



ORAL HEALTH KANSAS

ADVOCACY • PUBLIC AWARENESS • EDUCATION

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Dental Champions Corner

The Dental Champions class met last week and began studying the history of water fluoridation in Kansas, as well as effective advocacy at the state and local levels. Several guest speakers provided background information for the class, and class members were treated to tours of the Topeka water treatment plant and the State Capitol.



(A few brave souls made it to the top of the dome!)

Doug Bowman Joins Oral Health Kansas Staff

This week, Oral Health Kansas welcomes Doug Bowman as the Community Coalition Coordinator. In this role, Doug will work with communities across the state to form and strengthen coalitions to address local oral health issues.



With the support of the DentaQuest Foundation, Oral Health Kansas began a new project this year focused on cultivating grassroots oral health advocacy. As the Community Coalition Coordinator, Bowman will play a major role in cultivating the community-level relationships and connecting communities to state and national oral health initiatives.



Special Enrollment Period for Tax Season Open

The special enrollment period will allow those individuals and families who were unaware or didn't understand the implications of this new requirement, the shared responsibility payment, to enroll in 2015 health insurance coverage through the Federally-facilitated Marketplaces (FFM). **This period of enrollment began March 15 and goes through April 30, 2015.**

Kansans who want to find a Navigator or other assister in their area can visit www.insureks.org. These Cover Kansas Navigators have completed training with CMS, passed background checks and are available at trusted community organizations around our state.

Check out [this flyer from Cover Kansas](#) for more information and to see who is eligible for this enrollment period.

Bowman joins Oral Health Kansas after nearly thirty years of service in supporting coalitions across the state dedicated to early childhood services. His background in community coalition work, relationship-building, and policy development, position him to make a difference in community-based oral health initiatives.

To learn more about our new community coalition work, please contact Doug Bowman at dbowman@oralhealthkansas.org.

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U.S. House of Representatives Passes CHIP Extension

Last Thursday, March 26, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015 which extends funding for the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) through 2017.

CHIP provides provides affordable, age-appropriate medical and dental coverage to more than 8 million children. If funding for this program is not extended, the Congressional Budget Office estimates that nearly 2 million children would not be eligible for tax subsidies.

This legislation now heads to the Senate for consideration later this month. Read more in this [blog post from the Children's Dental Health Project](#).

Statehouse Rally to Raise Revenue Draws Supporters

Oral Health Kansas' Board of Directors signed on to support a coalition called Rev Up

Children's Dental Health Grant Opportunity

The **ADA Foundation** is accepting applications for the Samuel D. Harris Fund for Children's Dental Health. There will be 23 grants available of up to \$5,000 each. **The grant deadline is April 10th.** This grant and other grants can be viewed [here](#).

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Join In: WSU Dental Day

Wichita State University Advanced Education in General Dentistry Program is hosting a Dental Day for students interested in a career in dentistry. Dental Day is a great opportunity for students to gain hands-on experience in the field of dentistry and dental hygiene. This camp is geared toward high school students interested in the field of dentistry, including dental hygiene and dental assisting.

This program will be held Friday, June 26, and registration closes June 1st or until all spots are filled. Find out more about this opportunity at the Dental Day website!



Traveling Sugary

Kansas earlier this year. The group's first rally was today at the Statehouse. A variety of speakers who support education, children's issues, the arts, and other groups teamed up with the Kansas Center for Economic Growth and talked about the ill effects the 2012 tax policies have had on the state budget and programs that Kansans value.

The group's goal is "to restore revenue by repealing the 2012 tax cuts. Rev Up KS supports protecting the economic stability of our communities to ensure our current and future prosperity while promoting tax fairness that maintains quality communities and a quality business environment."

To sign the petition, [click here](#).



Bernie Koch, KS Economic Progress Council Executive Director, spoke about the lack of growth of the Kansas economy

This Month: National Child Abuse Prevention Month

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month and in Kansas it is also P.A.N.D.A. (Prevent Abuse and Neglect through Dental Awareness) Month. P.A.N.D.A. is Delta Dental of Kansas' child abuse prevention program that educates members of the dental community, and others, on how to identify the warning signs of child abuse and neglect. Dental professionals are mandated by Kansas state law to report suspected child abuse and neglect, and their ability to identify warning signs is key. Up to 75% of physical abuse involves the head and neck areas - areas

Drink Display

Reserve our traveling sugary drink display for your event! Our display shows how much sugar is in a variety of your favorite drinks, emphasizing which drinks are good and bad for you.



This display is completely free, and return shipping costs are reimbursed by Oral Health Kansas. Learn more [on our website](#) and [email Sarah](#) if you are interested in hosting the display!

Like us on **Facebook** 

Follow us on **twitter**

View our videos on **YouTube**

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dental professionals routinely observe.

Learn more about **P.A.N.D.A. here**. Have questions or need to make a report? Contact the Department of Children & Families' report hotline at 800.922.5330.



Prevent
Abuse and
Neglect through
Dental
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KC CARE Clinic - Seeking Dentist Volunteers

The Kansas City CARE Clinic (formerly Kansas City Free Health Clinic) is hosting a **one-day free clinic in Kansas City, Missouri, on April 18**. The event will offer free basic medical and dental care and health education to the area's medically underserved. More dentist volunteers are needed in order to serve the people expected to need dental services. Please see the [KC CARE event website](#) to learn more about the event and how to volunteer.



KC CARE
Clinic

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