioids.

For more information, download the flyer [here](#).



Coming Up! Advocacy Update Call

Our next series of Advocacy Update Calls is Friday, March 22 at 12pm-12:30pm CST. Our Policy Director, Christi Nance has an abundance of information to provide you from the legislative session these past two weeks.

This is a perfect opportunity for you to learn more about what has been going on at the Capitol and ask questions that you may not have had the opportunity to do so. Anyone can join! Get a group of your coworkers to listen in during your lunch. Click [here](#) to sign up!



Where Does Your County Rank?

The 2019 County Health Rankings were released yesterday, by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) and the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute (UWPHI). The [Kansas 2019 County Health Rankings Report](#) ranks all counties in Kansas and provides an overview of how the rankings are determined. In addition, the Kansas Health Institute has developed [individualized data sheets](#) for each Kansas county. The Rankings are made up of two summary scores: Health Factors (which measure issues that can shape the health outcomes) and Health Outcomes (which measure length and quality of life).

According to the 2019 Rankings, the five healthiest counties in Kansas, starting with the most healthy, are Johnson County, followed by Nemaha County, Pottawatomie County, Wabaunsee County and Riley County.



Motivational Interviewing For Dental Professionals

Dentists are considering a new approach to improve oral health practices among the public: motivational interviewing. University at Buffalo researchers have received a new \$438,000 grant to develop the first online intervention based on motivational interviewing. In a previous study, investigators tested the ability of motivational interviewing to improve brushing and flossing habits in dental patients who suffered from alcohol abuse. The project's success led to the development of an intervention training manual for dental professionals.

Read more about this story [here](#).



The kick off day for Dental Champions Class 9 is Friday, March 22. We are excited to have Teresa Schwab as the program facilitator. In 2003, Teresa helped found Oral Health Kansas (OHK) and began serving as the first Executive

Director. She currently is a trainer through Ad Astra Coach Alliance and is a coach at the Kansas Leadership Center. Teresa understands the history of OHK and we are thrilled to have her knowledge guide Class 9.



Reserve A Sugary Drink Display

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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