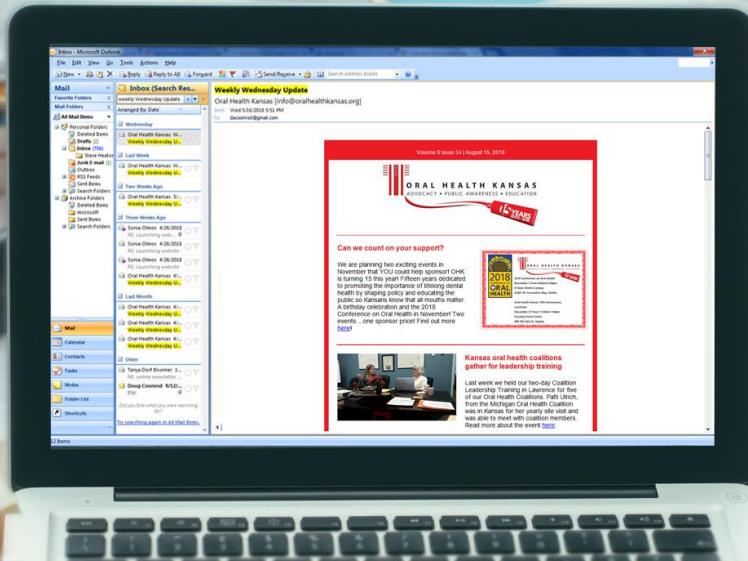




ORAL HEALTH KANSAS
ADVOCACY • PUBLIC AWARENESS • EDUCATION



WEEKLY WEDNESDAY UPDATE

The Weekly Wednesday Update is our newsletter which we email every Wednesday with oral health, health and policy updates from around the state and nationally.

To view past issues [click here](#).

Click here to sign up for our [Weekly Wednesday Update](#).

April 17, 2019

Volume 10, Issue 16



SIPPY Attends USD 345 Wellness Night

On April 16, Sippy enjoyed hanging out with families at the Seaman USD 345 Logan School Wellness Night in Topeka. A bouncy house and Kona Ice were just a few of the fun things at the event. Oral Health Kansas staff shared resources at their table. Children were excited to brush the teeth of our mouth model and stuffed animal, showing staff how they brush their teeth themselves. The

majority of families were drawn in by the Sugary Drink Display. We were delighted to see the time parents and children took in going through each drink and analyzing the amount of sugar.

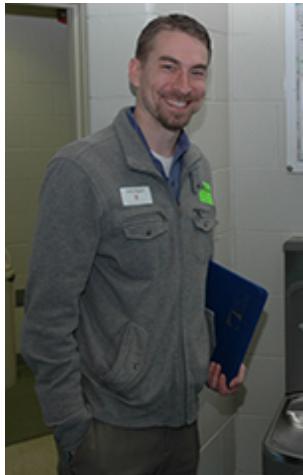
Some of the comments heard from children:

"Eww...gross. That's a lot of sugar."

"I drink this one but not all the time."

"I'm going to keep drinking water."

"How do you know how much sugar is in there?" (This was a perfect time for a lesson in how to read labels!)



OHK Staff Presents At National Oral Health Conference

At the request of the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#), Community Fluoridation Specialist, Kelly Rippel, presented on Sunday, April 13th at the National Oral Health Conference workshop about state water fluoridation programs. He presented along with representatives from CDC, the Association of State & Territorial Dental Directors, American Academy of Pediatrics, along with subject matter experts from Virginia and Mississippi. Best practices and lessons to learn from were discussed about how to build an effective state fluoridation plan through partnerships and collaboration.

Interested in learning more? Contact Kelly at krippel@oralhealthkansas.org or 785-235-6039.



Sign Up For Friday's Webinar

OHK Policy Director, Christi Nance, is excited to talk to you on our next Advocacy Update Call about Medicaid rates and what that can mean for a growing provider network in Kansas. Who can join these calls? Anyone interested in learning more! Do you have questions about the legislative session, process, or advocacy in general? Today is the deadline to submit your questions anonymously [here](#) and Christi will answer your questions on the next advocacy call!

[Sign up](#) for the call!

Can't make the call this week? They are recorded and archived on our [website](#).



First Medicaid Rate Increase In Almost 20 Years

The Kansas Legislature is close to approving the first Medicaid rate increase for dentists in almost 20 years. What does this mean for dental providers?

Kansas currently pays about 40% of what commercial insurance does, and that rate has not been increased since 2001. 40% does not even cover the basic cost of providing dental care. Increased reimbursement rates would increase access to dental providers across Kansas that provide care to Medicaid beneficiaries, thus increasing access to dental care in our state. General dentists and oral surgeons have had to drop from the Medicaid network because they cannot afford to provide care at this level of repayment. This has resulted in a shortage of Medicaid dental providers across our state.

The legislature will make their decision when they return.

The Kansas City Star wrote an article about the reimbursement rate. Click [here](#) to read it.



Submit Your Applications!

Oral Health Kansas is looking for members to join the Resource Development/Conference Planning Committee. One of the duties of this committee is to help plan the annual Conference on Oral Health for Friday, November 8, 2019. How fun is that to help plan a conference? The committee meets by phone on a monthly basis. Bring your innovative ideas to the table!

If you're interested in being a member, fill out the application [here](#). Applicants will be notified by May 15.



Bruce Bergstrom, American Dentists Care Foundation's first Executive Director and former Oral Health Kansas Board Member was presented with Delta Dental of Oklahoma's "Challenge Coin Award" for outstanding service.



Delta Dental's Challenge coin is an honor given to those that champion dental charity throughout the state of Oklahoma. Congratulations Bruce!

Reserve A Sugary Drink Display

Our Sugary Drink Display is popular! We receive reservation requests weekly.



What is a Sugary Drink Display? It's our drink display that has 10 popular beverages and shows how much sugar is in each. You can reserve a child drink display or an adult drink display for a month.

Spots fill up quickly! We will do our best to fulfill requests of less than 30 days but there is no guarantee.

There is no charge to use the Sugary Drink Display; postage is reimbursed if you send in your receipt. All we ask is for you to fill out our survey included in the display materials and provide us with feedback about the display. Click [here](#) to make a reservation!

Interested in purchasing a Sugary Drink Display? Great, email us at info@oralhealthkansas.org and we'll send you more info!

Follow Us



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