

ORAL HEALTH KANSAS

ADVOCACY • PUBLIC AWARENESS • EDUCATION

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Two OHK Board Members are honored

Steve Peppes has been named one of the 40 under 40 by Ingram's, Kansas City's Business Magazine! Steve was recognized for his business acumen, relationship-building skills, and community service. Throughout Steve's eleven-year career with Delta Dental of

Oral health community forums begin this week

Our first community forum is this **Thursday, April 13 in Overland Park**. We are taking this opportunity to meet with community residents and organizations across the state to hear what questions or concerns they have about oral health in their communities as well as a chance for residents to learn about OHK and our projects. We will be in different parts of the state this month. If you can't attend one of the forums, we hope you share this [flyer](#) with others!

Kansas, he has built relationships with large and small businesses to grow the portfolio of companies that choose to provide dental coverage through Delta. In addition to serving on the Oral Health Kansas board, Steve also serves on the board of the Kansas City Ballet and is a dedicated volunteer throughout the community. Read more in Ingram's April issue:

<http://ingrams.com/article/40-under-forty-the-class-of-2017/>



Bruce Bergstrom was honored over the weekend by the Kansas Dental Charitable Foundation (KDCF) with a new award created in his name. KDCF created the KMOM Bruce Bergstrom Award for outstanding service. According to KDCF, each year, the Bruce Bergstrom Award will be given to a KMOM general volunteer who exemplifies Bruce's legacy of service. Bruce got his start in this field when his wife, Millie Bergstrom (2015 Outstanding Dental Hygienist award winner) invited him to volunteer with her at the first Mission of Mercy, which was in Garden City in 2003.

Bruce was hooked, and he went on to become the founding



Community Forums in April

We would like to hear about the oral health challenges and opportunities you face.
You also will hear about the current oral health policy activity at the state level.

Oral Health Kansas will feature several resources we have to offer, including education and advocacy tools, as well as the work of local oral health coalitions in several communities.

Please join the conversation about the importance of oral health for all Kansans!

Overland Park - Thursday, April 13 at 9am - Central Library - 9875 West 87th St.
Colby - Tuesday, April 18 at 2pm - Colby Community College Student Union, 1255 S. Range
Wichita - Wednesday, April 19 at 1pm - Central Library - 223 South Main St.
Topeka - Thursday, April 20 at 10am - Public Library - 1515 SW 10th Ave.
Garden City - Thursday, April 27 at 6pm - St. Catherine's Hospital - 401 East Spruce St.
El Dorado - Friday, April 28 at 1pm - El Dorado Chamber of Commerce - 201 E. Central Ave.

For more information and to RSVP, contact Doug Bowman at 785-235-6039
or dbowman@oralhealthkansas.org
www.oralhealthkansas.org

To RSVP please contact Doug Bowman at 785-235-6039 or email him at dbowman@oralhealthkansas.org.

Medicaid dental rates considered in Minnesota

State Senators and the Governor in Minnesota are taking serious steps forward to address the unmet dental needs of children enrolled in their state Medicaid program. The rates paid by Medicaid for dental services in Minnesota are about one-fourth the fee typically charged for dental services, and the historically low rates have led to an ever-shrinking dental provider network in the state. Dentists who formerly provided care to people on Medicaid have had to stop providing services because the rates are lower than the actual cost of providing the service. The legislative support for increasing the rates may not be enough to raise the rates this year,

executive director of the America's Dentists Care Foundation. Bruce retired from ADCF in 2015, but he has continued to help start new companies and continued to volunteer in Kansas and across the country to address the dental needs of people living in poverty. Read more in [KDCF's news article](#).



KDCF President, Dr. Mark Herzog, presents Bruce Bergstrom with his award.

Look who's hiring!

The [Kansas Association for the Medically Underserved](#) (KAMU) is hiring for a Chief Operating Officer and Oral Health Specialist. KAMU's mission is to grow and strengthen the clinics so that all Kansans will have a health care home where they can receive high quality preventative care and seek treatment for acute and chronic conditions that cover the spectrum of primary, dental, and behavioral health care.

To find out more about the position's, click [here](#)!



Reserve a sugary

but lawmakers are talking about the very real issue of low reimbursement rates affecting whether families enrolled in Medicaid can get dental care in Minnesota. Read more about the legislative effort in Minnesota's [Star Tribune](#).

If this story sounds familiar, it should. Kansans enrolled in Medicaid face the same challenges in finding dental providers who will accept our similarly low Medicaid dental reimbursement rates. Just like the Minnesota providers, Kansas dental providers are paid less than the cost of delivering the Medicaid services. That problem worsened last summer when Governor Brownback cut the provider rates by four percent. This resulted in many more dental providers stopped providing dental services through the state's Medicaid program known as KanCare. A bill working its way through the Kansas Legislature (HB 2180) could reinstate the four percent rate cut this year, but it will do nothing to address the historically low rates.

The Kansas Legislature is on a three-week break and will resume work at the Capitol on May 1. While they are home, take the opportunity to attend legislative town hall or coffee events, or call your House and Senate members at home. This is the perfect time to tell them about the importance of paying reasonable rates for dental services in Medicaid. Share your personal stories about challenges you have seen or experienced in accessing Medicaid dental services. Nothing is more powerful to a lawmaker than a personal story from a constituent.

drink display

March and April have been busy for our sugary drink display's! If you tried reserving one and we were booked, it's important to reserve one before the slots are full! Reserve a sugary drink display even if its just for a one day event! Reserving yours ahead of time is crucial. [Sign up now!](#)

Our sugary drink display contains 10 popular beverages and shows how much sugar is in each. We also include some of our [Tips and Tricks handouts](#) and mirror clings! The display is free to use, up to a month and we reimburse postage!



One of our sugary drink displays at PrairieStar Health Center



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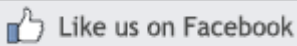


Join the KanCare Adult Dental Coalition

If your organization has not yet joined the new KanCare Adult Dental Coalition, now is a good time to do so. This is a growing group of advocacy and health organizations that agree that low-income adults need access to comprehensive dental services in KanCare. Members of the coalition will receive talking points to use with legislators, MCOs, and stakeholders. Learn more about the coalition and [sign up to join today!](#)



 Donate Now

 Like us on Facebook

 Follow us on **twitter**

 FOLLOW US ON *Pinterest*

 View our videos on **You Tube**

 View on Instagram

Be a part of the OHK team!

We are hiring for a Policy Director! The position is based in Topeka, Kansas, with frequent travel throughout the state and occasional national travel. This position plays a lead role in promoting the Oral Health Kansas public policy priorities to legislators and other policymakers. The Policy Director also is responsible for all aspects of managing the DentaQuest Foundation-funded "Kansas Oral Health Connections" grant project, including extensive stakeholder engagement activities. Experience with grant-writing and reporting is required. Candidates will have a desire to work within a collaborative organization to support advocacy and positive health care policy change. Creativity and an entrepreneurial spirit are keys to success in this position. Previous experience working for a nonprofit organization is preferred.

Applications received **by April 25, 2017**, will receive priority consideration. For a [full job description](#), visit our website!

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