

From: Oral Health Kansas <jparnell@oralhealthkansas.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 06, 2013 4:50 PM
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.*

Volume 4, Issue 9

March 6, 2013

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Turnaround Day: Action on KanCare Oversight

Last Friday the Kansas Legislature wrapped up the first part of the 2013 Legislative Session with Turnaround Day, which is the traditional deadline for all bills from one chamber to pass over to the other chamber. Oral Health Kansas has prepared a summary of the legislative activity for this first part of the Session. (please put the Turnaround Update on our website)

One key bill Oral Health Kansas is following passed out of the House last week. Legislative oversight for the state's Medicaid program, known as KanCare, would be established through HB 2025. The bill passed the House of Representatives unanimously on March 1 and now will be considered by the Senate. The bill included amendments by the House Health and Human Services Committee to strengthen the committee's responsibilities. Oral Health Kansas had proposed adding a provision for the oversight committee to review Medicaid provider network data, and that provision was included in the version of the bill passed by the full House.

A similar bill was the final bill to be considered last year, but it did not pass. In honor of Rep. Bob Bethell, who championed the bill last year, the House named the oversight committee after him. Rep. Bethell was killed in a car accident shortly after the Legislative Session concluded in 2012. Oral Health Kansas' legislative advocacy award is named in his memory as well.

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And be sure to share with your friends.

Dental Champions Corner

Dental Champions were true to their titles when they came out in force to volunteer at KMOM last week in Wichita! At least 20% of the Dental Champions volunteered and helped plan the event. We look forward to having more Dental Champions at KMOM in Dodge City next year!

Weekly Wednesday Update

Support Medicaid Expansion

Recent Weekly Wednesday Update stories have highlighted Medicaid Expansion, including details about new a [Kansas Hospital Association](#) (KHA) economic impact study and public polling data on Medicaid expansion. The poll indicates the majority of Kansans support expanding the Medicaid program through the ACA to provide coverage to at least 100,000 low-income adults. KHA's economic impact study indicates that Medicaid expansion could create as many as 4,000 jobs for Kansans.

The Kansas Health Consumer Coalition (KHCC) is organizing Kansans to support Medicaid Expansion and encourage lawmakers to reject a resolution that opposes Medicaid Expansion, [HCR 5013](#). KHCC is seeking signatures on a petition to defeat HCR 5013. [Click here](#) to sign the petition and join growing numbers of Kansans who support extending health care coverage to 100,000 uninsured Kansans.

KMOM Celebrates 10 Years

On March 1-2, the Kansas Dental Charitable Foundation (KDCF) celebrated ten years of the Kansas Mission of Mercy (KMOM). This annual two-day event offers free dental care to anyone who needs it. Each year between 1,500 and 2,000 Kansans receive dental care worth about \$1 million. Most people who seek care do not have dental insurance and report that they are unable to afford dental care.

"You are a bright spot in the world right now," was the greeting Park City Mayor Emil Bergquist offered to the volunteers assembled at the Kansas Coliseum on Thursday evening for the 2013 Kansas Mission of Mercy. Mayor Bergquist told the volunteers they will give people their first bright smiles. "You will be a blessing to people over the next two days," he said.

On Thursday evening, February 28, volunteers gathered to prepare for the 2013 Kansas Mission of Mercy (KMOM) and celebrate the event's 10th anniversary. The first KMOM event was held on February 28, 2003, in Garden City and was the brainchild of Drs. Jon Tilton and Jeff Stasch. Tilton and Stasch had heard about the MOM concept in Virginia in 2002 and volunteered to take part in it. They knew the free dental clinic would help meet some of the pressing needs of underserved Kansans and wanted to learn how it worked. Over the last ten years, Kansas has staged twelve Missions of Mercy and provided over \$11 million in free dental care for thousands of Kansans.

Tilton explained that MOM events were never meant to be the solution, but they are a way to provide dental care for adults

Survey

Oral Health Kansas has been sharing regular updates through our Weekly Wednesday Updates. We hope you have found these to be valuable.

We would like to have your input as we plan our update topics for 2013.

Please take just a few moments to respond to a brief survey at www.surveymonkey.com

If you encounter any trouble with the survey, please let us know.

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](#).



Did You Know???

The average human produces 25,000 quarts of saliva in a lifetime. That is enough saliva to

who desperately need it. He pointed out that there are no Medicaid dental services for Kansas adults, which means KMOM is often the only solution available. "They (adult patients at KMOM) are very appreciative. These are folks who would not get care anywhere else. KMOM makes a difference in terms of relieving their pain and giving them self esteem."

Dr. Glenn Hemberger reminisced about how much the volunteers have learned over the last 10 years about providing a high quality experience for the 1,000 volunteers and 2,000 patients who participate in KMOM each year. He explained that KMOM organizers have learned the importance of details like providing breakfast for the patients who waited in line for hours or even days. One patient was so grateful for the services he received that he reached into his wallet as he left and gave his last \$20 to help with the project.

KMOM not only has helped provide dental care for thousands of Kansans, it also has lead to the creation of the Americas Dentists Care Foundation (ADCF), which is responsible for helping to coordinate MOM events in 26 states. ADCF Executive Director Bruce Bergstrom accompanied his wife, a dental hygienist, to volunteer for the first KMOM event in Garden City ten years ago. He helped with crowd control and met a young boy who did not have shoes, but wore five pairs of socks instead. When Bergstrom learned that five pairs of socks is the exchange rate for a pair of shoes, he was determined to dedicate his life to helping Kansans in poverty. He helped found ADCF, headquartered in Wichita, which now helps states set up their own MOM events. Through ADCF, 110,000 Americans have received over \$55 million in free dental care.

"Let's not forget how far we've come," Kansas Dental Association Executive Director Kevin Robertson told the 2013 KMOM volunteers. He described how the humble beginnings in Garden City ten years ago have led to the outstanding event KMOM has become, serving over 21,000 Kansans. Each year volunteers echo Robertson's sentiments, saying, "I can't wait for next year."

Today is National Dentist Day

Today is National Dentist Day and the staff at Oral Health Kansas would like to say thank you to all of our supporters and board members who are dentist and help maintain healthy mouths everyday.

Here are a few ideas to celebrate Nation Dentist Day:

- Get a dental checkup
- Send your dentist a thank-you card

fill 2 swimming pools!

[StarSmilez](#)

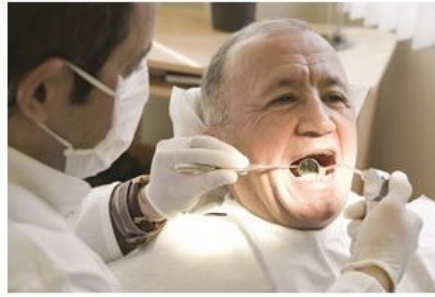
SAVE THE DATE!

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

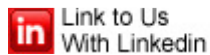
2013 Oral Health Kansas Conference
Johnson County Community College
November 7-8, 2013

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- Commit to better habits
- Raise awareness
- Smile



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