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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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HB 2631 Passed by the Senate

On March 20, the Senate passed [HB 2631](#) on a vote of 39-0. This bill includes a proposal for an Extended Care Permit (ECP) III. 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. The bill was amended in the Senate to include a few new provisions, including a requirement that the ECP III hygienist shall notify the patient or the patient's parent or guardian of the patient's need for treatment by a dentist when the ECP III finds an apparent need for further evaluation and diagnosis.

HB 2631 has moved back to the House of Representatives for consideration. The House may either concur in the Senate amendments or request a conference committee be appointed. Watch [Oral Health Kansas' Facebook page](#) for updates on this bill.

Oral Health in the News

Over the last month there has been an incredible amount of national, state and local media attention on the challenges of oral health. Today we present you with a round-up of many of the stories we have been following. This list is in no way

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**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.



**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**

designed to be comprehensive and focuses primarily on stories about oral health awareness.

We frequently post links to articles on our Facebook page. "Like" us on [Facebook](#) to keep up with all the latest news.



New Oral Health Caucus in the Kansas Legislature

- [Kansas Health Institute](#)
- [Kaiser Health News](#): click on "State Highlights: Iowa Advocates Seeking Better Services for Disabled"
- [Lawrence Journal-World](#)

"Truth About Teeth" Campaign by the Kansas Health Foundation

- [Wichita Eagle](#)
- [Lawrence Journal-World Editorial](#)
- [McPherson Sentinel](#)
- [Topeka Capitol-Journal](#)

Dental-Related Emergency Room Visits

- [Kansas Health Institute](#)
- [Lawrence Journal-World's Wellcommons](#)
- [KMBC TV](#)

Preschoolers in Surgery for a Mouthful of Cavities

- [New York Time](#)
- [MSNBC](#)

U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders: Dental Crisis in America

- [The Nation](#)

2012 Kansas Mission of Mercy

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 HERE](#)

Motivational Interviewing: Changing Oral Health Behaviors to Keep Kids Cavity Free

This one-hour presentation **Friday, March 30, 2012 from 10am-11am CDT** Led by Steve Brazill, a noted Motivational Interviewing expert, will provide you with an overview of this very successful strategy. We are sure this taste of MI will inspire you to want learn more so later this year we will offer a one-day workshop that will give you the opportunity to practice the techniques with your colleagues so that you can feel confident right from the start.

Space is limited, reserve your spot [HERE](#)

Did You Know???

Children smile about 400 times a day

Women smile 62 times a day

Men smile 8 times a day

- [Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City](#)

2nd Anniversary of the Affordable Care Act & A Supreme Court Challenge

Friday, March 23 will mark the second anniversary of the Affordable Care Act. This anniversary will be followed immediately on March 26 by a Supreme Court hearing on the constitutionality of the law.

Besides eliminating pre-existing conditions and allowing children to stay on their parents' insurance longer, the Affordable Care Act (ACA) provides a dental benefit for all American children. Just last week the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services issued the final rule on the Establishment of Exchanges and Qualified Health Plans. The final rule creates the parity advocates have sought in implementing the pediatric dental benefit guaranteed under the ACA.

Thanks to our friends at the [Children's Dental Health Project](#) for the following analysis of the new rule:

In response to comments from advocates related to parity in pediatric dental benefits, the final HHS rule clarifies that families will have the same level of consumer protections, affordability standards, and access to pediatric dental coverage whether they purchase that coverage from a stand-alone dental plan or a qualified health plan.



Specifically, this rule will:

- Apply the same cost-sharing limits and restrictions on annual and lifetime limits to stand-alone dental plans as are applied to qualified health plans;
- Require stand-alone dental plans to offer child-only plans in the Exchanges;
- Require the Exchange to ensure that participating dental plans have the provider network capacity to

on average.





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- offer sufficient access to all eligible children;
- Require that stand-alone dental plans comply with all certification standards for qualified health plans except for those related to services other than pediatric oral health care;
- And direct the Exchanges to collect rate information on pediatric dental benefits for the purposes of determining advance payments of the premium tax credit.

If implemented as outlined in the rule, these provisions stand to greatly improve dental coverage in terms of access, affordability and quality for families in the Exchanges, regardless of how they get their coverage. [CLICK HERE](#) for the full text of the rule.

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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