National Child Abuse Prevention Month

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month, a time to raise awareness about child abuse and neglect and create strong communities to support children and families. Child abuse is any mistreatment or neglect of a child that results in harm or injury. Neglect can be just as harmful as abuse. Neglect is defined as the failure of a parent or guardian or other caregiver to provide for a child's basic needs. Warning signs of oral health neglect could include the following:

1. Child displays poor oral hygiene
2. Extensive amount of cavities in the child's mouth
3. Untreated pain or infection in the mouth
4. History or lack of follow through of care

If you suspect Child Abuse and Neglect contact the Kansas Protection Report Center at 800.922.5330

For more information about child abuse and neglect visit the following links:

http://www.deltadentalks.com/dentists/pandaprogramdentists/
http://www.childwelfare.gov/preventing/preventionmonth/
http://www.aapd.org/upload/articles/Loochtan-08-S1.pdf

2011 National Oral Health Conference
The National Oral Health Conference took place in Pittsburgh, PA, last week. Kansas was well-represented at the conference, with several people from across the oral health network in our state taking part in the activities.

Oral Health Kansas staff co-presented on tips for a successful state oral health coalition. Over fifty people participated in the presentation. Many asked insightful questions about state coalition make-up, sustainability, and advocacy evaluation. A copy of the presentation is available on our website. Staff also helped host a first meeting of state oral health coalition leaders from across the country. The group began to identify ways in which coalitions can collaborate and share resources/best practices.

Staff participated in the ASTDD’s School and Adolescent Oral Health Committee and ASTDD’s Early Childhood Oral Health Committee. Finally, OHK staff spent time building relationships with researchers on initiatives to improve oral health for elders and people with disabilities.

The 2012 National Oral Health Conference will be held April 30 - May 2 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

2011 Conference Topics

Oral Health Kansas would like to hear from you, our supporters as to which topics you would be interested in seeing and attending at this year’s joint conference with KAMU. Below are some topics that our conference planning committee has suggested, please look over the list and simply reply to this email stating which of the topics below interest you and why.

1. Local coalition activity
2. Promoting oral health in the community
3. Oral health for people who are aging
4. Oral health for people with autism
5. Oral health for people with disabilities
6. Link between periodontal disease and overall health
7. Dental outreach services
8. How to write/apply for a grant
9. State Health Exchange (Affordable Care Act)
10. Advocacy and lobbying
11. Dental workforce

If there is a topic you are interested in that is not on this list, please let us know.
If you have an idea, story or suggestion for a Oral Health Kansas Weekly Wednesday Update please send an email to jparnell@oralhealthkansas.org