

ORAL HEALTH KANSAS

ADVOCACY • PUBLIC AWARENESS • EDUCATION

Volume 9, Issue 13

March 21, 2018

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Thank you to Brian Smith for his service on the Oral Health Kansas Board of Directors for the last five years, including two great years as the board chair. Brian concluded his board service this year, but he remains an important partner and member of the Dental Champions Advisory Board. Oral Health Kansas is better for his leadership, and we are grateful for him.

Make Your Voice Heard!

Tomorrow is a big day for oral health policy and we need YOUR help! Every voice makes a difference!

Tobacco Tax

Last Thursday, March 15th, the House Taxation Committee held a hearing on HB 2231. [HB 2231](#) would increase the cigarette tax by \$1.50, raise the other tobacco product tax from 10% of the wholesale price to 65%, and develop a tobacco prevention and cessation fund. The last time the tax rate on these products was addressed in Kansas was in 1972 when the tax was originated. This tax increase is long-overdue. An identical bill to HB 2231, [SB 376](#), will have a hearing in Senate Assessment and Taxation tomorrow morning at 9:30AM.

What can you do to help?

- Contact legislators on the [House Taxation Committee](#) and the [Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee](#) and encourage their support of increased tobacco tax.



Dr. Brian Smith is the Superintendent at the Galena School District and was in the third Dental Champions Class.

Haysville USD 261 Thirsty for Health Assessment Has Begun!

Water Access Manager, Kelly Rippel toured all ten participating school buildings within Haysville USD 261, and delivered a drink display of their own and Sippy FatHead™ wall decals for each location. During the walk-through with district nurses, all water access points were evaluated.



The information gathered will be formulated into an action plan for making future decisions by administration. This proven method of school assessment has been developed over the course of [Thirsty for Health](#), and

- Legislators are hearing opposition from lobbyists representing tobacco companies and retailers. It's important they hear from you about the enormous health benefits of a significant tobacco tax increase.
- Informational documents found [here](#) and [here](#).
- Support in-person at the Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee hearing on Thursday, 3/15 at 9:30 AM in 548 - S.
- Attend the Dollars and Sense 4 KS Coalition Advocacy Day on Tuesday, April 3rd.
 - Sign up [here](#).

Dental Therapists

Last Wednesday, March 14th, the House Health and Human Services Committee held a hearing on [SB 312](#), which would establish dental therapists in Kansas. We anticipate committee members will vote on Senate Bill 312 tomorrow at 1:30 PM. They need to hear from you before they work the bill.

What can you do to help?

- Utilize this [action alert](#) system to email your state representative now. It takes less than a minute and can make a huge difference!
- Contact legislators on the House Health and Human Services Committee and express your support of SB 312 by utilizing these [talking points](#).

If you have any questions, reach out to

will be detailed in the finalized toolkit - coming later in 2018!



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. We also include some of our [Tips and Tricks](#) fact sheets and brush your teeth mirror clings! The **display is free** to use for up to a month, and we reimburse postage! Need it for just a one day event? That's ok too! We have people reserve the drink display for health fairs and even parent teacher conferences.



Send your reservation request ahead of time to ensure you will have one on hold! [Fill out this form](#) and we'll get back with you!

Christi at cnance@oralhealthkansas.org.

KDHE Screens Children For 2018 Smiles Across Kansas

Last week, the [Kansas Bureau of Health Promotion](#) took another important step on their way to launching the 2018 Smiles Across Kansas survey. This basic screening survey, last done in 2012, is a statewide, nationally recognized oral health surveillance of children's oral health. The team of 3 hygienists offered dental screenings for children at the Adams street Boys and Girls club in Topeka. This event provided an opportunity for the screeners to calibrate their findings to ensure the integrity of the data they will be collecting on 3rd graders from select schools across the state.



Right picture: Kathy Hunt with Oral Health Kansas, Michelle Mieses, KDHE Bureau of Health Promotion

Left picture: Julie Martin, Wichita State University, Laura Gigstad, Heartland Community Health Center, Lawrence, Kathy Hunt, Oral Health Kansas

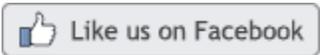


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In addition to oral health status, information will also be collected about access to care, frequency of dental visits, and dental insurance status. These results will be published in 2019 along with recommendations of what Kansas should do in the future to ensure better oral health for Kansas children.



Laura Gigstad, Heartland Community Health Center, Lawrence, Kathy Hunt, Oral Health Kansas, Julie Martin, Wichita State University and Dr. Cathleen Taylor-Osborne, KDHE Bureau of Health Promotion

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