



ORAL HEALTH KANSAS

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In This Issue

[Last week marked Kevin Robertson's 20th anniversary](#)
[Latino children have a higher percentage of untreated dental caries](#)
[Tobacco Treatment Specialist Training](#)
[Join the KanCare Adult Dental Coalition](#)



Last week marked Kevin Robertson's 20th anniversary as the executive director for the [Kansas Dental Association](#). He joined the KDA in November 1997.

Kevin has a passion for the oral health of older adults, and he co-founded a group called Promoting Oral Health of Elderly Kansans several years ago in order to ensure stakeholders focus on this important

Join the KanCare Adult Dental Coalition

This week Oral Health Kansas is launching a new coalition to advocate for a comprehensive adult dental benefits in the Kansas Medicaid program known as KanCare. This new KanCare Adult Dental Coalition offers advocacy, health, and other organizations the opportunity to join a growing chorus calling for full dental benefits to be offered to low-income adults through Medicaid. Coalition members will have access to talking points they can use when talking with stakeholders, legislators, managed care organizations, and other policymakers about the value of dental benefits for all people enrolled in KanCare.

[Learn more about the new coalition and sign on to join today!](#) Contact us at info@oralhealthkansas.org if you have any questions.

population. Kevin helped create the Kansas Mission of Mercy event, the KIND loan repayment program for new dentists, and countless policies and laws that have improved oral health care delivery for Kansans.

Kevin has served on the Oral Health Kansas board of directors since 2003, and he was a member of the first Dental Champions. Congratulations on this milestone anniversary!



Latino children have a higher percentage of untreated dental caries

A higher proportion of Hispanic children in the U.S. ages 2 to 8 have untreated dental caries in their primary teeth compared with non-Hispanic white children

Researchers conducted focus groups with Latino parents to explore factors that influence the oral health of their children and develop strategies for improving it. Their findings were [released](#) in March 2017. Click [here](#) to find out what their results showed!



Senate holds Medicaid expansion hearings

This week, the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee held two days of hearings on [HB 2044](#), which is the bill that would expand the Kansas Medicaid program. The bill passed the House in February by a vote of 81 to 44.

The hearings were similar to those held in the House earlier this year, and over 100 individuals and organizations, including Oral Health Kansas, provided testimony in favor of Medicaid expansion once again. A physician from Dodge City gave a powerful testimonial about the importance of expanding coverage to more low-income Kansans. He said he does everything he can to help as many as 30 or 40 people in his office each day, but the members of the Committee would be able to help 150,000 people simply by passing the bill.

Former Senate President and Ways and Means Chair Dave Kerr was among the conferees assuring that expanding Medicaid to as many as 150,000 uninsured working adults will more than



Tobacco Treatment Specialist Training

The University of Kansas Medical Center is partnering with Shawnee County Health Department to bring the highly reputable Tobacco Treatment Specialist (TTS) training.

The training is an intensive 3 ½ day, evidence-based training program designed for persons who deliver moderate to intensive tobacco treatment services.

For more information or to sign up, click [here!](#)



Reserve a sugary drink display

Do you have an event coming up? Do you want to teach families about sugary beverages? Reserve a sugary drink display even if its just for a one day event! Reserving yours ahead of time is crucial. [Sign up now!](#)

pay for itself. Wichita Regional Chamber of Commerce CEO Gary Plummer told Committee members that passing Medicaid expansion represents pro-growth economic policy for the Wichita area and the state.

The Public Health and Welfare Committee is set to vote on the bill later this week. The Kansas Legislature is considering Medicaid expansion at the same time Congress is considering legislation that would repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act. The federal legislation has changed from last week to this week, and it is likely to continue to change as it moves through the legislative process. The proposed replacement legislation includes a plan to dramatically change the Medicaid program and to possibly eliminate Medicaid expansion for the states. Read more about the Medicaid expansion hearings this week from [Kansas Public Radio](#) and [Kansas News Service](#). [Families USA developed an analysis](#) of the proposed federal repeal and replace legislation. The US House of Representatives may vote on the bill early next week. The [Children's Dental Health Project provides this toolkit](#) for advocates to share the reasons Medicaid coverage of dental services is critically important. Contact your House member by calling 1-866-426-2631.

Our sugary drink display contains 10 popular beverages and shows how much sugar is in each. The display is free to use, up to a month and we reimburse postage.



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OHK to host community forums on oral health issues

Oral Health Kansas is scheduling a series of community forums around the state in April. We would like to listen to local partners and stakeholders who share our interest in oral health issues. The forums also will provide a chance to hear an update on state-level oral health advocacy and education activities. All are welcome to attend.

Dates and locations of the community forums follow. An invitation with additional details will be available soon.

Johnson County - Central Library - 9875 West 87th Street, Overland Park - Thursday, April 13th at 9am

Colby - Colby Community College Student Union, Room #106 - Tuesday, April 18th at 2pm

Wichita - Central Library - 223 South



[View on Instagram](#)

Main Street - Wednesday, April 19th at 1pm

Topeka - Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library - 1515 SW 10th Avenue - Wednesday, April 20th at 10am

Garden City - St. Catherine's Hospital - 401 East Spruce Street - Thursday, April 27th at 6pm

We hope that you will take the time to join us and contribute to the conversation about the importance of oral health.

Contact Doug Bowman if you have any questions at 785-235-6039 or dbowman@oralhealthkansas.org

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