



ORAL HEALTH KANSAS

ADVOCACY • PUBLIC AWARENESS • EDUCATION

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In This Issue

[Delta Dental grants open](#)
[Soda at dinner??](#)
[HHS oral health goals](#)
[Fluoridation stats released](#)

Dental Champions Corner

Dr. Lisa Thurlow (Class VII), has been elected to the Board of Directors for the REACH Healthcare Foundation. REACH is a foundation dedicated to improving the health and oral health of underserved people in Kansas and Missouri. Dr. Thurlow is in private practice in Johnson County and is the Clinical Director for the Dental Hygiene Program at Concorde Career College.

Oral Health Kansas is at the Kansas Rural Water conference

The [Kansas Rural Water Association](#) is celebrating 50 years at their annual conference in Wichita this week, with a theme of "Quality Water Made In Kansas."

Oral Health Kansas' Water Access Manager, Kelly Rippel, is attending this year's event. Kelly is providing attendees with information about Oral Health Kansas, as well as the value of community water fluoridation. On the first day, over 100 people who were interested in learning more stopped by our exhibit. Stay tuned next week to find out updates on the conference!



Congratulations, Lisa!



Grant Opportunity!

Delta Dental of Kansas has announced its 2016 grant cycle for the Community Dental Health Grants Program. All applications must be submitted by April 15, 2016. For more information [visit Delta's website](#).



Soda at dinner

A [blog](#) post highlights a busy mom, who understands sometimes you have to take your child out to eat. Some restaurants only offer soda as a beverage. Do we continue to take our children to those restaurants or seek out the ones that offer a "better" option?



No Medicaid



HHS sets new oral health goals

This month, the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) released a new [Oral Health Strategic Framework](#), which is designed to demonstrate how oral health priorities and activities can and should be aligned across multiple federal agencies. The Framework includes five major goals, which align closely with those of the DentaQuest Foundation's [Oral Health 2020 initiative](#). The goal areas recognize the intricate relationship between oral health and overall health and the importance of maintaining both:

1. Integrate oral health and primary health care.
2. Prevent disease and promote oral health.
3. Increase access to oral health care and eliminate disparities.
4. Increase the dissemination of oral health information and improve health literacy.
5. Advance oral health in public policy

expansion means over \$1 billion left on the table

Former state budget director and legislator Duane Goossen shared a [commentary today on Kansas Public Radio](#) about the state's inaction on Medicaid expansion. The state of Kansas has forfeited more than a billion dollars in federal funding by refusing to expand Medicaid coverage. Most states have already increased eligibility for the federal program. If Kansas expanded our Medicaid program, more than 100,000 uninsured people would have health insurance.

Learn more about Medicaid expansion in Kansas through the "[Bridge to a Healthy Kansas](#)" coalition.



Sugary Drink Display

The drink display has been used as an educational resource at schools, dental offices and fairs, to show parents and kiddos how much sugar is in popular drinks. Chocolate milk, as shown below, has **12 teaspoons** of sugar in a 14 oz bottle. Hard to believe until you see it!

and research.

Strategies within the goal areas include many of Oral Health Kansas' priorities: education for underserved populations; expansion of community water fluoridation; funding for preventive oral health services; strengthening partnerships with aging, early childhood, and other service systems; and improving Medicaid dental service policies.

The national focus for oral health programs, education and policy from the federal government and from national funders clearly indicate we are coming together as a country to ensure all people have equitable access to good oral health. The HHS report points out, "Total health and wellness cannot exist without oral health, and the two are closely linked." The report builds on the 2000 Surgeon General's report identifying oral disease as a "silent epidemic." Learn more about the specific strategies outlined by the Department of Health and Human Services in their new [Framework](#).



Water fluoridation statistics released

This week, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released [2014 Water Fluoridation](#)



Reserve a spot to use our sugary drink display! The display will have popular drinks as the one above. Each drink comes with a description of how much sugar is in the bottle. Shipping costs are reimbursed when you return it to us. [Email us](#) to reserve a spot!



ORAL HEALTH KANSAS

800 SW Jackson, Suite 1120
Topeka, Kansas 66612
785-235-6039

info@oralhealthkansas.org

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[Statistics](#). Statistics show that 67.2% of the US population are receiving fluoridated water. Just since 2012, the number of Americans accessing fluoridated water grew by more than 3.5 million. In Kansas, 1,716,415 persons receive fluoridated water. [In 2012, Kansas was still ranked as one of the lowest in the percentage of its population with optimally fluoridated water.](#)

Community water fluoridation has been identified as the most cost-effective method of providing fluoride to all members of the community, regardless of age, educational attainment, or income level. [According to the CDC](#), drinking fluoridated water keeps the teeth strong and reduces tooth decay by approximately 25% in children and adults. By preventing tooth decay, community water fluoridation has been shown to save money, both for families and the health care system. Because of its contribution to the dramatic decline in tooth decay over the past 70 years, CDC named [CWF 1 of 10 great public health achievements of the 20th century.](#)



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Oral Health Kansas, 800 SW Jackson, Ste. 1120, Topeka, KS 66612

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