

From: Oral Health Kansas <jparnell@oralhealthkansas.org>
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To: jparnell@oralhealthkansas.org
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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Medicaid Expansion is a Sound Investment

This week Oral Health Kansas sent a [letter](#) to Governor Brownback urging him to expand the Medicaid program to cover an additional 100,000 low-income Kansas adults in 2014. The ACA offers states an unprecedented opportunity to provide health insurance for very low-income adults. Governor Brownback is considering the option to expand eligibility in Kansas.

This year preventive dental benefits became available to all adults on Medicaid, therefore Medicaid expansion would ensure tens of thousands more Kansans would have access to preventive dental services.

As reported in recent "Weekly Wednesday Updates," the Kansas Hospital Association estimates \$3 billion new dollars would enter the state's economy and 4,000 jobs would be created as a result of Medicaid expansion. Medicaid expansion offers the chance to make this significant investment in the state's economy. Oral Health Kansas sees the opportunity to reduce the number of uninsured Kansans as well as the chance to give the state's economy a major boost as a sound investment in the future of our state.

Also this week, the Kansas Health Consumer Coalition (KHCC) announced the formation of a new Medicaid Access Coalition,

Turnaround Update

Last week we shared news about Turnaround Day in the Kansas Legislature and the status of the legislation Oral Health Kansas is following. We did not provide the link to the update, though. Please visit our website to see the [Turnaround Update](#), and please contact Oral Health Kansas staff if you have any questions.



Get Oral Health Kansas news wherever you are! Be sure to find us on your favorite social media platform: [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#), or [Pinterest](#).

And be sure to share with your friends.

Dental Champions Corner

Dental Champions Class 1 alumnus and REACH Healthcare Foundation CEO Brenda Sharpe shared an open letter about Medicaid expansion this week.

which will advocate for Medicaid expansion. At a press conference on Monday, KHCC Executive Director Anna Lambertson said expanding Medicaid eligibility in Kansas will have a bigger impact than in other states, because our state's Medicaid eligibility requirements are among the lowest in the country. She pointed out the benefits of expansion lie beyond just providing health insurance to low-income adults, "When Kansans are able to access the health care they need, they live healthier, more productive lives."

Oral Health Kansas has joined this expansion coalition. A [full list of coalition members](#), is available on KHCC's website. Read more about the [press conference](#) in this article from the Kansas Health Institute.

KanCare Education Forums Rescheduled

During the recent winter storms, a few of the KanCare education forums planned by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment had to be cancelled. Some those forums now have been rescheduled.

Consumer education forums will be held in Hays on March 18 and Wichita on March 20 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. To learn more about those meetings, please visit the KanCare [website](#).

Provider education forums will be held in Hays on March 18, Dodge City on March 19 and Wichita on March 20 from 1:00 to 3:00 pm. To learn more about these events, please visit the KanCare [website](#).

SAVE THE DATE!

Join us in November to celebrate Oral Health Kansas' 10th anniversary at the:

2013 Oral Health Kansas Conference
Johnson County Community College
November 7-8, 2013

Traveling Drink Display

Currently the OHK traveling library drink displays are on display at the Pawnee County Library and the [Ashland Library](#).

If you are interested in having the drink display on display in your area, send an email to [Julie](#).

Read it [here](#).

Did You Know???

The Statue of Liberty's mouth is 3 feet wide.

[StarSmilez](#)

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