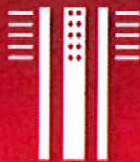


From: Oral Health Kansas [jparnell@oralhealthkansas.org]
Sent: Wednesday, April 17, 2013 4:36 PM
To: tdorf@oralhealthkansas.org
Subject: Oral Health Kansas Weekly Wednesday Update



ORAL HEALTH KANSAS

Weekly Wednesday Update

*Our Mission:
To improve oral health
in Kansas through
advocacy,
public awareness
and education.*

Volume 4, Issue 15

April 17, 2013

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Medicaid Expansion

The Kansas Health Consumer Coalition will hold another "Mailing for Medicaid" event on Wednesday, April 24 in Wichita at the College Hill United Methodist Church. This event is one in a series of events designed to help consumers and advocates write letters to lawmakers urging them to expand the Medicaid program to low-income adults. Learn more about the Wichita event and RSVP by contacting Sean Gatewood at 785-232-9997. A new Facebook page promoting the "[Mailing for Medicaid](#)" events also is available. Join the Facebook page to stay up to date with all the Medicaid expansion advocacy opportunities.

The outlook for Medicaid expansion this year remains uncertain. Governor Brownback has not decided yet and appears to be keeping his options open. The Kansas Hospital Association published a study earlier this year showing Medicaid expansion will result in the creation of 4,000 jobs in the state. They also recently shared the results of a public poll showing 60% of Kansans support expanding Medicaid. If Kansas does not expand Medicaid in time for the 2014 implementation of the Affordable Care Act, it will remain an option to expand in 2015. Read more about the latest projections about Medicaid expansion in Kansas in this article from the [Kansas Health Institute](#).

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New ECP Facebook Page

A new Facebook page about the Extended Care Permit (ECP) for dental hygienists is available. The page was created by ECP hygienist and Dental Champion Patty Martinette in order to connect ECP Hygienists in Kansas and Missouri. The goal of the new page is to share information about how the permits are being used, as well as to establish community contacts to expand the use of the permits.

Join the [Facebook page](#) and spread the word about this valuable forum to promote the ECP model.

Dental Champions Corner

Kathy Hunt, Class I and Marcia Manter, Class III, will be presenting a session called *Incorporating Oral Health into Home Visiting Services: The Kansas Story* at the National Oral Health

Read Oral Health Kansas' letter to Governor Brownback urging him to expand Medicaid, as well as his response, on our [website](#).

KanCare Rapid Response Call Schedule Change

Starting this week, the KanCare program will host two weekly stakeholder conference calls. The calls are a chance for consumers and providers to ask questions about the new Medicaid managed care program. A list of the questions posed over the last four months on the KanCare calls can be found in their [implementation issues log](#).

The KanCare calls will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 to 10 am. The conference call number is 877-247-8650, and the conference ID code is 79687456.

How to Outsmart Oral Cancer

April is Oral Cancer Awareness Month. In their "Monthly Tooth Talk" this month, Delta Dental of Kansas shares insight about the risk factors associated with oral cancer:

Oral cancer can have many causes, including genetics, lifestyle factors such as smoking or heavy alcohol use, infections, or environmental exposures like excess sun. Although you can't control the genes you inherit, you do have control over lifestyle choices and sun exposure.¹ In honor of Oral Cancer Awareness Month, take a few minutes to find out if you're at increased risk, whether it's due to lifestyle choices or heredity factors you can't control, and what you can do to help prevent getting the disease.

People with an increased risk include:

1. **Tobacco users.** At least 75 percent of all people who get oral cancer use some form of tobacco. It doesn't matter if it's cigarettes, pipes, cigars or chewing tobacco - the longer you've used tobacco products, the greater your risk. ¹ Consider quitting or cutting back use of these products.
2. **Habitual tanners or anyone with a Mother Nature-loving lifestyle.** Trade your time in the tanning bed for time applying UV-free bronzing lotion. If you come by your tan naturally - for instance, if you work outside or enjoy outdoor sports - be sure to stock up on SPF. Another good choice for outdoor lovers - hats.² Though we tend to associate SPF with sunscreen, it's just

Conference next week.

Their session will provide participants a detailed description of the strategies and materials that make up Kansas' comprehensive oral health home visiting initiative.

Dental Assistant Instructor Needed!

Salina Area Technical College is seeking a Dental Assistant instructor starting August 2013. This is a full-time 9-month contract. For more information, please contact Greg Goode, President, at 785-309-3182 or visit "Employment Opportunities" on the Salina Tech website at www.salinatech.edu.

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

as important to make sure your lip balm contains the sun-blocking substance as well.² Lip cancers are caused primarily by excess sun exposure.

3. **People who drink excessively.** Moderate alcohol consumption doesn't necessarily put you at risk, but consistently overdoing it has been linked to disease.¹ Between 75 and 80 percent of oral cancer patients say they drink alcohol often. The more you drink, the greater the risk.
4. **Beware of human papillomaviruses (HPV).** Currently, 20 to 30 percent of all oral cancer is associated with an HPV infection, the most common sexually transmitted infection.² Educate yourself on how HPV is transmitted and take steps to keep yourself protected.

Oral cancer risk factors you can't control include age, gender, race and heredity. Increased risk factors include being ages 45 or older, male, African American and/or having a family history of oral cancer.¹ If you have hereditary risks, it is even more important to manage your lifestyle risks. Have a discussion with your physician or dentist if you're concerned that your heredity or lifestyle may have put you at an increased risk for oral cancer.

¹<http://oralhealth.deltadental.com/OralCancer/General/22,21467>

² <http://oralhealth.deltadental.com/Search/22,21283>

KanCare Troubleshooting Calls

The Department of Health and Environment holds three KanCare stakeholder troubleshooting calls each week. The calls offer opportunities for Medicaid providers and stakeholders to raise issues related to the state's transition to Medicaid managed care. Calls are scheduled from 9 to 10 am Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. The conference call number is 877-247-8650, and the conference code is 79687456. Read more about the call schedule on the [KanCare website](#).

Traveling Drink Display

Currently the Oral Health Kansas traveling library drink displays are on display at the [Ottawa Library](#), [The Chisholm Trail Elementary School](#) and [GraceMed](#).

Did You Know???

A tooth that has been knocked out starts to die within 15 minutes, but if you put it in milk or hold it in your mouth it will survive longer.


[StarSmilez](#)

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)



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

If you have an idea, story or suggestion for a Oral Health Kansas Weekly Wednesday Update please send an email to jparnell@oralhealthkansas.org

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