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**Subject:** Oral Health Kansas Weekly Wednesday Update



**ORAL HEALTH KANSAS**  
*Weekly Wednesday Update*

*Our Mission:  
To improve oral health  
in Kansas through  
advocacy,  
public awareness  
and education.*

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**Give Kids a  
Smile**

Last weekend the  
Wichita-Sedgwick  
County Oral  
HealthCoalition  
sponsored their 4th

**Legislative Update**

This week the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee held hearings on SB 192, the Registered Dental Practitioner bill. The hearings were similar to those held in the House Health and Human Services Committee on February 17. The conclusion of the hearings this week means the major dental provider bills (Registered Dental Practitioner and ECP III) in the Legislature this year have received hearings. At this writing, it is unclear what will happen next with the bills. Oral Health Kansas will be watching closely to see whether either committee takes action on the bills.

Also this week, the last of the budget hearings on which Oral Health Kansas testified was held. Throughout February and March OHK testified on the budgets of the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services, Department on Aging, and Health Policy Authority. The budget reports on Aging and the Health Policy Authority include recommendations from Committee members to study the cost effectiveness of adding an adult dental benefit to the Kansas Medicaid program. OHK looks forward to the opportunity to work with the Budget Committees to continue to talk about the benefits to the state and to Kansans of providing dental coverage for all Medicaid enrollees.

annual Give Kids a Smile event. The event is a free clinic for kids between 3 and 10 years old whose parents are un-employed or have no access to insurance who live in the Wichita and Sedgwick County area. The clinic provided nearly 250 children with much-needed dental care. The program relies mostly on grants, donations, and volunteers. Congratulations to the coalition in Wichita!

## Champions Project

Next week the Delta Dental of Kansas Foundation will launch a "Champions Project." Through this project, people will have the chance to help a few organizations compete for small, one-time grants. Watch for details about how you can support Oral Health Kansas's grant proposal!

## State Exchange Planning

Over the last two weeks the Kansas Insurance Department has launched a series of Kansas Health Insurance Exchange Planning Work Groups. Insurance Commissioner Sandy Praeger has appointed eight working groups that will help design and plan for the Kansas Health Insurance Exchange. The working groups cover a breadth of topics:

- Focus/Business Operation Issues
- Governance/Legal/Legislative
- Background Research
- Consumer Outreach/Education/Information
- Insurance Market Issues
- Funding/Financial
- Agents/Brokers/Navigators
- Medicaid Integration and Interagency Communications

The chairs of each working group, along with several other stakeholders will make up a Steering Committee, which will receive reports from each working group and synthesize them into a set of recommendations to the Insurance Commissioner. Oral Health Kansas is pleased to be at the table for the Focus/Business Operation Issues group and the Agents/Brokers/Navigators group. The first group has a long list of duties, among them designing the benefit plan(s) that will be offered under the State Exchange. The second group will address the role of Navigators, which were created in the Affordable Care Act to be independent third parties who can help Kansas residents navigate the health insurance options and choose one to meet their individual needs. OHK also is pleased to serve on the Steering Committee. Participation at the Steering Committee level, as well as on the two work groups, ensures an oral health perspective will be shared at every available turn.

## Second Dental School to Open in Missouri

ATSU announced in February that they will move forward with a new dental program in Missouri. The A.T. Still University Board approved an extension of its Arizona-based dental program in Kirksville, Missouri, that could have its first class of 45 students start in 2013. Dr. Carl Bynum, Chair of the ATSU Board of Trustees made the

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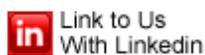
following announcement: "The A.T. Still University Board of Trustees unanimously supports bringing a branch of ATSU's Arizona School of Dentistry & Oral Health to the University's Kirksville campus. The Kirksville school will be a new branch campus of its existing Arizona-based school. Using the established and accredited curriculum and degree programs from Mesa, Arizona, (in which graduates leave with both doctor of dental medicine and master of public health degrees) would aid the local campus in its accreditation process.

The school will partner with community health centers across the state, including the Northeast Missouri Health Council which has plans to build a new dental care facility on the Kirksville campus that will work in conjunction with the dental program.

ATSU President Dr. Jack Magruder said the number of jobs to be created with the new school has not been determined, but that the project will have "significant" economic impact on the community.

Residents of Kirksville and surrounding areas have donated more than \$1 for support of establishing the dental program. Students will study in Kirksville for the first two years then rotate into training slots at locations around the state.

If you have an idea, story or suggestion for a Oral Health Kansas Weekly Wednesday Update please send an email to [jparnell@oralhealthkansas.org](mailto:jparnell@oralhealthkansas.org)



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