



ORAL HEALTH KANSAS

ADVOCACY • PUBLIC AWARENESS • EDUCATION

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In This Issue

[New Medicaid expansion website](#)

[National Nutrition Month](#)

[Drink Display](#)

[Protecting the CIF in Kansas](#)

Water Fluoridation featured in KLC Journal

The Kansas Leadership Center's latest Journal features the story of the successful 2014 water fluoridation campaign in Salina and features Dental Champion Allison Lesko (Class VII). [Read the issue](#) and learn more about the successful efforts to preserve community water fluoridation in our state.

New poll: 76% of Kansans support Medicaid expansion

The Kansas Hospital Association released a new poll this week showing that the majority of Kansans support expansion of the state's Medicaid program known as KanCare. Expanding KanCare would ensure that as many as 150,000 low-income Kansans would have health and limited dental coverage. The coverage would help individuals who make less than \$16,242 per year or families of four who make less than \$33,465 per year.

According to the poll, 62% of Kansans support Medicaid or KanCare expansion, and when they understand that the expansion proposal is revenue-neutral for the state, support for expansion increases to 76%.

Read more about the Kansas Hospital



New Medicaid expansion website launched

A new [website](#) to promote KanCare expansion, has been recently launched. The goal is to bring the voices of Kansans into this important policy discussion. Our elected officials need to hear from their constituents.

This new website called Alliance for a Healthy Kansas contains a wealth of information and resources about why expansion matters, as well as tools to help supporters urge their legislators to take action.



National Nutrition Month

March is National Nutrition Month. In honor, Oral Health America is raising awareness for the connection between school nutrition and oral health. Join their [Campaign for Oral Health Equity](#), to help lead the effort: oral health affects overall health. Let's work together to improve the quality of life for all.

Association poll and a bill introduced in the Kansas Legislature to expand Medicaid in the [KHI News Service March 7, 2016, story](#).



The Kansas Hospital Association's website has been tracking how much federal money has been forfeited by the state of Kansas since the Medicaid expansion opportunity began in January 2014. Kansas remains one of only 19 states that has not expanded Medicaid, and the amount of lost federal money for the state now tops \$1 billion.

OHK Joins Advocacy to Protect CIF

A bill being considered in the Kansas Senate would abolish the Children's Initiative Fund (CIF) and other dedicated funds and transfer the funds to the State General Fund. SB 463 moves all the money from the state's tobacco Master Settlement Agreement (MSA), as well as some lottery and highway funds



Reserve Sugary Drink Display Today!

March is National Nutrition Month. Reserve a sugary drink display to show kiddos and parents how much sugar is in their beverage of choice and how to make a healthier beverage choice.

Sign up before the slots are full!

The drink display is free for you to use. We can ship to anywhere in Kansas! Shipping costs are reimbursed when you return it to us. To reserve a drink display, [email us!](#)



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

permanently into the equivalent of the state checking account.

The MSA funds are not tax dollars. Rather, they are the result of a private settlement due to the state because of the serious health consequences related to tobacco use. Keeping these funds separate reminds lawmakers of the source and intended purpose of MSA proceeds, which is children's programming, including tobacco cessation and prevention services.

Oral Health Kansas joined the American Cancer Society - Cancer Action Network, American Heart Association, American Lunch Association, and Tobacco-Free Kansas Coalition [in providing testimony](#) urging the Senate Ways and Means Committee to keep the CIF dollars in place in order to ensure they continue to be used for their designated purposes.

During the SB 463 hearing, news was broken by Kansas Action for Children that state officials are considering selling the MSA future payments, totaling at least \$50 million per year, for a one-time settlement as a way to fill the significant state budget deficit.

Read more about the SB 463 hearing from the [KHI News Service](#), [KSNT News](#), and about a possible plan for the state to sell the MSA for a one-time settlement from the [Topeka Capitol-Journal](#).


info@oralhealthkansas.org

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

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