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FDA Warns Against Spinbrush, Potentially Harmful to Users

Last Thursday the U.S. Food and Drug Administration issued a warning about the battery-powered Arm & Hammer Spinbrush after receiving reports of parts of the toothbrush breaking off, resulting in chipped or broken teeth, choking hazards, cut gums, and injuries to face and eyes. The FDA is particularly concerned about the potential risk towards children using the Spinbrush. While battery-operated brushes are extremely effective in removing plaque, parents should always supervise children while brushing and consumers should avoid extended usage of the Spinbrush and always check for loose or broken parts before use. For more information read the [full article](#) or the [FDA warning](#).



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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

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

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.



Medicaid and Managed Care Summit

On March 5 the Kansas Health Consumer Coalition sponsored a summit on Medicaid and Managed Care. The summit was designed to implications of the Governor's plan to transform the Kansas Medicaid program into a managed care system. All populations and services in the Kansas Medicaid program will be transitioned to managed care in January 2013. Last month bids on KanCare from five managed care companies were submitted to the administration, and three winning managed care organizations (MCOs) are scheduled to be announced in June.

The summit featured addresses from Joan Alker at the Georgetown University Center for Children and Families and Executive Director of Kentucky Voices for Health Jodi Mitchell. The two addressed the experience of other states in a transition to managed care. They were joined in the afternoon by Jean Hall of the KU Institute for Health and Disability Policy Studies and Scott Brunner of the Kansas Health Institute. Hall and Brunner discussed the current Medicaid program and fielded questions from the crowd of over 100 people. The panelists described the rapid transition to managed care as ambitious and warned that the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services does not have a history of quickly approving the waivers necessary to implement a systems overhaul like KanCare.

Oral Health Kansas participated in the planning efforts for the

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](#)

Give Kids a Smile

Give Kids a Smile (GKAS) is a volunteer program that dentists, dental hygienists, nurses, dental & hygiene students, and community volunteers put on at GraceMed Clinic to serve the children ages 3-10 who do not have Dental Insurance & live in Sedgwick County or Wichita. It is similar to Kansas Mission of Mercy (KMOM). Services to the children include exams, teeth cleaning, fluoride varnish, fillings, extractions, etc. The work is completed if possible but some dentists will choose to extend free services for the child to have it completed or additional dental work done in their own office.

Appointments are required & there is an English phone number & a Spanish phone number to call.

316-350-5442 for ENGLISH
or
316-554-4165 for SPANISH

When
Saturday, March 10th,
2012
7:30am - 3:30pm

Where
GraceMed Clinic
1122 North Topeka
Wichita, KS 67214

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summit and have talked with the managed care companies bidding on the KanCare proposal about the importance of including dental services for adults in the value-added services they offer their members. The existing dental services for children will be a part of the transition to managed care.

Detailed accounts of the meeting were prepared by the Kansas Health Institute news service:

[Kancare Concerns Voiced at Forum](#)

[Brownback Medicaid makeover an "ambitious" plan](#)

[New Medicaid Waiver Process Stipulates Public Meeting and Comment](#)

National Media Attention on the Problem of Early Childhood Caries

On March 6, the front page of the New York Times featured a story entitled "Rise in Preschool Cavities Prompts Anesthesia Use" [The Wichita Eagle](#) featured the same story on their front page, and the [NBC Nightly News featured the story](#).

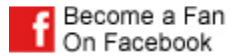
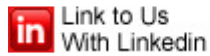
The story is not news to oral health advocates and dental professionals, but it does highlight the importance of teaching parents how to take good care of the children's teeth. If you have stories about childhood dental neglect or success in early childhood caries prevention, please share them with us [HERE](#).

Did You Know???

An estimated 75% of Americans reportedly have some form of periodontal disease."

(The American Dental Hygienists' Association)

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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